



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 February 5, 2020

The Chair called to order the meeting at 5:30pm on February 5, 2020 at 51 Inman Street. Present were Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

Commissioner Ward was not present.

I: MINUTES

Motion: Approve the Minutes of January 22, 2020 with corrections

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 3—0

II: REPORTS

Executive Director's Report – R1

Motion: Accept the Early Voting and In-Person Voting Electioneering Policy - R3

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 3—0

Motion: Accept the 2020 list of Designated Health Care Facilities – R2

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 3—0

Assistant Director's Report – R4

The Assistant Director reported on the status of the School Committee Campaign Finance – R4

- Five filers submitted their reports on time
- There were six deficiencies—as of February 5, four were corrected, and two remain deficient
- Three filers were delinquent

The Assistant Director reported that the Secretary of State Office approved the changes that were made to the Affirmation of Current and Continuous Residence form.

III COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Marquardt reported that Justine Donovan accompanied him to Sancta Maria to discuss requesting absentee ballots for their residents.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that he discussed with an executive from A.R.E. Management the possibility of hosting in the future a Polling Location in one of their buildings.

January 23, 2020 – Commissioner Harris and Justine Donovan had a meeting with Neville Place staff regarding Election Season 2020, reviewing forms for absentee ballots and voter registration.

January 26, 2020 – Commissioners Harris and Ward attended the Cambridge Democratic City Committee meeting, announcing early voting information for the March 3rd presidential primary election, voter registration deadline, and also stating that there were openings for poll workers. Flyers regarding early voting and election worker applications were distributed after the meeting. Commissioners Harris and Ward encouraged those who vote early to use the five sites in the city if possible, since the Election Commission office is dealing with other issues besides early voting during that period.

January 28, 2020 – approximately 25 wardens and clerks attended the voluntary de-brief session on January 28 facilitated by Commissioner Ethridge King and Commissioner Harris. Notes will be available shortly. A few issues worth mentioning:

- o Tallying sessions would be helpful to offer again.
- o Setting up is most stressful time of day – is it possible to have the police arrive at the precinct at 6am. It was good to have the officer there between 6:15-6:30, but more time would allow to address the unexpected, slow set-up time with scanners, etc.

February 8, 2020 – Commissioner Harris and Barbara Morales will be staffing an Election Commission table at the Cambridge Winter Farmers Market from 10-2, located at the Cambridge Community Center

IV: PUBLIC COMMENT - None

V: ACTION AGENDA

City Solicitor's letter to the City Manager regarding City Council Policy Order No. O-10 of May 13, 2019 which requests that the City Solicitor draft a home rule petition to the state legislature that would lower the voting age to sixteen (16) in municipal elections.

The Board had a general discussion around the legal and administrative challenges it would take to maintain and protect voter history for minors.

Vi: OLD BUSINESS – None

Next meeting will be held on February 11, 2020, 5pm at 806 Massachusetts Avenue

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 3-0

A True Record

Attested by: _____

Ethridge King, Secretary

Early Voting and In-Person Absentee Voting Electioneering Policy

WHEREAS, G.L. c. 54, §65 prohibits “electioneering,” which is the display or distribution of material intended to influence the actions of voters, at or within one hundred fifty (150) feet of the entrance of polling places during the elections of federal and state officers,

WHEREAS, the prohibition contained in G.L. c. 54, §65 only applies to election day voting and does not include early voting or in-person absentee voting;

WHEREAS, an increasing number of City of Cambridge voters are taking advantage of their rights and opportunities to vote in-person by absentee ballot or during the early voting period; and

WHEREAS, early and absentee voters should be afforded with comparable rights and opportunities to cast ballots free of electioneering activities as enjoyed by voters who cast their votes on election day.


NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Cambridge Election Commission hereby adopts the following policy to regulate electioneering activities for the period designated for in-person absentee and early voting:

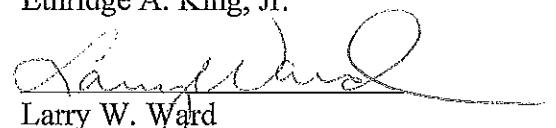
- A. No poster, card, handbill, placard, picture, or circular intended to influence the actions of voters, other than those expressly authorized by G.L. c. 54, §65, shall be posted, exhibited, circulated, or distributed in the early voting and in-person absentee voting locations, in the building where early voting and in-person absentee voting is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises where the building stands, or within seventy-five (75) feet of the building entrance to the early voting and in-person absentee voting location.
- B. Pasters, commonly referred to as stickers, are subject to all restrictions contained in G.L. c. 54, §§ 41, 44 and shall not be posted, exhibited, circulated, or distributed in the early voting and in-person absentee voting locations, in the building where early voting and in-person absentee voting is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises where the building stands, or within seventy-five (75) feet of the building entrance to the early voting and in-person absentee voting location.
- C. No person shall be allowed to collect signatures upon petitions, referendum petitions, or nomination papers within seventy-five (75) feet from the building entrance door to the early voting and in-person absentee voting location.

Approved by the City of Cambridge Board of Election Commissioners on this 5th day of February 2020.


Victoria A. Harris


Charles J. Marquardt


Ethridge A. King, Jr.


Larry W. Ward