

..Title (Revised Paper 85-21) 5.6.21

Order: That the city submit to the Massachusetts legislature for passage the following revision to AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PREPARATION OF CERTAIN BILINGUAL BALLOTS IN THE CITY OF MALDEN, originally adopted by the city on March 16, 2021.

SECTION 1. (a) As used in this section, the word “transliteration” shall mean the translation into the relevant Chinese characters to represent the phonetic equivalent of the syllables of an English name or a name in a language that is not traditionally written using Chinese characters.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in any state or federal primary or election in which the state secretary is required by federal law to print bilingual ballots in English and Chinese for use by voters of the city of Malden, the state secretary, shall also provide for the transliteration of all candidates’ names.

(c) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in any city preliminary election, primary or election in which the city clerk is required by federal law to print bilingual ballots in English and Chinese for use by the voters of the city of Malden, the city clerk shall also provide for the transliteration of all candidate’s names.

(d) Each candidate shall be provided with a written copy of the proposed transliteration of that candidate’s name, within 7 days after receiving the proposed transliteration of the candidate’s name, the candidate may request in writing any modification to the proposed transliteration of a candidate’s own name or may decline to have the candidate’s own name transliterated on the ballot. Any potential candidate may submit their name for transliteration after January 1st of that election year. The transliteration shall be subject to final approval by the state secretary or city clerk, as the case may be. The state secretary or city clerk shall provide public notice of transliterated names as soon as practicable.

(e) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the city in any primary or state or federal election shall be responsible for the cost of transliteration and the state secretary shall be responsible for all other costs resulting from the implementation of this act including, without limitation, the production of ballots.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.