



Boston, MA

For Immediate Release

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Boston City Council passes resolution urging action in the MA state legislature to uphold the values of transparency

Boston, MA: On Wednesday, July 21st, the Boston City Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution “urging action in the Massachusetts Legislature to uphold the values of transparency and accessibility to the people’s business.” [Resolution 0865](#), offered by **Councilor Julia Mejia** in partnership with **Mijente Boston Asamblea**, highlights critical legislation that has been stalled at the state level that would greatly improve the lives of residents of the City of Boston.

The Boston City Council’s resolution comes in response to the Massachusetts State House’s recent [rejection of popular session rules reforms](#) that would have made the State House more transparent and accountable to constituents.

"While we're disappointed with these results, we know that the fight for greater accountability and transparency is not over." said **Julia Mejia**, Boston City Councilor At-Large, during Wednesday's Council session. "This isn't about calling people out, but rather about calling them in. Advocacy organizations like **Act on Mass** are continuing the work of making sure that all government business is accessible to the people. And while we push for greater transparency in the statehouse, we should also be looking at our body to make sure that we are doing everything possible to make sure that we are not just creating space for the people, but that we are directly involving them in every part of our work."





“We’re excited that the Boston City Council, with leadership from Councilor Mejia, has chosen to stand with the people of Boston in support of transparency and accountability” said **Gabriel Mireles**, an organizer with Mijente Boston Asamblea. “This is the kind of leadership we need to see inside the State House and we’re grateful to the Boston City Council for their courage and their commitment to transparency.”

In July 7th’s State House rules vote, **12 out of the 17 Democratic state representatives for Boston voted against making committee votes public, allowing 48 hours to read a bill before coming to a vote, and reinstating term limits for the Speaker.** In a November 2020 [ballot question](#), voters in four state house districts in Boston voted overwhelmingly in favor of transparency, with 92.3% of voters in support of making committee votes public.

Representatives Malia, Honan, and Moran (whose districts, the 11th, 17th, and 18th Suffolk respectively, had the ballot question) along with Representatives Madaro, Ryan, Michlewitz, Biele, Livingstone, Santiago, Coppinger, Hunt, and Consalvo, all of whom represent the same constituency as the Boston City Council, chose to vote in accordance with the Speaker of the MA State House rather than upholding the values of transparency and accessibility to the people’s business.

In solidarity with Mijente Boston Asamblea and the 42,000 Colombians and Colombian-Americans residing in Massachusetts, Councilor Mejia also offered a [resolution](#) in today’s session urging the U.S. federal government to cease their funding of the Colombian military amidst their violent attacks on protesters. The resolution passed unanimously.

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[Julia Mejia](#) is an At-Large City Councilor in Boston, Massachusetts. Elected in 2019, Mejia is the first Latina to be elected to the council.





The [People's House](#) is a campaign for transparency and accountability on Beacon Hill by activist groups Act on Mass, Sunrise Boston, Mijente Boston Asamblea, Our Climate, and Indivisible Mass Coalition. Leading up to the MA State House vote on the session rules, these groups were rallying support behind three amendments to the rules: making committee votes public, ensuring 72 hours to review legislation before a vote, and reinstating term limits for the Speaker.

[Mijente](#) is a national political home for Latinx change makers who seek racial, economic, gender and climate justice. The [Boston Asamblea](#) is the governing body for Mijente Members based in the Greater Boston Area.

[Act on Mass](#) is the leading organization advocating for transparency and accountability in the Massachusetts State House. In November of 2020, they launched their Transparency is Power campaign to organize behind three transparency amendments to the State House rules order that have large public support in Massachusetts. The campaign has received the endorsement of dozens of advocacy organizations, and the support of over 3000 volunteers in over 150 districts across the Commonwealth.

