



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 March 25, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm March 25, 2026, at 689 Mass Ave in the 2nd floor conference room. Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Stohlman, Executive Director Ford, Assistant Director Waxman, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal Affairs Claire Spinner and Chief People Officer Rae Catchings. Commissioner Ward was delayed so Commissioner Stohlman served as Chair.

Motion: To suspend the rules to bring forward discussion of Election Worker Hiring

Moved by Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded by Commissioner Stohlman

Passes: 3-0-1

Ms. Ford started the discussion by stating that she and Ms. Catchings and Ms. Spinner had started the discussion regarding election worker hiring and how to improve and streamline the process prior to the passage of the City Council Policy Order (attached). The work started in the fall but was set aside during the election and post-election process and was picked up after the New Year. Ms. Catchings and Ms. Spinner discussed the limits imposed by the state under OBRA (Massachusetts Mandatory OBRA (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990)) on how election workers can be paid. They also mentioned other requirements of the federal government and the IRS that apply to the election workers.

Commissioner Ward arrived at 4:17 pm and assumed the chair.

Discussion continued around the issues of Voya and physical paperwork.

Ms. Ford, Ms. Spinner and Ms. Catchings informed the commissioners that they are continuing to work on the issues identified and will be reporting back.

The commissioners thanked Ms. Ford, Ms. Spinner, Ms. Catchings and their staffs for all the work they are doing on this matter and that any simplification would be greatly appreciated.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hawkinson commented that in cases where agenda items are to be taken out of order, it would be appreciated if the public could comment before the matter in case the public has something substantive to add to the discussion while members of other departments or others are available for discussion.

Gary Mello requested to comment regarding matters the Chair considered not to be on the agenda. Mr. Mello did not agree with that assertion and was ruled out of order by the Chair.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved by Commissioner Ward

Seconded by Commissioner King

Passes 4-0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 25, 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Stohlman

Seconded by Commissioner King

Passes 4-0

III. Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

- The report was covered under the election worker hiring discussion above.

Assistant Director's Report

- Ms. Waxman reported that alternate locations are still required for 3-2 and MIT. MIT is working with the Election Commission to find a suitable alternate location for the two precincts that use Kresge.

Commissioner King reported that he would follow-up to get a final response from the church for 3-2. Ms. Waxman asked to be added to all emails.

Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner King reported that 53 Raymond St is NOT a valid address..

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

Commissioners and staff discussed the approach to prioritizing the items presented by Commissioner Stohlman and Commissioner Marquardt (attached).

After discussion it was decided that the first two priorities would be the use of poll pads for check-in and Board of Election Commissioner Meeting Rules. Discussion regarding these two items will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

New Business

Next meeting scheduled for April 8, 2026 at 4:00 pm will be via Zoom.

The following meeting will include the Annual Organization Meeting and be on April 22, 2026 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Motion: To adjourn at 5:30pm

Moved by Commissioner Stohlman
Seconded by Commissioner King

Passed 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: _____

Charles Marquardt, Secretary

