



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 May 6, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM May 6, 2026, via Zoom. Present were Commissioner King, Commissioner Marquardt, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Rivera (joined the meeting at 5:14 PM), Executive Director Ford and Assistant Director Waxman.

Roll Call

Commissioner Marquardt – Present
Commissioner Ward – Present
Commissioner King – Present
Commissioner Rivera – Not Present

Passes 3-0-1

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gary Mello made a public comment.

Motion: To close Public Comment

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Commissioner Ward – Yes
Commissioner King – Yes
Commissioner Marquardt – Yes
Commissioner Rivera – Not Present

Passes 3-0-1

II: MINUTES

Motion: Approve the minutes of April 22, 2026

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Commissioner Ward – Yes

Commissioner King – Yes

Commissioner Marquardt – Yes

Commissioner Rivera – Not Present

Passes 3-0-1

III. Reports

1. Executive Director's Report

- FY budget was favorably approved by committee and forwarded to full City Council. Present at the Budget Hearing were the Chair, Commissioner Marquardt, Executive Director Ford and Assistant Director Waxman. Executive Director Ford noted that she liked that process used by the budget committee where questions were presented in advance, this gave her and her team time to give thoughtful answers. She also stated that Commissioner Marquardt did a good job representing the Commissioners.

2. Assistant Director's Report

- St. Bartholomew's Church Accessibility visit scheduled May 11 with Victor and Kate from Disability Commission; vote on new polling places expected at next meeting pending paperwork from Disability Commission.

3. Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Marquardt reported he attended the Budget Hearing. Mr. Marquardt also reported that he heard on the radio that the State Legislature failed to act on the 12 petitions and the petitioners are now entering the second phase of signature gathering.

IV. Action Agenda Old Business

1. Assistant Director Waxman:

- Office has certified over 8,800 signatures for candidate petitions while simultaneously handling census work.
- The second round of petitions are due on June 17th.
- May 5th was the deadline for federal and statewide party candidates; April 28th for district and county candidates; July 28th for federal/statewide non-party candidates.

- Commissioner Marquardt advised the Commissioners that Poll-worker applications are being received by US Mail and email—and to please check our mailboxes in the office for applications.

2. Executive Director Ford:

- Poll pad implementation requires additional research on programming costs, training fees, poll worker compensation for extra training day, and contractual implications with LHS—we need to make a decision on the use of Poll Pads by the end of June. Since the FY27 budget has been submitted it might be hard to get the funding needed for the Poll Pads.
- Poll Pad budget constraints: Training costs, programming fees, and poll worker compensation for additional training day not included in February budget submission; supplemental budget request may be needed but city management discourages this approach.
- Poll Pad training cannot be combined with regular tabulator/ballot box training due to length (would exceed reasonable timeframe) and need for separate inspector hands-on sessions.
- Poll worker training dates (August 19 and 22) Wednesday and Saturday respectively and continued evaluating Poll Pad implementation for Election Day check-in, though the budget and contractual constraints require further research before a final decision by end of June.
- Training costs, programming fees, and poll worker compensation for an additional training day were not included in the February budget submission. While a supplemental budget request may be necessary, city management discourages this approach.
- Poll Pad training cannot be combined with regular tabulator/ballot box training due to its length (which would exceed a reasonable timeframe) and the need for separate, hands-on sessions for inspectors.
- Sub-precinct and Tallying Training should be separate.

3. Assistant Director Waxman:

- The Board discussed programming ballot scanners for sub-precincts. The question at issue: should the scanner be programmed to process sub-precinct and main precinct ballots separately, or should it be programmed to accept both main and sub-precinct ballots together? Lesley is leaning toward the former approach—having the scanner accept only sub-precinct ballots separately from main precinct ballots.

V. New Business

No New Business

Next meeting was scheduled on Zoom for: May 20th at 5:00pm.

Motion: To adjourn at 5:34 pm

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Commissioner Marquardt – Yes

Commissioner Ward – Yes

Commissioner King – Yes

Commissioner Rivera –Yes

Passed 4-0

A True Record
Ethridge King, Secretary

Attested by: *Ethridge King*