



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley A. Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of August 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm August 4, 2025, in person in the second-floor conference room at 689 Massachusetts Avenue. Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Stohlman, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Louise Venden, 10 Rogers St. provided comments regarding difficulty correctly filling out the nomination papers for City Council. She indicated that she had twice submitted the required number of signatures only to have them rejected because the forms were not filled out correctly by the candidate. She mentioned that she did not find this inclusive. She also mentioned that she was not the only candidate or potential candidate to experience these issues. She informed the Commission that she intends to run for City Council as a write-in candidate.

Commissioner Stohlman commented that the requirements for the current nomination papers are spelled out in the City's Charter. He explained that the proposed Charter under review by the Legislature would provide more freedom for the Election Commission to make changes to the form of nomination papers used in City elections.

Melanie Gause, a candidate for School Committee, indicated that she also had issues with her nomination papers for City Council and would also be running a write-in campaign for City Council.

Gary Mello indicated that he wanted to go on the record regarding Ms. Ford and issues he has raised with regard to the Republican nomination process and that their Chair is also a commissioner. Commissioner Marquardt asked Mr. Mello if he would like to submit written comments for the record. Mr. Mello replied that his written notes were largely illegible as well as when he has submitted materials in the past they were not included in the minutes. Commissioner Marquardt commented that the offer stands to submit written comment should he so desire.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner King

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Passed 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To accept the minutes of July 16, 2025 with corrections

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Passed 4-0

III. Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

- No report.

Assistant Director's Report

- Ms. Waxman provided the listing of Statement of Financial Interest filers who have yet to file.
- Ms. Waxman informed the Commissioners that the Election Commission has received notification from Louise Venden that she intends to run a write-in campaign for City Council.

Commissioners' Reports

- None.

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

Municipal Election – Review and Certification of Nomination Papers

City Council

Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
17	Ned Melanson	40
Motion: To certify 40 signatures for City Council Candidate Ned Melanson. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
18	Patricia Nolan	30
Motion: To certify 30 signatures for City Council Candidate Patricia Nolan. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
19	Ned Melanson	18
Motion: To certify 18 signatures for City Council Candidate Ned Melanson. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
20	Zion Sherin	47
Motion: To certify 47 signatures for City Council Candidate Zion Sherin. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
21	Jivan G. Sibrinho-Wheeler	23
Motion: To certify 23 signatures for City Council Candidate Jivan G. Sibrinho-Wheeler. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
22	Stanislav Rifkin	77
Motion: To certify 77 signatures for City Council Candidate Stanislav Rifkin. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
23	LaQueen Battle	43
Motion: To certify 43 signatures for City Council Candidate LaQueen Battle. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
24	Peter Hsu	76
Motion: To certify 45 signatures for City Council Candidate Peter Hsu. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

25	Robert Winters	45
Motion: To certify 32 signatures for City Council Candidate Robert Winters. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
26	Ayah Al-Zubi	11
Motion: To certify 11 signatures for City Council Candidate Ayah Al-Zubi. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
27	Elizabeth Bisio	52
Motion: To certify 52 signatures for City Council Candidate Elizabeth Bisio. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
28	Burhan Azeem	24
Motion: To certify 24 signatures for City Council Candidate Burhan Azeem. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
29	Ned Melanson	22
Motion: To certify 22 signatures for City Council Candidate Ned Melanson. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
30	Marc McGovern	47
Motion: To certify 47 signatures for City Council Candidate Marc McGovern. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
31	LaQueen Battle	10
Motion: To certify 10 signatures for City Council Candidate LaQueen Battle. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

32	Marc McGovern	12
Motion: To certify 12 signatures for City Council Candidate Marc McGovern. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
33	Robert Winters	11
Motion: To certify 11 signatures for City Council Candidate Robert Winters. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
34	Zion Sherin	12
Motion: To certify 12 signatures for City Council Candidate Zion Sherin. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
35	Robert Winters	5
Motion: To certify 5 signatures for City Council Candidate Robert Winters. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
36	Burhan Azeem	21
Motion: To certify 21 signatures for City Council Candidate Burhan Azeem. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
37	Burhan Azeem	14
Motion: To certify 14 signatures for City Council Candidate Burhan Azeem. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
38	Patricia Nolan	2
Motion: To certify 2 signatures for City Council Candidate Patricia Nolan. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

39	Sumbul Siddiqui	22
Motion: To certify 22 signatures for City Council Candidate Sumbul Siddiqui. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

School Committee

Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
11	Lily Havstad	31
Motion: To certify 31 signatures for School Committee Candidate Lily Havstad. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
12	Eugenia Schraa Huh	36
Motion: To certify 36 signatures for School Committee Candidate Eugenia Schraa Huh. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
13	Richard Harding Jr	65
Motion: To certify 65 signatures for School Committee Candidate Richard Harding Jr. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
14	Elizabeth Hudson	18
Motion: To certify 18 signatures for School Committee Candidate Elizabeth Hudson. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

15	Arjun Jaikumar	59
Motion: To certify 59 signatures for School Committee Candidate Arjun Jaikumar. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
16	Jose Luis Rojas Villareal	49
Motion: To certify 49 signatures for School Committee Candidate Jose Luis Rojas Villareal. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
18	LaQueen Battle	40
Motion: To certify 40 signatures for School Committee Candidate LaQueen Battle. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
19	Eugenia Schraa Huh	42
Motion: To certify 42 signatures for School Committee Candidate Eugenia Schraa Huh. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
Folder #	Candidate	#Signatures Certified
20	Jose Luis Rojas Villareal	25
Motion: To certify 25 signatures for School Committee Candidate Jose Luis Rojas Villareal. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
21	Arjun Jaikumar	8
Motion: To certify 8 signatures for School Committee Candidate Arjun Jaikumar Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

22	Alexandra Bowers	59
Motion: To certify 59 signatures for School Committee Candidate Alexandra Bowers Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
23	LaQueen Battle	9
Motion: To certify 9 signatures for School Committee Candidate LaQueen Battle Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
24	Lily Havstad	25
Motion: To certify 25 signatures for School Committee Candidate Lily Halvstad Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
25	Elizabeth Hudson	2
Motion: To certify 2 signatures for School Committee Candidate Elizabeth Hudson Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
26	Melanie Gause	31
Motion: To certify 31 signatures for School Committee Candidate Melanie Gause. Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
27	Alborz Bejnood	42
Motion: To certify 42 signatures for School Committee Candidate Alborz Bejnood Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
28	Luisa de Paula Santos	68
Motion: To certify 68 signatures for School Committee Candidate Luisa de Paula Santos Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

29	Alexandra Bowers	3
Motion: To certify 3 signatures for School Committee Candidate Alexandra Bowers Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
30	Melanie Gause	24
Motion: To certify 24 signatures for School Committee Candidate Melanie Gause Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
31	Caroline Hunter	71
Motion: To certify 71 signatures for School Committee Candidate Caroline Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
32	LaQueen Battle	5
Motion: To certify 5 signatures for School Committee Candidate LaQueen Battle Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
33	Alborz Bejnood	5
Motion: To certify 5 signatures for School Committee Candidate Alborz Bejnood Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		
34	Alborz Bejnood	4
Motion: To certify 4 signatures for School Committee Candidate Alborz Bejnood Moved by Commissioner King Seconded by Commissioner Ward Passed 4-0		

Commissioners Stohlman and King will be visiting Youville House on August 14 at 2:00pm to discuss Cambridge's voting system with their residents.

Motion: To suspend the rules to re-open Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded by Commissioner King

Passes: 4-0

Abra Berkowitz provided comments regarding her issue with not filling out her nomination papers properly and having them deemed invalid. She expressed thanks for the commission staff who were always polite and helpful. LaQueen Battle also expressed her concerns with errors on nomination papers.

Commissioner Stohlman reiterated that potential charter changes could make the process of changing nomination paper design easier to accomplish.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt

Passes: 4-0

New Business

Next meeting will be August 20, 2025, at 5:30 pm on Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn at 4:09 pm

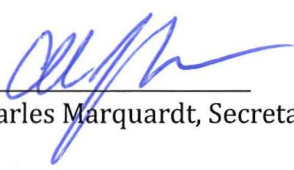
Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner King

Passed 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary