

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-1732 • Telephone 617-349-4361 • TTY: 617-492-0235
Fax: 617-349-4366 • Email: Elections2@cambridgema.gov • Website: www.cambridgema.gov/election

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 9th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM on October 9th, 2024, via Zoom, Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Stohlman, Commissioner Ward, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

Roll Call:

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

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hawkinson commented that the timing of releasing both state election and municipal results could be improved. He also stated in response to Commissioner Stohlman's suggestion of re-posting the tapes from polling sites at the Senior Center after the election should remain in the polling site for public viewing. He suggested printing a third tape for the Senior Center. He also asked for who he could talk to regarding handling public recounts.

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 October 1st 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 was absent.

2. Assistant Director's Report

- Vote-by-mail applications are current. There have been over 21,000 ballots mailed out. It will take a couple of weeks to mail all of them. According to the State, Cambridge has mailed out 94% of our ballots compared to the state average which is 83%. The staff gets a lot of credit. Commissioner Stohlman asked how many applications are being received every day. Ms. Waxman replied they received 171 ballots today. Mondays they get the most ballots. Primarily it varies. Commissioner King noted the deadline to request is October 29th at 5 pm.
- Ms. Waxman reported that poll work training is now live. Reminded commissioners to send the link to all poll workers and information about in-person training. She emphasized that commissioners need to check the lists she sent for errors that can be fixed. She can make changes if needed. Please send everything to her and Catiria. Commissioner Stohlman asked if all people got instruction by mail or email. She stated that people got log in instructions by email. The mailed letter tells them which polling site they are working at and a confirmation letter and the election worker agreement they need to sign and return. Also has information about in-person training. Commissioners will do the same protocol used for the September elections. Please let her know if we need the office to bring any additional information to the training. Training time for inspectors is from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Wardens and Clerks training is from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm.
- Ms. Waxman reported the Multi-Service Center is having and voter registration drive to provide information about the homeless voting. It will be October 15th, from 12 pm to 3 pm 362 Green Street. It will be conducted by commissioners Ward and Marquardt. Ms. Waxman suggested to go over the material regarding what address to use for homeless voters.

Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner's Marquardt booked the 2nd floor conference room of 51 Inman Street for tally training and sub-precinct. Tally training will be 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm and Sub-precinct training will be 6 pm to 7:30 pm. on October 29th. On Saturday November 2nd, Tally training will be 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm and Sub-precinct training will be 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Other rooms were booked if needed for other training days. Commissioner King asked if schedules could be put in writing. Ms. Waxman agreed and added there needs to be something put in writing for sub-precinct workers to improve the attendance from the last election which she raised concerns about. Commissioner King asked if there was a plan to do what was done in the September election if there is a sub-precinct program E scanner? Ms. Waxman is leaning toward what was done in primary election. She stated the drawback of doing it that way is those locations won't have one ballot box that they can use for early voting and one ballot box they can use in person. Commissioner Marquardt concurred with Ms. Waxman and added that if we have both tabulators taking both the precinct and sub-precinct and one gets picked for an audit it will be difficult. Commissioner King asked why, Commissioner Marquardt responded the reason being is all the ballots would have to be separated. Ms. Waxman will try to confirm if that is the case. Commissioner Stohlman asked if there is any way to get more ballot boxes to the precincts and sub-precincts that are same in size. Ms. Waxman pointed out that the same size precincts is not the problem but the precincts and sub-precincts that are different sizes is the problem. She pointed out we never used two ballot boxes. We got it for the municipal election. Nobody else uses two tabulators on election day. She added that we are going to prioritize precincts for the advance processing. Commissioner's Marquardt thought for 7-2 and 7-2A which is very lopsided is to hand count the whole precinct. Ms. Waxman didn't feel a need to do that, noting

it is not the only lopsided polling site. Commissioner King asked if it would be better to prepare ballots but not run them through the scanner for advance processing? Ms. Waxman said no, because the scanner can process a lot.

- Commissioner Marquardt reported that he and Commissioner Stohlman completed a voter registration drive at the Central Square Library. They registered two new people and sent one registration home for someone else to complete and collected a vote by mail application.
- Commissioner King reported as of last Sunday through the Cambridge portal there were 48 applications. An additional 1,041 people from Ms. Ford. Many were duplicates. He did an information session with 28 people on Saturday and 16 on Sunday. Those people were emailed the paperwork. He will send out another 100 in hopes of getting 50 people to onboard. Cudos to Catiria for replying to everyone.
- Commissioner Ward contacted CRLS principal Alan Gahant about assisting with the voter registration drive at the high school. Mr. Gahant will have a count on students by Friday and let us know.

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

Presidential Election

- Advance Processing will be October 28th – November 1st. Ms. Waxman will check on staffing. They will prioritize the busy precincts. Post processing, if audited will start by November 12th. Post-processing has been scheduled for November 13th. It will take place at the Senior Center.
- Commissioner King noted he will complete his designated healthcare visit. Commissioner Marquardt will do the same. Both will email Ms. Waxman.
- Commissioner Marquardt thanked Ms. Waxman for the translation booklets. She stated credit goes to Ms. Ford for her efforts and work with Ms. Crystal Rosa, the Language Access Manager from human services. There will be a booklet at every poll on election day and early voting. Ballot questions are translated into 16/17 languages.

V. New Business

Commissioner Stohlman asked when will Mr. Hawkinson's concerns be discussed. Ms. Waxman suggested to let Ms. Ford know to place it on the agenda for the October 16th meeting. Commissioner King noted that there was a directive from the Secretary of State. Ms. Waxman stated if there is a specific problem at a specific place let her know and she will follow up. Commissioner King suggested taking up the issues raised after the election. Commissioner Stohlman suggested taking up one issue of posting the tape at the next meeting, which was agreed upon.

Next meeting October 16th, at 3:30 pm via zoom.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:19 PM.

Moved by Commissioner Stohlman
Seconded by Commissioner King

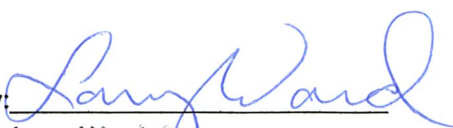
Roll Call:

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

Passed 4-0

A True Record

Attested by:


Larry Ward, Secretary