



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-1732 • 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  
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lesley Waxman

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of October 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM on October 18, 2023, by the Chair, Commissioner Harris. Present were the Chair, Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

### I. Random Precinct Draw

Commissioner Harris in the view of the public, randomly drew each precinct in the order listed below.

RANDOM DRAW OF PRECINCTS NOVEMBER 7, 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION			
Ward - Precinct		Ward - Precinct	
1	9 - 3	18	6 - 2
2	6 - 1	19	8 - 2
3	5 - 2	20	2 - 1
4	5 - 3	21	4 - 1
5	11 - 1	22	7 - 2
6	3 - 1	23	6 - 3
7	11 - 2	24	7 - 1
8	4 - 2	25	2 - 2
9	9 - 2	26	3 - 3
10	8 - 3	27	11 - 3
11	9 - 1	28	5 - 1
12	10 - 1	29	10 - 2
13	1 - 1	30	8 - 1
14	4 - 3	31	3 - 2
15	1 - 3	32	1 - 2
16	7 - 3	33	2 - 3
17	10 - 3		

### II. Public Comment

No comments were made during this session.

**Motion: To close the Public Comment.**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 4—0

### **III: Minutes**

**Motion: To approve the Minutes of October 11, 2023 with corrections.**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Passed: 4—0

### **IV: Reports**

#### **1. Executive Director's Report**

No report was given.

#### **2. Assistant Director's Report**

Assistant Director Waxman reported that Friends of the Morse School plans to hold a bake sale on Election Day.

Assistant Director Waxman reported that the email with the training portal link was sent to all Poll Workers on October 13—and she reminded the Commissioners to let their Poll Workers know that the email was sent.

Assistant Director Waxman reported that the training manuals were mailed out to the Poll Workers on October 18.

Assistant Director Waxman gave an update on the vote-by-mail numbers through October 17:

- 12,464 EV ballots were mailed out
- 143 AV ballots were mailed out
- The office received 931 EV and 15 AV ballots, of which approximately 40 EV ballots were rejected for various reasons

Commissioner Harris asked Ms. Waxman about the procedures voters should follow to correct/cure a rejected vote-by-mail ballot.

Ms. Waxman explained that in most cases, rejected ballots are spoiled and a new ballot is mailed to the voter in question. Additionally, she mentioned that voters can check the status of their ballot on [Trackmyballot.ma](https://Trackmyballot.ma) to see if it was received and accepted.

#### **3. Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Marquardt reported that on Monday, October 16, he and Commissioner King tested the AutoMark machines.

Commissioner King noted that the AutoMark testing took place at 669 Massachusetts Avenue (the old Citizen's Bank location) and that the space was well-suited to the office's needs. This observation initiated a lengthy discussion about the space requirements for housing voting scanners, ballots, AutoMark machines, and more.

Commissioner Harris suggested that the Board revisit this topic after the November 7 Election to address concerns related to space allocation.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that he and Commissioner Harris met with Assistant Professor Justin de Benedictis-Kessner to discuss the potential impact of synchronizing Municipal Elections with State and Federal Elections.

Commissioner Marquardt described the conversation with Professor de Benedictis-Kessner, particularly focusing on the challenges of onboarding 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds to vote in Municipal Elections, extending voting rights to non-citizens in Municipal Elections, and shifting Municipal Elections from odd to even years. The Professor recommended prioritizing one of these changes and measuring its impact before implementing additional changes.

Commissioner King reported that he scheduled in-person DHCF voting for Cambridge Homes on November 1 at 10 AM.

Commissioner Harris reported that she and Commissioner Ward are working with CRLS students to assist at the polls on Election Day. The deadline for student sign-ups is tomorrow (October 19).

Commissioner Harris also proposed a post-election project involving high school students to create a video explaining the concept of rank choice voting.

Commissioner Harris suggested preparing a report to inform the School Committee about the successful election season, partly due to the ability to use the schools for election day voting. She also recommended expressing gratitude to all the students who assisted with the election.

The Board also discussed the possibility of acknowledging outgoing School Committee member Fred Fantini for his valuable contributions in helping the Election Office secure the schools for voting.

## **V. Action Agenda**

### **Old Business**

#### **Municipal Election:**

Commissioner Harris noted that Commissioner King still need Inspectors, she will forward new applications to him.

Executive Director Ford requested that the Commissioners promptly inform her of any changes to the Poll Worker list.

### **New Business**

No new business.

#### **Motion: To Adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM**

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

Passed: 4—0

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

A True Record

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ethridge King*

Ethridge A. King, Secretary