



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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### COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.  
Larry W. Ward  
Charles J. Marquardt  
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Tanya L. Ford-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lesley Waxman

### BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of November 23, 2021

Commissioner Harris, acting as Chair with Commissioner Ward on vacation, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm on November 23, 2021 via Zoom.

#### Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Absent
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Present
Commissioner Ethridge King	Present
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Present

Also, present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman and Jeff Amero and Sean Sweeney from GIS.

**Motion: To suspend the rules to bring forward GIS and a presentation on reprecincting.**

Moved: Commissioner Harris  
Seconded: Commissioner King

#### Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Absent
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Yes

**Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent**

Jeff Amero started the discussion by showing the maps for Cambridge for the House, Senate, Governor's Council and Congressional. He then showed the map of the common lines for all the districts which results in 13 areas for Cambridge. He commented that changes in the Congressional map resulted in a sub-precinct with a total population of 60.

Mr. Amero then turned the presentation over to Mr. Sweeney who he indicated had started from scratch to see if he could reduce the potential number of sub-precincts in Cambridge. Mr. Sweeney then displayed simulation 4A which results in 9 sub-precincts for Cambridge.

Ms. Waxman requested Mr. Sweeney to walk through the sub-precincts and if anything could be done about them. Mr. Sweeney walked the Commission and public through each sub-precinct. He further explained that the redistricting maps give Cambridge little wiggle room in drawing the precincts.

Commissioner Marquardt asked if the numbering of precincts 2-1 and 3-1 could be flipped as Washington Elms and Newtowne Court has more in common with the Port neighborhood. Commissioners agreed that this

change would keep communities of interest together.

The Commissioners and staff thanked GIS for all their hard work during this process.

The Simulation 4A with the change in number for 2-1 and 3-1 will be posted for public comment tomorrow morning. In addition, anyone who submitted a written or verbal comment on the prior maps will be emailed this map along with an invitation to the December 1<sup>st</sup> Commission meeting.

### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**Motion: To close public comment.**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

#### **Roll Call:**

Commissioner Larry Ward Absent

Commissioner Victoria Harris Yes

Commissioner Ethridge King Yes

Commissioner Charles Marquardt Yes

**Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent**

### **II: MINUTES**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of November 17 with corrections.**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

#### **Roll Call:**

Commissioner Larry Ward Absent

Commissioner Victoria Harris Yes

Commissioner Ethridge King Yes

Commissioner Charles Marquardt Yes

**Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent**

### **III: REPORTS**

#### **1. Executive Director's Report**

##### **A. December 14<sup>th</sup> Special State Primary**

The City Council approved the early voting in person recommendation at their November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Drop Box procedures (R2) have been revised to reflect changes for this Special Election. The only drop box will be at 51 Inman St. The drop box will be open 24 x 7 and will be emptied once a day by Commissioners on a schedule to be circulated. Ms. Ford-Crump will provide the phone number for DPW so that the Commissioners can arrange for the alarm to be turned off for weekend pick-ups.

**Motion: To adopt the drop box procedures with edits.**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Larry Ward Absent

Commissioner Victoria Harris Yes

Commissioner Ethridge King Yes

Commissioner Charles Marquardt Yes

**Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent**

Ms. Ford-Crump informed the Commissioners that approximately 50 people had applied so far for vote by mail ballots and that the mailing would start once the voting instructions are received.

**B. November 29<sup>th</sup> Roundtable**

Ms. Ford-Crump shared the questions received so far from the City Council and School Committee regarding the upcoming roundtable meeting. She informed the Commissioners that she had been told that there would be no general presentation.

Discussion focused on the topic areas that should be discussed. Four general areas were identified:

- Use of schools as polling locations;
- Update on reprecincting;
- Early and mail in voting; and
- Ballot questions and related mailings.

Commissioners and staff discussed having individuals focused on certain areas for the meeting. It was determined that Commissioners Harris and King would cover the use of schools, Ms. Waxman would lead on reprecincting along with a representative from GIS, Commissioner Marquardt would cover early and mail in balloting and Ms. Ford-Crump would cover the ballot questions.

**2. Assistant Director's Report**

**A. December 14th Special State Primary**

Democrat ballots have been received. There was a printing issue with the Republican ballots so they are not in yet. Mailing of vote by mail ballots will start once the printed instructions are received.

**3. Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Harris reported:

- She and Commissioner Marquardt attended a Harvard Votes Project to discuss voting in the Cambridge Municipal Election. She also noted that she asked the Harvard group to "adopt" a precinct and provide staffing for elections and they were receptive to the idea.
- She and Commissioner King are coordinating a Warden and Clerk debrief Zoom call on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**IV. ACTION AGENDA**

*Old Business*

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:19 pm**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Larry Ward Absent

Commissioner Victoria Harris Yes

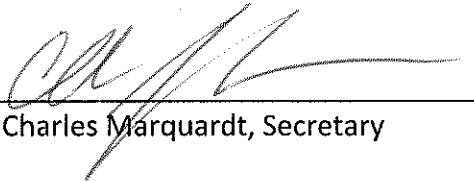
Commissioner Ethridge King Yes

Commissioner Charles Marquardt Yes

**Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent**

A True Record

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Charles Marquardt, Secretary