



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

689 Massachusetts Ave Ste 1, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-3302 • 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 J. Stohlman, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley A. Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of September 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm September 3, 2025, on Zoom, Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Stohlman, Executive Director Ford, Assistant Director Waxman and City Solicitor Megan Bayer.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Commissioner Ward – Present
Commissioner Stohlman – Present
Commissioner King – Present
Commissioner Marquardt - Present

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To accept the minutes of August 20, 2025 with corrections.

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

An additional member of the public joined the Zoom call after Public Comment was closed.

Motion: To suspend the rules to re-open public comment.

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

Gary Mello of Franklin Street commented that Public Comment should not be at the start of the meeting. He recommends placing Public Comment after Reports on the standard agenda.

He also recommends that the Commissioners work the polls next Tuesday in Somerville or Boston to observe how other communities conduct elections.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

III. Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Ford discussed the requirements for police staffing at the polling locations.

Motion: To approve the submission of the recommendation that In accordance with MGL Chapter 54, Section 72, the Board of Election Commissioners recommends that the City Council approve the assignment of twenty-six (26) officers and any additional officers as needed at polling locations. (R2)

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

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|-----------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

- Ms. Ford informed the Commissioners that the Election Commission has received an objection to a School Committee candidate on August 28th.

The Objection had been received via email at the City Clerk's office on August 8th and forwarded to the Law Department on August 26th.

In discussion with the Solicitor and Commission staff the best available course of action would be to hold a hearing on the Objection on September 9.

Motion: To schedule a hearing on the School Committee Candidate objection on September 9, 2025 at 10:30 am at 689 Massachusetts Avenue 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Moved by Commissioner Stohlman

Seconded by Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

- Ms. Ford informed the Commissioners that the Law Department and Election Commission staff have been working tirelessly to prepare for the passage of the Home Rule Petition for a new charter for the City of Cambridge.

Ms. Bayer concurred and provided a status update on the Home Rule Petition:

- The original petition did not continue the information regarding when the Home Rule Petition, if passed, would go before the voters of Cambridge,
- This issue was identified by Sen. DiDomenico's staff.
- An amendment before the Senate and, once passed, goes back the House.
- Once passed in the House back to the Senate and then the Governor.
- All parties involved have been informed of the time sensitive nature of this matter.

Discussion amongst Solicitor, Commissioner and ED/AD regarding the need to keep the Manager and Council involved of the status given the desire to have the Charter on the November 4th ballot.

In this vein there was discussion on sending out requests for statements in opposition and support of the Charter for the Ballot Question Mailing.

This was determined to be prudent.

Motion: To send letters for to potential opponents and proponents statement providers as relates to the proposed Home Rule Charter.

Moved by Commissioner Stohlman

Seconded by Commissioner King

Roll Call:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

Assistant Director's Report

- Ms. Waxman provided the listing of Statement of Financial Interest filers who have yet to file. There are 11 reporting persons remaining to files as of September 3rd.
- Ms. Waxman provided the listings of candidates appearing on the ballot for City Council and School Committee.
- Notice of withdrawal was received from Caitlin Dube for City Council. She will continue as a School Committee candidate.
- Ms. Waxman reported that the Valente Library has been closed since June due to damage from an HVAC issue. Contractors are scheduled to begin remediation and restoration work in September with a targeted completion date before Early Voting starts. Discussion about the potential impacts of Valente not being available ensued. Ms. Ford suggested that everyone consider what alternatives there are close by the Valente in case a temporary location is needed. Commissioner Marquardt indicated that he would reach out to the pastor at St. Anthony's.

Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Marquardt reported that he had a discussion with the Pastor at St. Anthony's Church regarding potentially using one of their rooms as a polling location.
- Commissioner King reported that he and Michael from the office attended the Harvard Graduate School of Design community event on August 27th. They registered 6 voters.
- Commissioner King visited Cambridge Homes on August 28th to assist in completing Early Voting Requests.

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

New Business

Next meeting will be September 17, 2025, at 5:30pm pm on Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn at 6:35 pm

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Roll Call:

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|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yes |
| Commissioner Stohlman | Yes |
| Commissioner King | Yes |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yes |

Passed 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary