



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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING

Minutes of April 30th, 2019

The meeting of the Cambridge Election Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on April 30th, at 795 Mass Avenue, Sullivan Chamber. Present were Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Ethridge King, Commissioner Victoria Harris, Executive Director Tanya Ford, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, and members of the public.

I: MINUTES

The minutes of April 10th, 2019 were reviewed and accepted with corrections.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of April 10th, 2019 with corrections
Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner King
The Motion passed: 4-0

II: REPORTS

Executive Director's Report - None

Assistant Director's Report - None

Commissioner Reports - None

III: PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Cobb stated capping the ballot at 15 ovals is "Glorious".

IV: ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Ballot Design Fact Sheet was reviewed by Comm. Marquardt for the public. Copies were provided to the public. (see attached) Executive Director suggested scheduling another board meeting regarding the capping the ovals should be held to provide the public additional time to express their opinions because very few people attended this meeting and we haven't received any comments public or otherwise. The board agreed. The board expressed their concern that they thought more people would have attended today's meeting and forwarded concerns. Another press release will be submitted to the media including email where people may submit comments and concerns to be addressed. Further discussion to be held on May 15th.

New Business

Annual Organizational Meeting

Motion: To elect Commissioner Harris to the position of Chair
Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner King
The Motion passed: 4-0

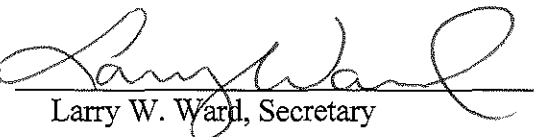
Motion: To elect Commissioner Ward to the position of Vice Chair
Moved: Commissioner Harris
Seconded: Commissioner King
The Motion passed: 4-0

Motion: To elect Commissioner King to the position of Secretary
Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner Harris
The Motion passed: 4-0
Motion: To elect Commissioner Marquardt to the position of Vice Secretary
Moved: Commissioner King
Seconded: Commissioner Harris
The Motion passed: 4-0

Next meeting will be held May 15th, 5:30 at 51 Inman Street

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.
Moved: Commissioner Marquardt
Seconded: Commissioner Harris
The Motion passed: 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: 
Larry W. Ward, Secretary

Fact Sheet: Modifying the Municipal Ballot Design

In Cambridge Municipal Elections, voters rank the candidates in order of preference by marking numbered ovals next to the candidates' names. Instead of having the same number of ovals as candidates, the Election Commission is considering capping the number of ovals at fifteen (15).

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 would not be capped, just the number of ovals

The Election Commission is doing nothing to limit 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 will allow a ballot with more candidates

A 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 Election Commission 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 rankings to 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 was tested, and the results would have been the same if voters had been capped at fifteen choices.

New design will be easier for voters

The ballot will be 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.

Attached Samples

1. Specimen ballot from 2017 with 26 candidates and 26 ovals
2. Sample landscape ballot with 26 candidates and 15 ovals
3. Sample portrait ballot with 26 candidates and 15 ovals

**Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 54A
ELECTION OF CERTAIN CITY AND TOWN OFFICERS BY
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OR PREFERENTIAL
VOTING**

§ 16. Mechanical or other voting devices; methods of counting first choices.

(a) In conducting any election by proportional representation or preferential voting, mechanical or other devices may be used, subject, however, to the provisions of sections thirty-two to thirty-nine, inclusive, of chapter fifty-four, if the city council or the town passes a vote providing expressly that such devices shall be used in such election; and said sections, so far as apt, shall be applicable in all respects in case of such devices so used. In case such devices are to be used in any city or town, the city or town clerk may modify the form of ballot, the rotation of names thereon, the directions to voters and other details in respect to the election process; provided, that no change shall be made which will alter or impair the principles of voting or counting the ballots governing elections by proportional representation or preferential voting, as the case may be, but the voter may be limited to not less than fifteen choices for any particular body or office.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

for Term of Two Years
Instructions to Voters

Mark your choices by completely filling in the numbered ovals like this using a black pen.

- Fill in the number one (1) oval next to your first choice.
 - Fill in the number two (2) oval next to your second choice.
 - Fill in the number three (3) oval next to your third choice, and so on.
 - You may fill in as many choices as you please.
 - Fill in no more than one oval per candidate.
 - Fill in no more than one oval per column.
- To vote for a write-in candidate:**
- Fill in a numbered oval next to the name you have written, showing your choice as a number for a candidate.
 - Record write-ins from the top line down.

If you spoil this ballot, return it for cancellation to the election officer in charge of the ballots and get another from such officer.

Only one vote per candidate. Only one vote per column.

DO NOT USE RED TO MARK BALLOT

RONALD BENJAMIN, 172 Cushing Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
JOSH M. BURGIN, 812 Memorial Drive	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
DENNIS J. CARLONE, 9 Washington Avenue <small>CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION</small>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
OLIVIA D'AMBROSIO, 6 Arlington Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
JAN DEVEREUX, 255 Lakeview Avenue <small>CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION</small>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
SAMUEL GEBRU, 812 Memorial Drive	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
RICHARD HARDING, JR., 189 Windsor Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
CRAIG A. KELLEY, 6 Saint Gerard Terrace <small>CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION</small>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
DAN LENKE, 148 Richdale Avenue	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
ILAN LEVY, 148 Spring Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
ALANNA M. MALLON, 3 Maple Avenue	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
MARC C. McGOVERN, 15 Pleasant Street <small>CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION</small>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
GREGG J. MOREE, 25 Fairfield Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
ADRIANE B. MUSGRAVE, 5 Newport Road	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
NADYA T. OKAMOTO, 220 Banks Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
HARI I. PILLAI, 165 Cambridge Park Dr.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
JEFF SANTOS, 350 3rd Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
SUMBUL SIDDIQUI, 530 Windsor Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
E. DENISE SIMMONS, 188 Harvard Street <small>CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION</small>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
VATSADY SIVONGXAY, 59 Kirkland Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
BRYAN SUTTON, 764 Cambridge Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
SEAN TIERNEY, 12 Prince Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
PAUL F. TONER, 24 Newman Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY, JR., 88 6th Street <small>CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION</small>	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
GWEN THOMAS VOLMAR, 13 Ware Street	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN, 235 Cardinal Medeiros Ave.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)
WRITE-IN	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)

By law, candidates' names are rotated on ballots at polls, and may appear in a different order than on this Specimen ballot.

