



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 August 4, 2021

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm on August 4, 2021 in the second floor conference room at 51 Inman Street. Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Ethridge King and Commissioner Charles Marquardt were all present. Also, present was Assistant Director Lesley Waxman. Commissioner Larry Ward was present via zoom. Vice Chair Harris chaired the meeting.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

There being no public comment the Chair closed public comment.

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of July 21, 2021 with corrections.
Moved: Commissioner Harris
Seconded: Commissioner King
Passed: 4—0

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ford-Crump provided the following report:

- a. Ballot Questions
 - i. The Attorney General found no conflict and approved the proposed charter amendments adopted by the City Council. (Attorney General's findings at R2.)
 - ii. There will be 3 questions on the ballot.
 - iii. Ms. Ford-Crump will meet with the City Solicitor to discuss ballot question procedure, language, proponents/opponents, etc.
 - iv. LHS, Associates were awarded the bid to print the ballots in the amount of \$54,530.
- b. Extension of Early Voting by Mail Approved
Governor Baker signed Chapter 29 of the Acts of 2021, a supplemental budget that contains provisions to extend early voting by mail for elections held between its signing and December 15, 2021. (Additional details at R3.)

Provision Highlights:

- i. Early Voting by mail for any election held on or before December 15, 2021.
- ii. Allows voters to use a vote by mail application or any other form of written communication to request a ballot. Deadline to receive a request for vote by mail application is 5pm on the fourth business day before the election.

Ms. Ford-Crump discussed that the Election Commission would mail vote by mail applications (postcards) to all registered voters. She also noted that while applications could go out relatively quickly, ballots cannot due to statutory deadlines that have to pass before the ballot can be finalized and printed.

- iii. Sets the deadline to return early voting ballots by mail to be close of polls on election day. Voters can return ballots to the Election Commission office in person or by mail or drop it in a secured municipal drop box.
 - iv. Requires the City Council to evaluate and report on whether a polling place change would have a disparate adverse impact on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age. The report must be posted at least 3 days before the vote to change a polling location.
 - v. Allows for the elimination of the check-out table.
 - vi. Provides a local option for in-person early voting for municipal elections held on or before December 15, 2021.
 - vii. Local election officials must request and recommend in-person early voting. The vote must occur not less than 5 business days prior to the proposed beginning of early voting. Early voting in person can begin no sooner than 10 days before the election and must end no later than the business day preceding the business day before the election.
 - viii. Provides for the opting out of early voting by mail for municipal elections held on or before December 15, 2021. To opt out the City Council must have a public hearing and then take a public and recorded vote to not provide early voting by mail. The hearing and vote must occur at least 45 days prior to the election. Cannot opt out of early voting by mail for a municipal election if there is a special state primary or special state election at the same time as the municipal election.
- c. **Early Voting Locations, Hours and Days**
The Commissioners, Ms. Ford-Crump and Ms. Waxman discussed potential date, times and locations for early voting in person. Additional discussion and vote will occur at the August 18, 2021 meeting.
- d. **Ballot Drop Boxes**
The Commissioners, Ms. Ford-Crump and Ms. Waxman discussed locations for the 6 drop boxes for the municipal election and it was determined that using the same location as for the 2020 General Election would provide consistency.

Ms. Ford-Crump provided the ballot pickup/drop off procedure & chain of custody used in the 2020 General Election for review by the Commissioners. (R4)

2. Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Waxman made the following report:

- a. **Statements of Financial Interests**
Officials who have yet to file - 6 outstanding SFIs.
Candidates who have yet to file - 7 outstanding SFIs
- b. **Election Workers**
 - i. Somerville has requested inspectors for their September 14th preliminary election.
 - ii. Workers for the office. Please submit names of interested workers ASAP. These names should not be the people who will work early voting.
 - iii. Early Voting – submit names by August 20th.
 - iv. Polls – submit names by precinct by August 20th.

3. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Harris reported that:

- National Guard Armory cannot be a polling location.
- She provided a Public Outreach and Messaging Ideas for Consideration to be discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that:

- He attended a webinar put on by the University of MN entitled "Are You Ready for the 2022 Elections"

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Review and Certification of Nomination Papers

City Council

Motion: To certify 44 signatures for City Council candidate Nicola Williams.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 37 signatures for City Council candidate Dana Bullister.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 59 signatures for City Council candidate Dennis Carlone.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 33 signatures for City Council candidate Joe McGuirk

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 45 signatures for City Council candidate Tonia Hicks.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To not certify 42 signatures for City Council candidate Gregg Moree.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 82 signatures for City Council candidate Burhan Azeem.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 33 signatures for City Council candidate Roy Ribitzky.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To not certify 12 signatures for City Council candidate Tonia Hicks.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 23 signatures for City Council candidate Gregg Moree.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 62 signatures for City Council candidate Robert Eckstut.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 9 signatures for City Council candidate Tonia Hicks.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 38 signatures for City Council candidate Dana Bullister.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 2 signatures for City Council candidate Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 78 signatures for City Council candidate Quinton Zondervan.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To not certify 24 signatures for City Council candidate Roy Ribitzky.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 19 signatures for City Council candidate Gregg Moree.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To not certify 3 signatures for City Council candidate Patricia Nolan.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 12 signatures for City Council candidate Roy Ribitzky.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 55 signatures for City Council candidate Ilan Levy.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

School Committee

Motion: To certify 82 signatures for School Committee candidate Caroline Hunter.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 46 signatures for School Committee candidate Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 9 signatures for School Committee candidate Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 10 signatures for School Committee candidate Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 18 signatures for School Committee candidate Ayesha Wilson.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 73 signatures for School Committee candidate Daria Johnson.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

Motion: To certify 9 signatures for School Committee candidate David Weinstein.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Motion passed 4-0

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 18, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm


Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Motion passed 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary