



# 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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lesley Waxman

### BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of April 26th 2023

Commissioner Marquardt called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### **Present:**

Commissioner King	Present
Commissioner Marquardt	Present
Commissioner Harris	Present
Commissioner Ward	Present

Also present was Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

#### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mello asked about the status of the republican nomination date. Commissioner King stated they are working on a date.

**Motion:** To close public comment  
**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

#### **II. MINUTES**

**Motion: Minutes of Voter Registration Challenge Hearing April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, accepted with correction.**

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt  
**Seconded:** Commissioner King

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

**Motion: Minutes of Election Meeting April 12<sup>th</sup> 2023, accepted with correction.**

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Commissioner King Yes

Commissioner Marquardt Yes

Commissioner Harris Yes

Commissioner Ward Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

Organizational Meeting - Officer Selection

Commissioner Marquardt called for nomination of the Chair

Commissioner Ward nominated Commissioner Harris

Second: Commissioner King

**Motion: Appoint Commissioner Harris as Chair for the ensuing year**

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

Commissioner King Yes

Commissioner Marquardt Yes

Commissioner Harris Yes

Commissioner Ward Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

Commissioner Marquardt called for nomination of the Vice-Chair

Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Ward

Second: Commissioner King

**Motion: Appoint Commissioner Ward as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year**

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Commissioner King Yes

Commissioner Marquardt Yes

Commissioner Harris Yes

Commissioner Ward Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

Commissioner Marquardt called for nomination of Secretary

Commissioner Ward nominated Commissioner King

Second: Commissioner Harris

**Motion: Appoint Commissioner King as Secretary for the ensuing year**

Moved: Commissioner Ward  
Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

Commissioner Marquardt called for nomination of Vice-Secretary  
Commissioner Harris nominated Commissioner Marquardt  
Second: Commissioner King

**Motion: Appoint Commissioner Marquardt as Vice-Secretary for the ensuing year**

Moved: Commissioner Ward  
Seconded: Commissioner King

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

**REPORTS**

**1. Executive Director's Report**

None (out sick)

**2. Assistant Director's Report**

Emailed a "Save the date" for polling locations to location contacts.

Ms. Waxman asked Commissioner Harris if she contacted the Arminian church. She stated she did and awaiting to hear back from them.

Commissioner Harris asked if she should reach out to the Nursing Home, Burns Apartment, and the Youth Center.

Ms. Waxman indicated to wait until she hears back from people. At that point, she will send conformation letters. She also indicated Ms. Ford reached out to the Water Department and was told we have permission to use it for the 2023 elections.

Ms. Waxman also emailed a "saved the date" notice to approximately 60 sites.

**3. Commissioners' Report**

Commissioner Ward connected Ms. Waxman with new person in charge of elections at MIT Ms. Anya Bear.

Commissioner Harris reported MIT has re-convened the Boston/Cambridge Election Data Science Working Group. Rob Roth, the Deputy Secretary of State for Rhode Island spoke about people should be focused on voter

education, ongoing communication, audits/cyber security, and funding. Commissioner Marquardt noted many cities have forgone vote-by-mail due to cost.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that nationwide, 1 in 5 election administrators have never done a presidential election. Also pointed out there has been a lot of turnover in workers, which might prove challenging.

#### **IV: Action Agenda**

##### **Old Business**

##### 2023 Annual City Census

Ms. Waxman reported the second mailing has gone out. It will be announced in the daily updated put out by the city early next week.

##### 2023 Early Voting Planning

Ms. Waxman heard from the Main library, and they have reserved the Valente and the room we've been using in the Main Library. Basically, keeping the same as we did for 2022.

Commissioner Marquardt noted this is more than what we did for 2021. Ms. Waxman said yes, except we didn't do Sundays and we started at 9:00 am instead of 8:30 am during the week.

Commissioner King stated the 8:30 seem too early because we don't get a lot of people. It also creates problem for the Main Library because they must open the building earlier.

**Motion: To except the designated early voting locations, hours, and days for the 2023 election.**

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

##### **Passed: 4-0**

Ms. Waxman reported She and Commissioner Harris have not met with the grad students to talk about the results to see if the data would suggest any need for changes. Commissioner King stated we should stay with 9:00 because we don't get that many people and there are problems getting into the Main Library at 8:30 because they don't open until 9:00 am. Commissioner Ward agreed with Commissioner King.

Potential Voter Registration Challenges of Border Properties. There are 21 people registered to vote. Ms. Waxman reported that Ms. Ford suggested sending letters prior to sending voter challenge summaries.

Commissioner Harris agreed.

Ms. Waxman stated we start with the letter to start a conversation, but we need to do more research prior.

Commissioner Harris stated the voters we would be working with are residents that are in question regarding their voting registration.

Commissioner Marquardt suggested we asked them to review their personal situation and registration status.

Commissioner Ward asked if we must Challenge them if no one brings a challenge to the commission.

Commissioner Harris stated the "may" in the law allows for us to use our professional discretion and that we should challenge these residents. She expressed concerns that a close election could be challenged on the grounds that people who voted were improperly registered.

Ms. Waxman stated she see this as correcting a mistake that was made by putting their addresses in Cambridge VIS when they should not have been.

Commissioner Marquardt mentioned hearing that they used poll pads in Arlington for voter check in.

Commission Harris suggested we come to consensus of how to move forward.

Commissioner Ward asked what the letter would say.

Commissioner Harris volunteered to help draft a letter notifying effected voters of the current situation. She also asked if seeing a letter would be better.

Commissioner Ward stated yes.

Commissioner King stated that everything that was argued against in the Seidel case is now being argued in favor of to pursue others in similar situations.

Commissioner Ward agreed.

Commissioner King suggested seeing all the research, letter, and details before deciding.

Commissioner Marquardt stated we need to come to a consensus to act as a board.

Commissioner Harris wanted to clarify that we should act as a board moving forward and doesn't want to act on her own. Commissioner Marquardt stated he is willing to help work on the letter.

Commissioner Ward clarified that Ms. Waxman will get an updated list of how many people would be affected by the next meeting. He also stated for the record it is good when we stand together as a board but wanted to see all the research before voting. He pointed out that Ms. Waxman stated last week that where you vote doesn't necessarily affect where you go to school. He said that is an important to know for a fact.

Commissioner Marquardt suspended the rules to allow Mr. Hawkinson the floor.

John Hawkinson stated it would be unrealistic to expect who can go to school where and urged the commission to tread lightly.

Commissioner Ward pointed out that addresses do determine where people go to school.

Commissioner King pointed out that we didn't consider the school in the Seidel decision. He also stated people keep saying the law is clear, but he pointed out that the law is not clear by saying what the city solicitor stated was the only standard they could find was the "bedroom standard". He also stated that those who kids go to

school in Cambridge but are not allowed to vote would not have a voice in school related issues and that could be "disenfranchising". He highlighted that he wanted to take care of all the case when we did the Seidel case because now, we are adding factors to current cases that we did not add to the prior case.

Commissioner Harris stated she does not want to add any other factors, just want to focus on what is our job. pointed out that we had a case brought to us and don't think we could hold it up by saying let's bring everybody else in.

Commissioner Ward noted that if we are going to follow protocol based the prior situation, that situation was brought to us, we did not initiate it.

Commissioner Harris stated, now that we know, she thinks that "may" allows us to act on the information.

All commissioners agree that more information is needed before any decisions are made.

**New Business**

Vacation Schedules

Commissioners should decide in order to come up with summer meeting schedules.

Fresh Pond Day, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Commissioners Harris, and King will cover.

Commissioner Marquardt reported a Budget hearing on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners Harris, and Marquardt will cover.

**Next Meeting:** Election Commissioners meeting May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:30 on Zoom

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

**Passed: 4-0**

A True Record

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Ward, Secretary