
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 529 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY MERCURI, MIHALEK, MARCELL AND GALLAGHER,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging all municipalities in this Commonwealth to prohibit
2 and reject the adoption of any local ordinance that seeks to
3 boycott, divest from or enforce prejudices against the allies
4 of the United States and condemning the anti-Israel petition
5 containing a proposal for a referendum that was filed with
6 the Allegheny County Division of Elections by the No War
7 Crimes on Our Dime organizing group.

8 WHEREAS, On August 6, 2024, a petition containing a proposal
9 for a referendum was filed with the Allegheny County Division of
10 Elections by the No War Crimes on Our Dime organizing group to
11 be placed on ballots for the general election on November 5,
12 2024; and

13 WHEREAS, The petition proposed an amendment to the home rule
14 charter of the City of Pittsburgh to add a provision prohibiting
15 investment or allocation of public money, including tax
16 exemptions, to entities that conduct business operations with or
17 in the State of Israel unless and until Israel ends its military
18 action in Gaza and other conditions are met; and

19 WHEREAS, The petition was submitted to the Allegheny County
20 Division of Elections containing 15,253 signatures, including

1 the signature of a city official; and

2 WHEREAS, Several challenges were filed to the petition,
3 including challenges from the Jewish Federation of Greater
4 Pittsburgh and the Office of City Controller of the City of
5 Pittsburgh; and

6 WHEREAS, Issues raised in the challenges to the petition
7 included the legality of the referendum, the impact on city
8 services and the validity of all signatures contained on the
9 petition; and

10 WHEREAS, A hearing to consider the challenges to the petition
11 was scheduled for August 19, 2024, in the Allegheny County Court
12 of Common Pleas; and

13 WHEREAS, Prior to the start of the hearing, the No War Crimes
14 on Our Dime organizing group withdrew the petition and conceded
15 that it lacked the necessary number of signatures to sustain the
16 petition under the court challenges; and

17 WHEREAS, Efforts to advance anti-Israel policies, like the
18 petition filed in the City of Pittsburgh, creates division and
19 spreads fear in communities across this Commonwealth; and

20 WHEREAS, Municipalities of all sizes in this Commonwealth
21 should make efforts to support allies of the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, Any local efforts to undermine the allies of the
23 United States and advance prejudices should be condemned and
24 terminated; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
26 municipalities in this Commonwealth to prohibit and reject the
27 adoption of any local ordinance that seeks to boycott, divest
28 from or enforce prejudices against the allies of the United
29 States; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the anti-

1 Israel petition containing a proposal for a referendum that was
2 filed with the Allegheny County Division of Elections by the No
3 War Crimes on Our Dime organizing group; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives continue to stand
5 tall with Israel against the barbaric war launched by the
6 terrorist organization Hamas; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize our
8 shared humanity with all affected innocent people in the region
9 and pray for a lasting and just resolution to the current
10 hostilities, including the return of hostages; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
12 the members of the Local Government Advisory Committee and
13 separately to the following:

14 (1) The County Commissioners Association of
15 Pennsylvania.

16 (2) The Pennsylvania League of Cities and
17 Municipalities.

18 (3) The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

19 (4) The Pennsylvania State Association of Township
20 Commissioners.

21 (5) The Pennsylvania State Association of Township
22 Supervisors.