



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-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of March 24, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on March 24, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

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

Also present was Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump.

I: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of March 10, 2021.

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call

Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Passed:	4—0

II: Reports

1. Executive Director's Report (R1)

A. 2021 City Census

Ms. Ford stated that the drop box was re-installed outside the Election Commission office for residents to return their census forms. Hours will be changed if needed, but currently the box is available 7 days a week, 24 hours per day.

B. 2021 Municipal Election

Ms. Ford-Crump asked whether training for election workers would be in person or on-line. The group discussed the feedback from the warden and clerks, and they stated that they did like the on-line training. In person training could be used potentially for workers new to the role of election worker, or, in the case of wardens and clerks, be used to focus on particular aspects of the job. Ms. Ford-Crump mentioned that there is a cost associated with on-line training; she and Ms. Waxman will look into opportunities for on-line training and estimated expenses.

C. Update - Commissioner term expiration

Ms. Ford-Crump said that the Commission and City Manager will need a letter from the Republican Party regarding the expiring commissioner term and their nominations for the position. Commissioners King and Marquardt stated that the Republican City Party had met and would forward the names of

Roll Call

Commissioner King Yea
Commissioner Marquardt Yea
Commissioner Ward Yea
Commissioner Harris Yea
Passed: 4—0

IV. Action Agenda

Old Business

Warden/Clerk Debrief - follow-up items (R3)

The group reviewed the attached recommendations, and expressed appreciation for the work from the wardens and clerks who attended the sessions and provided suggestions for improvement. It was agreed that the State Legislature need to act quickly on proposed legislation in order that Cambridge and other jurisdictions can plan accordingly for the fall election season.

Given that some of the recommendations involved participation from the School Committee and City Council, the group asked Commissioner Harris if she could separate out the action items into those which could be included under advocacy (involving other state and municipal bodies) and those items which would be addressed by the Election Commission.

The group also discussed how to address the wide timeframe in precincts reporting to the Senior Center on Election Night. They will discuss options for evaluating workloads at precincts and ways in which to offer effective and expeditious assistance.

Zoom Meeting with Harvard Law School/Equal Democracy Project

Commissioner Harris stated that she is waiting to hear back from the group about a proposed event to discuss the 2021 election season.

New Business

2021 Municipal Election Calendar - draft (R4)

Ms. Ford-Crump reviewed the attached calendar. She stated that the public is beginning to inquire about dates for the upcoming election season, and therefore it would be helpful to have a vote on a draft calendar. The calendar could be updated if circumstances change.

The group discussed the availability of the Senior Center for the week following the election, and also inquired about its availability for pre-processing if the State Legislature votes in favor of such a measure.

Commissioner King stated that he is waiting to hear from the School Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss the use of school buildings for the upcoming election in November.

Motion: To Adopt the 2021 Municipal Election Calendar (R4)

Moved: Commissioner King
Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Roll Call

Commissioner King Yea
Commissioner Marquardt Yea
Commissioner Ward Yea
Commissioner Harris Yea
Passed: 4—0

Ms. Ford-Crump notified the Commissioners that she has emailed Caleb Kleppner regarding the upcoming municipal election in November, and he is looking forward to working with the City once again.