

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 240946)

RESOLUTION

Calling on the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt House Bill 1756 of the 2023-2024 Session, which would expand voting access and education in prisons.

WHEREAS, Voting is a fundamental right; in Pennsylvania, individuals awaiting trial, those convicted of misdemeanors, and those on probation, parole, or house arrest are eligible to vote; and

WHEREAS, As many as 25,000 incarcerated individuals are unaware of their voting rights; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1756 aims to educate incarcerated individuals about their voting rights and thereby combating "de facto disenfranchisement"; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1756 will provide essential guidance on voter eligibility, registration procedures, absentee ballot information, and secure ballot submission and processing; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1756 would direct the Department of State to establish a uniform policy for civic education within correctional facilities, including the provision of notifications regarding all federal, state, county, local, and primary elections and comprehensive information on voter registration, absentee and mail-in ballots, eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1756 would require each correctional facility to designate at least one staff member to assist inmates with the voting process; and

WHEREAS, Enabling incarcerated individuals to vote can inspire civic engagement among non-incarcerated citizens; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1756 not only benefits incarcerated individuals but also supports those facing homelessness in fulfilling their civic responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The passage of House Bill 1756 is crucial for upholding democratic values; now, therefore, be it

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 240946 continued

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby stands in support of House Bill 1756 and calls on the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to pass this vital legislation.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 240946 continued

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 240946 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty fourth day of October, 2024.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember O'Rourke for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers O'Rourke, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Gauthier, Thomas, Jones, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, Squilla, Bass and Ahmad