

Resolution 1

A Commendation for Former City Councilor Matt O'Malley

Whereas Former Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley has dedicated his career to making The City of Boston a better place for all residents.

Whereas Former Councilor O'Malley has been a leader on many environmental issues such as the creation of BERDO, the First Plastic Bag Ban in Boston, and the Elimination of Gas Leaks in the City of Boston,

Whereas Councilor O'Malley in his last term took on many challenging issues such as working on BERDO 2.0 and Eliminating Parking Minimums for Affordable Housing.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That Greater Boston Young Democrats through this resolution, honors the work of Former Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley and wishes him all the best as he pursues new endeavors.

Adopted by unanimous consent.

Resolution 2

Expressing Support for the Vote 16 Movement

Whereas there are efforts in various towns/cities across Greater Boston and beyond to lower the municipal voting age from 18 to 16,

Whereas youth turnout in municipal elections are disproportionately low when compared to older age groups.

Whereas Municipal governance matters as it is the most responsive to everyday needs (i.e. pothole repair, maintaining parks, issuing permits etc.).

Now be it resolved:

1. GBYD endorses the Vote 16 movement
2. GBYD endorses all efforts in GBYD's jurisdiction to lower the municipal voting age to 16
3. That GBYD-whether through the GBYD Board or an initiative through the GBYD Membership-hosts an event or forum about efforts to lower the municipal voting age to 16.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 3
Expressing Support for Ranked Choice Voting

Whereas promoting electoral reforms which create a more representative democracy is in the best interests of our communities,

Whereas the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting in our local communities would encourage candidates to build broader coalitions,

Whereas municipalities, including Cambridge, Massachusetts have demonstrated the viability of Ranked Choice Voting on a local level,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats encourage municipalities in Massachusetts to implement Ranked Choice Voting on a local level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD implores elected leaders to promote and to pursue the utilization of Ranked Choice Voting throughout Massachusetts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD encourages all municipalities, and Somerville in particular, who are engaged with Charter reform to incorporate Ranked Choice Voting into their municipal election.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 4

Expressing Support for Immigrants Voting in Local Elections

Whereas our democracy is strengthened by the active participation of all members of our communities,

Whereas those who immigrate to our communities are valued members of our society who contribute to the wellbeing of our Commonwealth,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats endorses allowing lawful permanent residents to vote in local elections and calls on municipalities to increase resources and opportunities for such residents so that they may participate in governance.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 5

Expressing Support for the Boston Green New Deal and Other Acts

Whereas Climate Change is the defining challenge of our times,

Whereas actions taken to mitigate and prepare for the effects of the climate crisis are a moral imperative,

Whereas the promulgation of policy that promotes environmental and climate justice requires action at all levels of government,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats support and hope for more local initiatives like Mayor Michelle Wu's Boston Green New Deal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD endorses the protection and expansion of tree canopies in all communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD calls leaders from all levels of government to investigate and adopt climate policy which will reduce fossil fuel consumption, promote the widespread adoption of clean and renewable energy resources, and increase and improve safeguards for the preservation of our biodiversity.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 6

Endorsing Mayor Michelle Wu's Fare-Free Bus Pilot

Whereas affordable and accessible public transportation benefits our communities,

Whereas fare-free bus programs are specifically proper between two communities within a single municipality,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats support Mayor Michelle Wu's fare-free bus line pilot program.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 7

Commending Legislators on their Work on the “I AM” Bill

Whereas access to menstrual products is necessary for the proper enjoyment of basic human rights,

Whereas combating stigma surrounding menstruation is right and benefits all members of our communities,

Whereas leadership in this area is commendable,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats commend and support in the strongest terms the efforts of Senator Patricia Jehlen, sponsor of Senate bill No. 2730 (AKA the “I AM” bill), and Representatives Christine Barber and Jay Livingstone, sponsors of the House version of the bill to increase access to menstrual products.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 8

Offering Congratulations on Completion of the GLX

Whereas residents within and without the City of Somerville will benefit from increased access to the T,

Whereas public transportation is a public good,

Whereas the Green Line Extension (GLX) at Union Square in Somerville has finished and opened to the public,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats congratulate and express appreciation towards all the various workers and staff who helped bring the station into being as well as those who oversaw and advocated for the creation of the station,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD expresses the strongest possible admiration for various mayors and city councilors, most notably Mayor Curtatone and Mayor Ballantyne including during her time on the Somerville City Council, for their decades of support and advocacy that will further connect Somerville and Medford.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 9
Commending Mayor Michelle Wu on the Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement

Whereas promoting and serving the interests of the LGBTQ+ community through the establishment of an office for that explicit purpose is a public good,

Whereas this office is one of several of the like that Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has established to create a more just city,

Whereas advocacy and representation at all levels of government work to foster a more equitable society,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats commend Boston Mayor Michelle Wu for the creation of the Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD encourages other municipalities to pursue similar initiatives to better meet the needs of their communities.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 10

Expressing Support for Refugees and Committing to Aid

Whereas the violent, illegal, and unjust invasion of Ukraine has displaced millions of people fleeing for safety,

Whereas communities throughout Massachusetts have a history of sheltering and supporting refugees,

Whereas we recognize a fundamental obligation to support those in need,

Whereas the United States has agreed to accept as many as 100,000 Ukrainian refugees,

Whereas refugees of all nations should be welcome and supported in the United States,

Whereas refugees from other parts of the world should also receive consideration

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats call on all municipalities to accept as many refugees as they are able.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD commits to supporting efforts to house and support refugees as they enter our communities and to inform those in and around our community on ways to offer aid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local leaders work to ensure all refugees from areas of crisis, by war or by systemic tragedies from around the world are able to be welcomed into our community in Greater Boston.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that GBYD supports future refugees receiving similar treatment and support from the United States.

Adopted by unanimous consent.

Resolution 11

Endorsing Same-Day Registration and an Election Day Holiday in Municipalities

Whereas it is right to ensure in a democracy that all who can rightfully vote who wish to do so are able to do so,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats call on municipal and state leaders elected in GBYD's territory to advocate for Same-Day Registration and Voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD calls on elected leaders to advocate for establishing the November General Election day as a holiday.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 12

Commending Legislators on the Passage of the CROWN Act

Whereas discrimination in the workplace and places of education on the basis of the presentation of natural hairstyles is antithetical to a welcoming and inclusive society,

Whereas the Massachusetts Legislature has shown itself to be committed to protecting the rights of individuals from discrimination on the basis of their natural appearance,

Whereas every member of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, including prominently US Representative Ayanna Pressley, have supported such legislation at the federal level,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats approves of and applauds the work of the bill's sponsor Representative Steve Ultrino and the efforts of all legislators who worked to ensure Massachusetts joins the ranks of states adopting versions of the Act to Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD expresses its support for Speaker Ronald Mariano and the rest of his leadership team for working to create a unanimous consensus around this bill and achieving the support of every member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Adopted by unanimous consent.

Resolution 13

Supporting Cambridge's Rejection of an Order to Demonize Israel and Encouraging other Municipalities to do the Same

Whereas in 2021 the Cambridge City Council held over 7 hours of public hearings relative to a "Boycott, Divest, Sanction" resolution proposed as Policy Order #109 by Councilor Quinton Zondervan at which numerous Jewish and non-Jewish Cambridge residents expressed their concerns,

Whereas orders such as this needlessly demonizes the state of Israel by the introduction of extreme terminology and facilitating discrimination against Jewish people at home and abroad,

Whereas many of our like minded and neighboring states, including New York and Rhode Island have adopted laws preventing discriminatory boycotts against Jewish owned businesses or those associated with Israel,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Greater Boston Young Democrats implores all elected municipal officials to reject attempts to adopt similar BDS resolutions in other municipalities and strongly opposes municipal leaders that use their position to advocate such measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That GBYD supports the ultimate decision of the Cambridge City Council to reject Order #109 as proposed by Councilor Zondervan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That GBYD adopts IHRA's definition of anti-semitism as "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." for purposes within GBYD.

Adopted 6-3.

Resolution 14

Commending Legislators on the Passage of the Mass VOTES Act

Whereas election reform that expands opportunities for individuals to vote must be recognized as a public good,

Whereas election rights are under attack throughout our country,

Whereas Massachusetts is a leader in providing access to the ballot box

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats commend Representative Michael Moran for his work seeking compromises to improve the VOTES Act and effort to ensure important changes to our voting systems and policies are studied and considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD applauds the prior passage in the Senate by a substantial margin and continue to support the conferees in their work to pass the ultimate version

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That GBYD commends and congratulates Rep. John Lawn and Sen. Cindy Creem for their work to write and support legislation to increase involvement in our democracy, and the Speaker Mariano for working to ensure passage of the VOTES Act.

Adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 15
Congratulating Former Majority Leader Claire Cronin on
Ambassadorship

Whereas Eastern Massachusetts has among the nation's highest Irish American population,

Whereas detailed and dilligent foreign diplomacy remains critical for Boston as a home to numerous consulates and transatlantic organizations,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

That the Greater Boston Young Democrats congratulates former MA State House Majority Leader Claire Cronin for her elevation to US Ambassador to Ireland and continues to hope that she can promote Boston's role as a place to connect Americans to Irish history and culture.

Adopted by unanimous consent.