



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Larry W. Ward
Charles J. Marquardt
Sara I. Rivera

DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley A. Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of June 3, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM June 3, 2026, via Zoom. Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Rivera, Executive Director Ford and Assistant Director Waxman.

Roll Call

Commissioner Marquardt – Present
Commissioner Ward – Present
Commissioner King – Present
Commissioner Rivera – Present

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Stohlman made a public comment and also submitted his comments in writing.

Mr. John Hawkinson made a Public Comment he expressed concern that the new rules do not comply with the new charter requirements and also that the Board's experiment with shifting Public Comment to the earlier part of the meeting did not provide the required reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Gary Mello also made a public comment he shared that submitted his support for Assistant Director Waxman for the Outstanding Employee Award.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Commissioner Marquardt – Yes
Commissioner Ward – Yes
Commissioner Rivera – Yes
Commissioner King – Yes

Passes 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: Approve the minutes of May 20, as corrected

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Commissioner Marquardt – Yes

Commissioner Ward – Yes

Commissioner Rivera – Yes

Commissioner King – Yes

Passes 4-0

III. Reports

1. Director's Report

- Reported that the City Council calendar has been updated: June 8 and June 22 remain regular meetings; June 15 has been canceled, and June 29 has been changed to a roundtable discussion.
- The Director requested that the Board approve her memo regarding police assignments for the September 1, 2026, Primary and the November 3, 2026, General Election. She requested approval by consensus. Additionally, since schools will be open on September 1, 2026, the Director is requesting one additional police officer for each school.
- The Assistant Director explained that the September 1 election will require 32 police officers, while the November 3 election will require 26.

2. Assistant Director's Report

- Reported that the license agreement to temporarily use St. Bartholomew's space for elections has been signed. The paperwork has been forwarded to the City Manager and the Legal Department for their signatures.

Motion: Adopt the Polling location change: Adopt the temporary change for the polling location in Ward 3 Precinct 2 to St. Bartholomew's Church, 239 Harvard Street, due to renovations at Moses Youth Center (pending final signatures from City Solicitor and City Manager).

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Commissioner Marquardt – Yes

Commissioner Ward – Yes

Commissioner Rivera – Yes

Commissioner King – Yes

Passes 4-0

Reported the second mailing for the census was mailed out.

3. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Marquardt FYI: Reported that the USPS is looking to implement certain procedures due to the executive order from the president.

Action Agenda Old Business

- Director Ford reported that she is still working on the Poll Pad implementation. In the meantime, training will proceed as planned, with six 90-minute sessions accommodating 50 participants each—three for the Primary Election and three for the General Election.
- Commissioner Ward asked whether the training would be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and whether Poll Workers would be paid for the Poll Pad training. Director Ford responded that she did not have an answer pending her conversation with the City Manager.
- Regarding the rules for the Board of Election Commissioners meeting, Director Ford noted that she sent an email in April containing former Commissioner Stohlman's suggested changes.
- The Board agreed to hold off on any action—for both the Board and the public—until they receive a response from Legal.

New Business

Statement of Financial Interest packets were mailed on May 18, 2026 to 189 Municipal Officials (one person was left off the list so the true number is 190), plus one additional mailed May 28, 2026 that was additionally left off list 71 Municipal Officials have filed as of June 3, 2026 Formal notice of failure to file should be delayed until June 15 to give time for business reply mail and to account for the mailing going out May 18

The next meeting was scheduled to be held via Zoom on June 17 at 5:00 PM.

Motion: To adjourn at 5:43 pm

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Commissioner Marquardt – Yes

Commissioner Ward – Yes

Commissioner Rivera – Yes

Commissioner King – Yes

Passes 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: Ethridge King
Ethridge King, Secretary

Public Comment for June 3 2026 Board of Election Commissioner Meeting

My name is Tom Stohlman and I am a Cambridge voter.

It is very difficult for the public to have thoughtful comments on agenda items when they receive the agenda packet 15 minutes before the meeting. I imagine it is just as difficult for the Commissioners to have a thoughtful discussion because of this. The City Council manages to release their agenda packet several days ahead of their meetings. Can the BOEC do the same?

Regarding the Action Agenda, Old Business: Rules for the Board of Election Commissioners:

I am disappointed to see an older version of rules which have a negative tone and lack any directions for actually running a meeting.

Just before the end of my term as Election Commissioner I drafted a revised set of rules which I thought would better help the body complete their business while encouraging public observation and engagement.

Conducting the business of elections while encouraging public observation and engagement is the duty of the Board of Election Commissioners according to MA State Law and our Charter.

I worked very hard to represent the public and especially the voters during my short tenure. I actively tried to demystify what the public was observing during voting, and the counting and recounting of votes. I enjoyed showing the public my thought process while adjudicating voter's intent. And when asked, I tried to answer the public's concerns and questions openly and honestly without deflection or evasion.

Elections which are transparent, open, and well understood are the best antidote to the national plagues of election denial and voter suspicion. We should set that example locally through BOEC rules and policies.

To the Commissioners through the Chair: You represent the voters of Cambridge. I hope you will adopt rules with the voters and the public in mind, rules which facilitate their engagement, rules which encourage their observation and better understanding of your business.