

BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

**ERIN
MURPHY**



Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy Orders a Petition for Easier Voting Access to Deployed U.S. Military Personnel



Just in time for Memorial Day weekend, City Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy, Committee Chair of Veterans, Military Families, and Military Affairs, motioned a Home Rule Petition for the authorization of an electronic application for an absentee ballot and allowing electronic transmission of ballots through email or fax for uniformed services voters who are deployed outside of their voting district.

According to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, those on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard (including reservists), Space Force, and Merchant Marine members, as well as their spouse or dependents have a guarantee right to vote in all elections.

“Today’s technology has the ability to improve efficiency in our municipal elections, especially for voters who are not able to return to their voting district during election season,” said Councilor Murphy. For federal elections, a ballot can be emailed, faxed, or mailed based on preference, and the voted ballot may be mailed back or electronically returned through email or fax. “This is a more modern approach for deployed uniformed services voters to participate in elections.”

Councilor Murphy plans to continue her advocacy for veterans, especially improvements to housing, mental health services and recovery programs. Earlier this month, Councilor Murphy filed a resolution to declare May 21st, 2022 as African American Military Heritage Day to recognize the service and contributions of African American Veterans. The Councilor also rallied all of her colleagues to support President Flynn and Commissioner Santiago on the "Honoring Our Pact Act of 2021". This Act ensures our veterans, who are exposed to military toxic exposures while serving overseas, are provided the necessary and overdue veteran disability and health care benefits.

Jumping into the Memorial Day Weekend, Councilor Murphy plans to remember and honor Boston veterans by attending events around the city like the Annual Memorial Day Service at the Thomas J. Fitzgerald Post, the Puerto Rican Veterans’ Memorial Park Wreath Laying, and Memorial Day Vigil in the Back Bay Fens. This weekend hits home for the Councilor as her father proudly served in the Navy and

step-father served in the Marines. □□



Please reach out to our office if there is anything you need. Email us at erin.murphy@boston.gov or call our office at 617-635-3115.



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