

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Larry W. Ward
Charles J. Marquardt
Thomas Stohlman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of October 1st, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM on October 1st, 2024, via Zoom, Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Stohlman, Commissioner Ward, Executive Director Tanya Ford, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Present
Commissioner Marquardt	Present
Commissioner Stohlman	Present
Commissioner Ward	Present

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hawkinson thanked the commission for their hard work and especially on the re-count. Please see attached letter from Mr. Hawkinson regarding his remarks.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner King
Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Passed 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To accept the minutes of September 19th with corrections.

Moved by Commissioner King
Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

III. Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Ford will present during the action agenda.

2. Assistant Director's Report

- Ms. Waxman asked for a second time who is participating in the voter registration drive at the Central Square Library on October 9th? Commissioners Stohlman and Marquardt will participate.
- Ms. Waxman reported there will be a bake sale on election day at the Peabody School.
- Ms. Waxman reported that high school students have inquired about working the polls. Commissioner Stohlman volunteered to help as well.
- Vote-by-mail applications will start going out tomorrow. There are 19,000 applications. It will take a couple of weeks to mail all of them. There are 19,221 early voting ballots applicants and about 1,600 absentee voting applicants.

Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Ward will continue to work with the high school regarding poll workers. He also reported that Allan Gehant is now the principal at CRLS. Commissioner Ward will inform the office when a date is scheduled to sign students up as poll workers.
- Commissioner Marquardt reported 23 Magnolia Ave is not a valid address.
- Commissioner King reminded commissioners to schedule designated health care facilities voting.

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

- **2024 Presidential Election Commissioner Schedules - DRAFT**
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- **Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct
					Marquardt	Marquardt
13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct
Marquardt	Ward King	Marquardt Stohlman	Ward King	Marquardt Stohlman	Ward King	Stohlman Marquardt
20-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	26-Oct
Stohlman Ward	Marquardt Stohlman King	Ward King Stolman	Marquardt Stohlman Marquardt	Ward King King	Marquardt Stohlman Ward	King Marquardt
27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov
King Stohlman	Ward King Ward King	Marquardt Stohlman King Marquardt	Ward King Marquardt Ward	Marquardt Stohlman Ward Stohlman	Ward King Stohlman King Marquardt Stohlman	Ward
3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov				
Ward	Marquardt Stohlman	ELECTION DAY				

Satellite Drop Box Pick-up
 Early Voting Coverage
 Ballot Packing
 Early Processing

Presidential Election

Ms. Ford asked if there would be 24-hour access to drop boxes. She noted that there would have to be multiple pick ups daily. Commissioners agreed to keep the drop boxes opened 24 hours.

Motion: To keep the drop boxes available for 24 hours.

Moved by Commissioner Stohlman
Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Passed 4-0

Motion: To accept the Dropbox schedule, the early voting coverage schedule and the pre-processing schedule.

Moved by Commissioner King
Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Poll Worker Training

Ms. Ford suggested that new poll workers should have in person training. Commissioner King suggested adding another training. Ms. Ford stated not enough time to add another training. Commissioner Stohlman asked if the problem was if it was difficult due to a lack of available locations. Ms. Ford pointed out that the issue is commissioners will be at early voting sites. Ms. Waxman noted that we need to also schedule sub precinct training. Commissioner King stated he encourages all workers to get in-person training, so they interact with scanner. Ms. Waxman suggested all commissioner hire extra worker to replace people who do not complete the training. Commissioner King asked about the chances of getting the Senior Center after the 16th Ms. Ford stated she would inquire about it. Commissioner Ward suggested using the schools since there are ongoing evening activities happening every evening. Commissioner Stohlman suggest making it as close to November 1st as possible to get as many people trained as possible. Commissioner Marquardt suggested since he has to schedule tally training for the second floor in 51 Inman street, he will ask about using space there for additional trainings.

State Primary Debrief

Commissioner Stohlman raised several issues 1. Providing a result tape for each precinct available for the press and public. He suggested that Wardens and Clerks bring in the posted tapes and we could repost them. 2. Suggested preprocessing in public view and that it would inquire increasing our capacity. Ms. Ford noted that the state would have to change the law for that to happen. Ms. Waxman pointed out there are several things that slows the process down such as having to process one precinct at a time. 3. Pointed out that mail-in ballots don't have the option to be change if it shows an over vote. Ms. Waxman clarified that those ballots could go into the auxiliary box if the poll work can determine "voter intent". 4. Stated the new voter booths are terrific, but voters are complaining that there is not enough light. He asked what could be done about the lighting. Ms. Waxman noted that lighting is best addressed on a site by site basis. Ms. Ford commented to let the office know which sites need additional lights. 5. Asked why don't we release "unofficial results" the night of the election. Ms. Waxman noted we do when we can, but it depends on how fast the data is coming in. If we stop to release unofficial results it will slow down the process of inputting the data from the memory cards. 6) Commissioner Stohlman pointed out that it is unacceptable to deny the press and public from polling places. Wants to make sure staff and police office know that access to observe the process. Commissioner Ward pointed out that commissioners should inform poll workers and the police regarding access to observers. 7) Suggested that on election night we need to "secure the bullpen" so the press and the public

can't roam the site. Pointed out that when it comes to official business, commissioners need to make sure the press can hear the conversation.

Commissioner King pointed out that Charles Stewart, a professor at MIT reached out to state that his students are interested in being poll workers. Ms. Waxman asked if they would want to work election night to tally overseas ballots. Commissioner Ward stated he will explore this with Professor Stewart. Commissioner Marquardt noted that last time the students were observing flow in the polling sites.

Commissioner Marquardt stated that in 2022, the commissioners worked with Ms. Cobb to survey poll workers to complete a country-wide survey. Asked if the commissioners wanted to participate again with Ms. Cobb. Ms. Ford asked if this would be done by the commissioners. The answer was yes.

Motion: Agree to participate in the post-election survey being conducted by Suffolk University Professor Cobb.

Moved by Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded by Commissioner King

Discussion: Commissioner Stohlman asked if the poll worker has a choice to participate or not. Commissioner Marquardt commented that participation is voluntary.

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Passed 4-0

V. New Business

Motion: Agree re-open public comment.

Moved by Commissioner King
Seconded by Commissioner Ward

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Passed 4-0

Mr. Hawkinson Point out he thought the confusion about getting preliminary results on election night was because it was difficult to get information about how many more ballots were left to be processed the following day. He stated how many ballots needed to be processed the next day would help people understand the significance of preliminary results.

Motion: To close public comment.

Moved by Commissioner King
Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Passed 4-0

Next meeting October 9th, at 5:30 pm via zoom.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:38 PM.

Moved by Commissioner King
Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Stohlman	Yes
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Passed 4-0

A True Record

Attested by:


Larry Ward, Secretary