



# 2019 Cambridge Voter Guide

**Vote on November 5th for Cambridge  
City Council and School Committee!**

**The deadline to register to vote is:  
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 8:00 P.M.**

## **Eligibility:**

To register to vote in the City of Cambridge, You must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of Cambridge
- Be 18 years of age or older (Cambridge citizens who are 16 or 17 years of age can pre-register to vote.)

## **Already registered to vote?**

You only need to re-register when you change your:

- Name;
- Residential address;
- Mailing address; or
- Political Party

**Look up your voter registration online at:  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch)**

## **Ways to Register**

### **Register Online:**

You can register online at [www.registertovotema.com](http://www.registertovotema.com) if you have a Massachusetts Driver's License or ID. If you don't, you can still use the website but you must print your form, sign it, and mail it to the Election Commission Office.

### **Register by Mail:**

You can obtain a mail-in Registration Form from the City Clerk's Office, any Cambridge Post Office or any branch of the Cambridge Public Library. Mail completed registration forms to: **Cambridge Election Commission, 51 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.**

### **Register in person:**

If you would like to register in-person, you may do so at the Election Commission office at **51 Inman Street**. Voter registration is also available as part of every transaction at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and at certain public assistance agencies.

# Ways to Vote

## Voting in Person on Election Day

Your polling location is open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Election Day.



### Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

Your polling location will be physically accessible to voters with disabilities. It will also have at least one voting machine that allows all voters, including those who are visually-impaired, to vote independently.

## Absentee Voting Eligibility

You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote at your polling place on election day due to:

- Absence from Cambridge on Election Day; or
- Physical disability; or
- Religious belief.

## Voting Absentee in Person

You can vote in person at the Election Commission office. Call us at 617-349-4361 to find out if absentee ballots are available.

## Voting Absentee by Mail

To vote absentee by mail, you first have to apply for an absentee ballot. You can do this by either filling out the application form or by sending a signed request to the Election Commission with:

- Your name
- The address where you are registered to vote
- The address where you want the ballot to be sent
- Your signature

A family member can apply for a voter by including their name and relationship to the voter with the above information about the voter.

**Absentee Applications can be downloaded at:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/absentee](http://www.cambridgema.gov/absentee)**

You can send the signed application to the Election Commission office by mail, fax, or by scanning and emailing it:

**Mail:** 51 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

**Fax:** 617-349-4366

**Email:** [elections@cambridgema.gov](mailto:elections@cambridgema.gov)

## Early Voting

**Early Voting is not available for municipal elections.** If you are not eligible to vote absentee, you must vote on Election Day at your polling location.



The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Monday, November 4th, at Noon.

The deadline to return the absentee ballot is Tuesday, November 5th, at 8:00 P.M.

If you would like to vote absentee by mail, make sure you allow enough time to receive the ballot and mail it back.

# Cambridge Polling Locations

Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. You must vote at the precinct where you are registered to vote. Look up your polling location at [www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch), or call the Election Commission office at 617-349-4361

- |      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1-1  | <b>O'CONNELL BRANCH LIBRARY</b><br>48 Sixth Street; Corner of Thorndike Street   | 6-1  | <b>CITY HALL ANNEX</b> , 344 Broadway<br>Conference Room, Second Floor  |
| 1-2  | <b>TRUMAN APARTMENTS</b> ,<br>25 Eighth Street, Community Room, Thorndike<br>Street Entrance                             | 6-2  | <b>CAMBRIDGE REHABILITATION &amp;<br/>NURSING CENTER</b> (formerly Vernon Hall<br>Nursing Home), 8 Dana Street, Activity Room |
| 1-3  | <b>MILLERS RIVER APARTMENTS</b><br>15 Lambert Street, Cambridge Street entrance  | 6-3  | <b>SPAULDING HOSPITAL</b> (formerly Youville<br>Hospital), 1575 Cambridge Street  |
| 2-1  | <b>PISANI CENTER</b><br>131 Washington Street  | 7-1  | <b>BALDWIN SCHOOL</b><br>Community Floor, 28 Sacramento Street Entrance   |
| 2-2  | <b>M.I.T.</b> , Kresge Auditorium, behind Stratton<br>Center, 70 Massachusetts Avenue                                    | 7-2  | <b>BALDWIN SCHOOL</b><br>Community Floor, 28 Sacramento Street Entrance   |
| 2-3  | <b>M.I.T.</b> , Kresge Auditorium, behind Stratton<br>Center, 70 Massachusetts Avenue                                    | 7-3  | <b>GUND HALL</b><br>48 Quincy Street, Cambridge Street Entrance   |
| 3-1  | <b>VALENTE BRANCH LIBRARY</b><br>826 Cambridge Street, Side Entrance<br>(Previously located at the Frisoli Youth Center) | 8-1  | <b>GRAHAM AND PARKS SCHOOL</b> (formerly<br>Peabody School) 44 Linnaean St., Avon Street<br>Entrance                          |
| 3-2  | <b>MOSES YOUTH CENTER</b><br>(Formerly Area IV Youth Center)<br>243 Harvard Street, Lower Level, Rear Entrance           | 8-2  | <b>FRIENDS CENTER</b><br>5 Longfellow Park, Community Room  |
| 3-2A | <b>MOSES YOUTH CENTER</b><br>(Formerly Area IV Youth Center)<br>243 Harvard Street, Lower Level, Rear Entrance           | 8-3  | <b>QUINCY HOUSE</b><br>58 Plympton Street, Main Entrance  |
| 3-3  | <b>SALVATION ARMY HEADQUARTERS</b><br>402 Massachusetts Avenue   | 9-1  | <b>LEXINGTON AVENUE FIRE HOUSE</b><br>167 Lexington Avenue  |
| 4-1  | <b>PUTNAM GARDENS</b><br>Community Room, 64 Magee Street (Entrance<br>between Magee and Callender Streets)               | 9-2  | <b>NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY</b><br>450 Concord Avenue, Classroom   |
| 4-2  | <b>CITY HALL</b><br>795 Massachusetts Avenue, Driveway Entrance  | 9-3  | <b>CORCORAN PARK COMMUNITY<br/>BUILDING</b> , 1 Corcoran Lane (formerly located at<br>the Haggerty School)                    |
| 4-3  | <b>2 MOUNT AUBURN STREET</b><br>Putnam Apartments, Lobby   | 10-1 | <b>RUSSELL APARTMENTS</b> (Senior Citizen<br>Apartments) 2050 Massachusetts Avenue  |
| 5-1  | <b>LBJ APARTMENTS</b> ,<br>150 Erie Street, Community Room (Parking Lot<br>Entrance)                                     | 10-2 | <b>GRAHAM AND PARKS SCHOOL</b> , (formerly<br>Peabody School) 44 Linnaean St., Avon Street<br>Entrance                        |
| 5-2  | <b>WOODROW WILSON COURT</b><br>Magazine St., Community Room, Fairmont St.<br>Entry between Door 7 and 8                  | 10-3 | <b>CADBURY COMMONS</b><br>66 Sherman Street   |
| 5-3  | <b>MORSE SCHOOL</b><br>40 Granite Street, Main Entrance  | 11-1 | <b>JEFFERSON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER<br/>BUILDING</b> , 1 Jackson Place   |
|      |  | 11-2 | <b>PEABODY SCHOOL GYM</b><br>70-R Rindge Avenue   |
|      |  | 11-3 | <b>BURNS APARTMENTS</b><br>50 Churchill Avenue, Community Room  |



# 2019 Candidates

## More information on candidates:

Newspapers, websites, and local organizations are good sources of information about the candidates. Many candidates have campaign websites that you can find by searching online.

Except as required by law, the City of Cambridge Board of Election Commissioners does not participate in any campaign activities, including but not limited to:

1. Providing information about candidates' beliefs or positions
2. Regulating or fact-checking campaign materials
3. Organizing or advertising candidate debates

### Campaign Finance

City Council candidates file campaign finance reports with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF), a state office.

School Committee candidates file campaign finance reports with the Election Commission.

To view Campaign Finance Reports, visit: [www.cambridgema.gov/cfr](http://www.cambridgema.gov/cfr)

### City Council:

Sukia Akiba	343 Walden Street
Burhan Azeem	91 Sidney Street
Dennis J. Carlone*	9 Washington Avenue
Charles J. Franklin	162 Hampshire Street
Craig A. Kelley*	6 Saint Gerard Terrace
Derek Andrew Kopon	8 Wright Street
Ilan Levy	148 Spring Street
Alanna M. Mallon*	3 Maple Avenue
Marc C. McGovern*	17 Pleasant Street
Jeffery McNary	116 Norfolk Street
Risa Mednick	20 Maple Avenue
Gregg J. Moree	25 Fairfield Street
Adriane Musgrave	48 Haskell Street
Patricia M. Nolan	184 Huron Avenue
John Pitkin	18 Fayette Street
Sumbul Siddiqui*	283 Sidney Street
E. Denise Simmons*	188 Harvard Street
Ben Simon	67 Bishop Allen Drive
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	19 Trowbridge Street
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.*	88 6th Street
Nicola A. Williams	8 Brewer Street
Quinton Y. Zondervan*	235 Cardinal Medeiros Avenue

### School Committee:

Ruth Ryan Allen	48 Fenno Street
Manikka L. Bowman*	134 Reed Street
Bernette J. Dawson	71 Oxford Avenue
Emily Dexter*	9 Fenno Street
Alfred B. Fantini*	4 Canal Park
Elechi M. Kadete	10 Laurel Street
Christopher Lim	48 Pleasant Street
José Luis Rojas Villarreal	19 Cornelius Way
David J. Weinstein	45 S. Normandy Avenue
Rachel B. Weinstein	60 Standish Street
Ayesha Wilson	15 Concord Avenue

\* Candidate for Re-election

# Fact Sheet: Modified Municipal Ballot Design

In Cambridge Municipal Elections, voters rank the candidates in order of preference by marking numbered ovals next to the candidates' names. The Board of Election Commissioners voted on May 22, 2019 to cap the number of ovals at fifteen (15). The background and reasons for this decision are below.

## **In 2017, 26 candidates ran for City Council – the highest number of candidates since the PR Count was computerized in 1997**

The Election Commission was able to print a ballot that accommodated all of the candidates in 2017, but it became evident that ballot modifications would be needed to address a further increase in the number of candidates and to improve the usability.

## **The number of candidates is not capped, just the number of ovals**

The Board of Election Commissioners is not limiting how many people run for City Council or School Committee. The only change is that next to each candidate's name, there will be a maximum of fifteen ovals, even if there are more than fifteen candidates.

## **Capping the number of ovals allows a ballot that fits more candidates**

A City Council ballot with a landscape orientation can only fit twenty-six candidates with the required nine write-in lines. The only way to design a ballot for more than twenty-six candidates would be to use a portrait orientation, which is only possible if the number of ovals is capped at fifteen. The ballot cannot be double-sided or more than one page.

## **This need was anticipated in 1938 when the PR Count laws were written**

The Board of Election Commissioners has the authority to modify the form of the ballot as long as the voter is given "not less than fifteen choices." M.G.L. ch. 54A s. 16.

## **Most Cambridge voters can continue voting the way they always have**

In the past five elections, the average voter ranked only five candidates. Over 95% of voters ranked fifteen or fewer candidates, which they will still be able to do.

## **The effect of capping the number of rankings at 15 has been tested**

Experts agree that capping the number of rankings at 15 will not change the results of the election. Election data from the 2013, 2015 and 2017 Municipal Elections were tested, and the results would have been the same if voters had been capped at fifteen choices.

## **New ballot design is easier for voters to read**

The ballot is easier to read and will lead to fewer spoiled ballots caused by mismarking the ballot. Fewer ovals and fewer mistakes will make the voting process faster, reducing the likelihood of lines at the polling place.

## **What will the ballots look like on Election Day this year?**

Visit the Cambridge Election Commission website to see the 2019 Municipal Election Specimen Ballots:

[www.Cambridgema.gov/Elections](http://www.Cambridgema.gov/Elections)

Or you can visit the Election Commission office at 51 Inman Street

## Proportional Representation

Since 1941 the City of Cambridge has elected its City Council and School Committee by Proportional Representation (PR).

Elections for nine members of the City Council and six members of the School Committee are held in November in odd-numbered years.

PR elections ensure the fair representation of all voters. Any group of voters that number more than one-tenth of the votes cast can be sure of electing at least one member of a nine-member Council, but a majority group of voters can be sure of electing a majority of the Council. The majority elect a majority of seats, but minority groupings also win their fair share of representation.

PR elections also ensure that no ballot is wasted. Your ballot will only count for one candidate. If the candidate you rank first loses, or already has enough votes to win, your ballot will be transferred to the next choice you marked.

Ranking only one candidate does not give that candidate an advantage, so rank as many candidates as you like.

# Marking your Ballot

Voting is easy! The ballot lists candidates with numbered ovals next to their names. Just rank the candidates in order of preference by filling in the numbered ovals.

## Valid Markings

Mark your choices by completely filling in the numbered ovals.

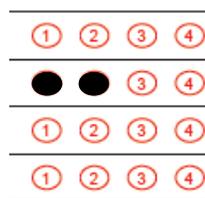
Fill in the number one (1) oval next to your first choice. Fill in the number two (2) oval next to your second choice, and so on.

You don't need to rank all the candidates: you may fill in as many or as few choices as you please.

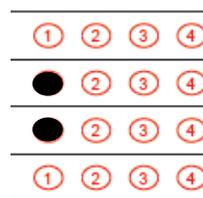
Only one vote per candidate. Only one vote per column.		DO NOT USE F						
HERSHEY CHOCOLATE BAR, 1600 Smores Road	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
GUMMY BEAR, 2564 Haribo Street		①	②	●	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
CANDY CANE, 12 Peppermint Lane		①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
CHARLESTON CHEW, 292 Main Street		●	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
M. M. CHOCOLATE, 255 Character Way		①	②	③	●	⑤	⑥	⑦
REESE P. B. CUP, 24 Peanut Place		①	●	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦

## Invalid Markings

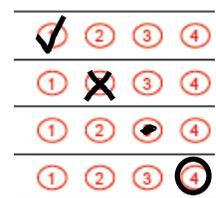
Filling in more than one choice for a candidate:



Giving more than one candidate the same ranking:



Ovals that are not filled in completely and cannot be read by the machine:



If you make a mistake, you can return your ballot to the election worker and receive another one. You are limited to three attempts at completing your ballot.

Just be aware that each ballot might have the candidates in a different order! The candidates' names are rotated in alphabetical order on the ballot so that each candidate appears in the desirable top-of-the ballot position on an equal number of ballots.



Central Tabulation Center, 2017

## How the Ballots are Counted

**First Count:** The ballots are sorted by the number one (#1) vote on each ballot. Candidates are ranked according to the number of first choice votes received.

**Calculate Quota:** Quota is determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{Number of valid Ballots}}{\text{Number to elect} + 1} + 1$$

For example, if 24,990 valid ballots are cast for City Council, the quota will be 2,500 (24,990 divided by 10, plus 1).

**Distribute the Surplus:** Any candidates who reach the necessary quota with number one (#1) votes are declared elected. Any extra ballots they receive beyond the quota are redistributed to the candidates marked next in preference on the ballot. For example, if quota is 2,500 and a candidate receives 3,000 first choice ballots, 500 ballots will be transferred.

**Eliminating Candidates:** The count continues with the elimination of candidates who have fewer than fifty number one (#1) votes. Their ballots are redistributed to the other candidates according to the next preference marked. After each distribution, each candidate's new vote total is established. Then the candidate with the lowest number of votes is declared defeated and that candidate's ballots are redistributed to the voter's next indicated preference.

**Electing Candidates:** As candidates reach the quota through the addition of redistributed ballots to their totals, they are declared elected and no further ballots are transferred to them. This process continues until all candidates have been eliminated except the nine winners for city council or six winners for school committee.

**Election Results:** On Election Night, all of the ballots that went through the scanners on Election Day, including absentee ballots, will be tabulated. **Preliminary results** will be posted on the City of Cambridge homepage at [www.cambridgema.gov](http://www.cambridgema.gov) on Election Night, once every precinct has reported to the Central Tabulation Center at the Senior Center.

Beginning the day after the election, the Commissioners will review all write-in ballots and auxiliary ballots by hand and add these to the results. Auxiliary ballots are ballots that cannot be read by the scanners. These results are **unofficial results** because they still do not include all ballots.

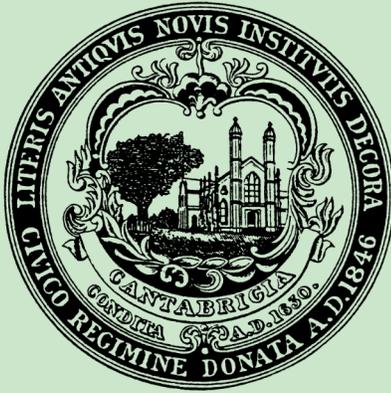
The Election Commission will meet 10 days after the election to count any overseas absentee ballots or provisional ballot that are determined to be valid. Once these final ballots have been added to the results, the count will be complete and the Election Commission will release the **official results**.

### Interested in Working on Election Day?

The Election Commission accepts applications throughout the year from registered voters who are interested in working at the polls on Election Day.

Download an application at:  
[www.cambridgema.gov/ElectionWorkers](http://www.cambridgema.gov/ElectionWorkers)

Applications are also available at the Election Commission office.



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## Board of Election Commissioners

Ethridge A. King  
Larry W. Ward  
Charles J. Marquardt  
Victoria A. Harris

Executive Director:  
Tanya L. Ford

51 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
[www.cambridgema.gov/election](http://www.cambridgema.gov/election)

Phone: 617-349-4361  
Fax: 617-349-4366  
[elections@cambridgema.gov](mailto:elections@cambridgema.gov)

### See inside for more information on:

- **Where to vote**
- **How to Register**
- **Absentee Voting**
- **Lists of Candidates**
- **Proportional Representation**

Residential Customer  
Cambridge, MA

## 2019 Cambridge Voter Guide

### Municipal Election November 5, 2019

On November 5, Cambridge Voters will go to the polls to elect the City Council and School Committee members who will govern the city for the next two years. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

**Check your voter registration online:**  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/)

**Register to vote:**  
[www.registertovotema.com](http://www.registertovotema.com)

**Apply for an Absentee Ballot:**  
[www.cambridgema.gov/absentee](http://www.cambridgema.gov/absentee)

Call us at 617-349-4361 with any questions or stop by the Election Commission Office at 51 Inman Street, First Floor.

