



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tanya L. Ford-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of November 17, 2021

Commissioner Harris, acting as Chair with Commissioner Ward on vacation, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on November 17, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Absent
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Present
Commissioner Ethridge King	Present
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Present

Also, present were Assistant Director Lesley Waxman and Jeff Amero and Sean Sweeney from GIS.

Motion: To suspend the rules to bring forward GIS and a presentation on reprecincting.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Absent
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Yes

Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent

Jeff Amero started the discussion by remarking that much had changed since the Commission had approved the Cambridge map on October 13, 2021. He noted that just today the Congressional maps had been voted and that they contained changes from the draft proposed Congressional maps which GIS had been using in working to minimize sub-precincts in Cambridge.

Mr. Amero then turned the presentation over to Mr. Sweeney who he indicated had started from scratch to see if he could reduce the potential number of sub-precincts in Cambridge.

Mr. Sweeney commented that they had worked to identify the common lines across all districts put forward by the State Legislature to minimize potential sub-precincts. He indicated that he had been able to reduce the number of sub-precincts to six prior to the release of the new Congressional maps.

Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Amero then commented where they saw potential issues with the approved Congressional maps noting that they, at first glance, appear to add at least three sub-precincts.

Commissioner Harris expressed her empathy for the work that GIS had done minimizing sub-precincts only to be impacted by the changes to the Congressional districts. She noted that we need to file by December 15th

which is not that far away. She asked when we could see the next iteration of the map.

Commissioner King commented that 2 Mt. Auburn is now in 6-2 which has a polling location at CRLS which could be difficult for seniors. He asked if GIS could look to include them in 4-3 which votes much closer. Mr. Sweeney commented that he was aware of the concern and would keep it in mind when revising the map.

Commissioner Marquardt commented that we should schedule a meeting for next week to review the revised map and keep the process moving forward.

Assistant Director Waxman noted that the drawing of the districts by the Legislature leaves little room for changes. Commissioners asked that she include that issue with the map when it is posted on-line.

Commissioner Harris asked if we need to focus on finalizing the map on December 8th for filing on December 15th. Assistant Director Waxman noted that the schedule mentioned would work and that we could also use the Secretary of State's office to create the description of the precincts as they have software to do that while we do not and using their help will save time.

After discussion the following meeting dates and times were set (all via Zoom):

Tuesday November 23rd at 3:30 pm

Wednesday December 1st at 5:30 pm

Friday December 3rd at 11:00 am

Wednesday December 8th at 5:30 pm

Tuesday December 14th at 8:30 pm

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Motion: To close public comment.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward Absent

Commissioner Victoria Harris Yes

Commissioner Ethridge King Yes

Commissioner Charles Marquardt Yes

Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of November 12 with corrections.

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Absent
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Yes

Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

There was no Executive Director's report.

2. Assistant Director's Report

A. December 14th Special State Primary

- We will not be sending letters – can commissioners please confirm with the workers who will be working and then provide a list to Karen. Please only use workers who also worked on November 2nd

Commissioners discussed and agreed that this was a good course of action given the tight timeframe. Commissioner Harris commented that as she did not have any precincts in the Special Election that she would be will to provide staff if necessary.

- Training

Assistant Director Waxman commented that since there was very little time between the training for the Municipal Election and the Special Election that it would be best to focus on the things that change. She noted that the major differences are tallying and recording the party for unenrolled voters between the Municipal and the Special. Commissioners agreed and commented that they could do in person training on the differences for their teams. Ms. Waxman noted that she would provide a powerpoint for the changes to be used in training.

- Early Voting will be on the City Council agenda for November 22nd.

The Early Voting In-Person scheduled voted at the last meeting would be on the agenda for the City Council meeting on November 22nd to approve the schedule.

B. Statements of Financial Interests

- Still 5 delinquent municipal officials

Discussion of holding a meeting amidst reprecincting and the Special Election resulted in a decision to defer the meeting to January.

C. Municipal Election Warden/Clerk Review process

- Ms. Waxman informed the Commissioners that she will not be mailing reviews, but I will forward Commissioners some issues to follow up with certain precincts

The Commissioners concurred that this was the best use of her time. Commissioner Harris commented that she still wanted to hold a Zoom feedback session for Wardens and Clerks. She and Commissioner King will coordinate for a time for the session.

3. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Harris reported:

- She and Commissioner Marquardt will be attending a Harvard Votes Project to discuss voting in the Cambridge Municipal Election. She also noted that she would like to ask the Harvard group to "adopt" a precinct and provide staffing for election. Commissioner King commented that would be a great idea.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward Absent

Commissioner Victoria Harris Yes

Commissioner Ethridge King Yes

Commissioner Charles Marquardt Yes

Passed: 3—0—1 Commissioner Ward absent

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary