



MATT O'MALLEY
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR
DISTRICT 6

November 28, 2016

The Honorable Maureen Feeney
Office of the City Clerk
1 City Hall Plaza
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Madam Clerk,

On November 16, 2016 at 2:30 pm, we led a City Council briefing presentation in the Curley Room to share the information gathered from the Plastic Bag Ordinance Task Force. Please find attached the following presentation.

Best,

Matt O'Malley
Boston City Councilor
District 6

Michelle Wu
City Council President
At-Large

PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE TASK FORCE REPORT

Councilor Matt O'Malley was assigned as Chair of the 90-day Plastic Bag Ordinance Task Force on August 3, 2016. The last three months consisted of three robust public meetings. Many of the participants emphasized the need for an ordinance, as well as the importance for education and outreach.

On October 6, 2016, Councilor O'Malley distributed an online survey to ensure those who could not attend the meetings could still have their voices be heard. The survey, translated in Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese, reached many residents and business owners in Boston.

As of November 28, 2016, there are 710 responses.

Below are the neighborhoods that responded:

Allston: 2%	Hyde Park: 1.8%
Back Bay: 3.7%	Jamaica Plain: 23.8%
Bay Village: 0.4%	Mattapan: 0.7%
Beacon Hill: 2%	Mission Hill: 1.7%
Brighton: 4.2%	North End: 1%
Charlestown: 2.8%	Roslindale: 12.8%
Chinatown: 0.7%	Roxbury: 1.7%
Dorchester: 11%	South Boston: 3.5%
Downtown: 1.3%	South End: 7.1%
East Boston: 3%	West End: 1.7%
Fenway-Kenmore: 2.1%	West Roxbury: 10.2%

Seventeen businesses participated in the survey, five of which are against a ban and/or fee.

The discussions of the Plastic Bag Ordinance Task Force and survey responses from Boston residents provided useful feedback Councilors O'Malley and Wu and helped shape the ordinance.

Plastic Bag Ordinance Task Force

City Council Briefing - November 16, 2016

Boston's Plastic Bag Consumption

- Single-use plastic bags contribute to litter on Boston's streets, trees and city storm drains.
- Casella receives about 20 tons of plastic bags every month.
- Every day it takes a few hours to remove the plastic bags out of the equipment by hand.

Plastic Bag Ordinance Task Force

90-Day Timeline

August 3, 2016

Order passed to create the 90-day working group

October 4, 2016

Second Meeting (Arboretum):
Open discussion and survey walkthrough

October 25, 2016

Final Meeting (Piemonte Room):
Survey analysis and further discussion on the ordinance

Aug

Sept

Oct

Nov

September 13, 2016

First Meeting (Piemonte Room):
What do you want to see in a bag ban? Break out session

October 6, 2016

Online survey is public and translated in three languages

November 16, 2016

668 total survey responses

Task Force Findings



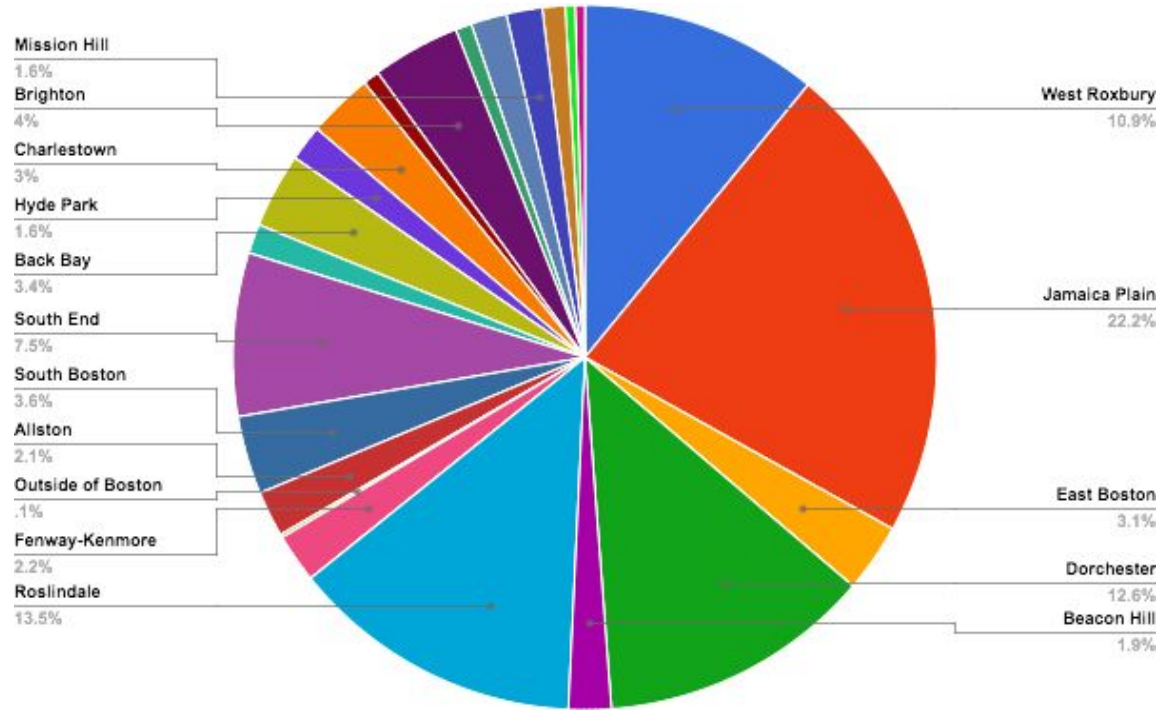
Ordinance

- Simple & narrow
- Follow the models of City ordinances such as Seattle's and Cambridge's
- Include a ban and a fee for robust impact

Implementation

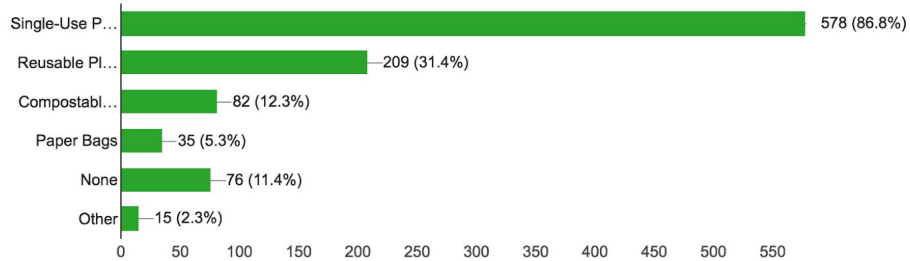
- Focus on accessibility for low income families and seniors
- Needs education and outreach
- Must engage small and local businesses

Survey Responses

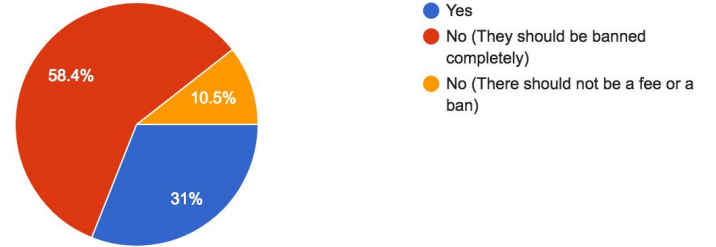


- **668 total responses** from Boston residents and businesses
- **17 businesses** responded
 - Five of which are against a ban and/or fee
- **87% of participants** wanted to ban single-use plastic bags but only **31% of participants** wanted to ban thicker reusable plastic bags

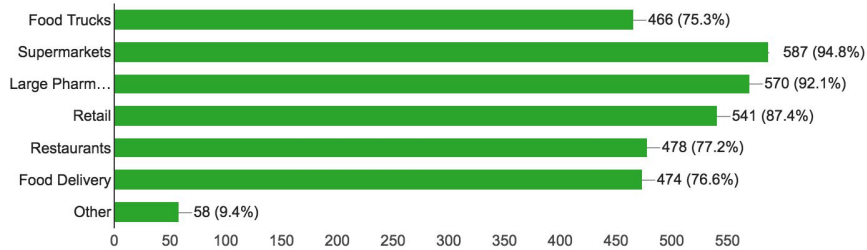
Which bag should Boston ban?



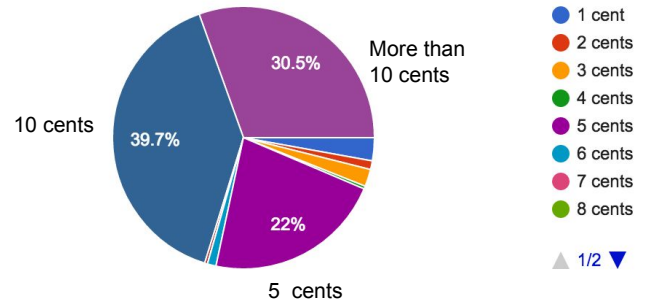
Should there be a fee for plastic bags? (664 responses)



Which businesses should be affected by the ban or fee? (619 responses)

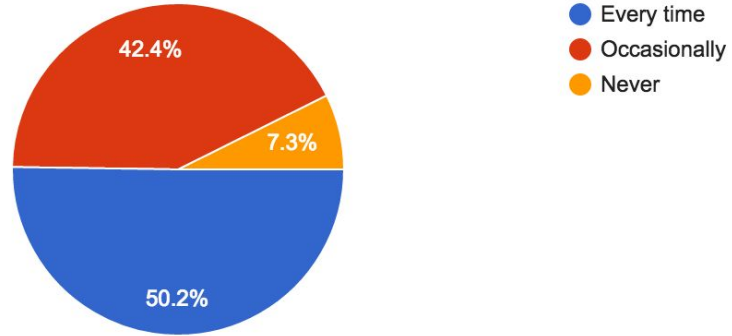


If so, how much should it cost? (282 responses)

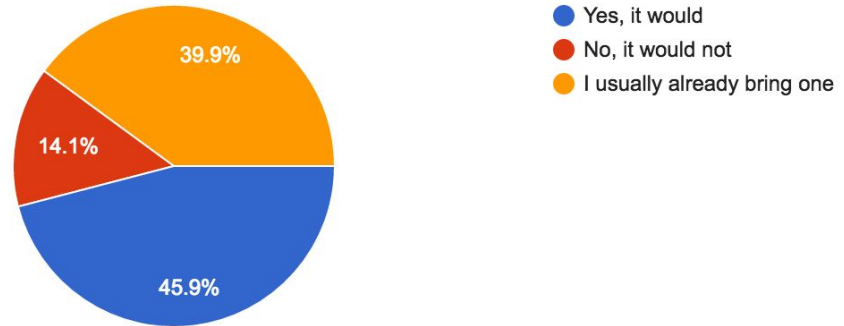


Reusable Bags

How often do you bring a reusable bag? (667 responses)

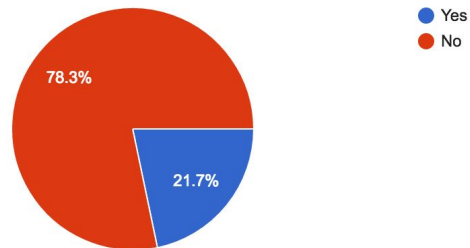


Would a plastic bag fee encourage you to bring a reusable bag? (666 responses)



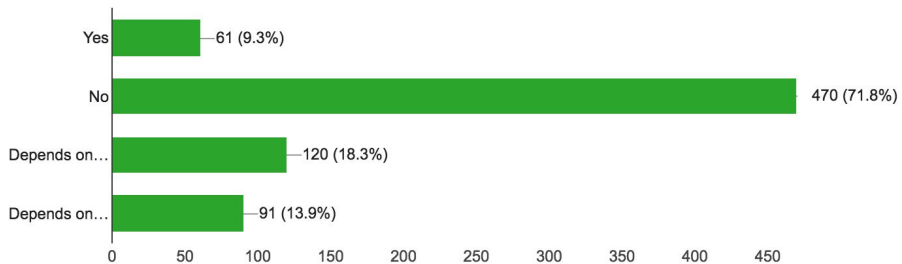
Exemptions

Should seniors (66+ years old) be exempt from the ban or fee? (663 responses)

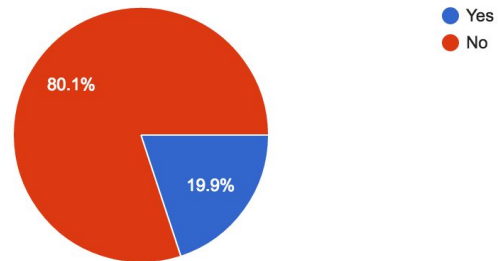


Should locally owned and smaller businesses be exempt from a ban or fee?

(655 responses)



Should EBT recipients be exempt from the ban or fee? (652 responses)



Ordinance Factors

- Ban plastic single-use bags
- Ban all plastic bags
- Fee for plastic single-use bags
- Fee for compostable plastic bags
- Fee for paper bags

Types of Businesses Affected

- Only city vendors
- Only supermarkets
- Large pharmacy chains
- All retail
- Restaurants
- Food delivery

Seattle Model



Ordinance: Banned plastic bags under 2.25 mil & 5 cents fee for paper bags. Did not ban thicker reusable plastic bags.

Exemptions: Take out for restaurants and EBT recipients

Implementation: 3-year grace period used for education and had a 5-year sunset clause.

Cambridge Model

A vibrant street scene in Cambridge, Massachusetts, showing a mix of cars, a bus, and pedestrians on a tree-lined street under a clear blue sky. The street is busy with traffic, including a yellow taxi and a white bus. Pedestrians are walking on the sidewalk, and there are many green trees lining the street. The sky is bright blue with a few wispy clouds.

Ordinance: Banned plastic bags under 3 mil & 10 cents fee for paper bags, compostable and reusable plastic bags.

Exemption: Retail establishment may receive exemption for two years if the ordinance causes undue hardship

Next Steps at Boston City Council

- Councilors O'Malley and Wu will introduce a plastic bag ordinance
- Public Hearing on a Plastic Bag Ordinance
- Working Session
- City Council Vote