



# 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 MEETING

### Minutes of May 22, 2019

The meeting of the Cambridge Election Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on May 22, at 51 Inman Street. 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 May 15, 2019 were reviewed and accepted with corrections.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with corrections  
Moved: Commissioner Harris  
Seconded: Commissioner King  
The Motion passed: 4-0

The Board suspended the rules to move directly to the Action Agenda. Commissioners reports and Public Comment will follow the Action agenda.

### II: REPORTS

#### Executive Director's Report—Verbal

The Executive Director detailed the outreach made by the Election Commission to the public and elected officials

- April 4<sup>th</sup>—Meeting with City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Solicitor, Lee Gianetti. In attendance from the Election Commission were: Tanya Ford, Lesley Waxman, Charles Marquardt, and Victoria Harris. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the reason for the proposed change to limit number of ovals on municipal ballots to 15, the law that gave the Board the authority to make the change, and how to disseminate our information about the proposal and gather feedback from the public and elected officials.
- April 19<sup>th</sup>—Information was sent to City Council and School Committee regarding the proposed changes
- The week of April 18<sup>th</sup>—Meeting notice was posted and invitation to the public to attend the April 30<sup>th</sup> Election Commission meeting regarding the proposed change to the ballot. Notice was also sent to the city clerk, and city council.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>—Information regarding proposal included in the city's Weekly Digest, which is provided to the City Council
- Week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>—The April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was posted on the Election Commission website
- April 30<sup>th</sup>—A public hearing was held in Sullivan Chamber. In attendance, in addition to the four commissioners, the Executive and Assistant Directors, were Robert Winters, Poly Cobb and Gary Mello.
- Given the low turnout of the April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Board scheduled an additional meeting for May 15<sup>th</sup>

- May 1<sup>st</sup>—Meeting notice was sent to the media, city clerk's office, city council, school committee regarding an additional public hearing to be held May 15.
- Week of May 1<sup>st</sup>—Meeting information was provided to the Cambridge City Republican Committee, and the Cambridge City Democratic Committee
- Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>—An email was received by the Election Commission from former State. Rep. Alice Wolf. Said letter was also forwarded to Cambridge Day for publication the same day
- May 13<sup>th</sup>— City Council Policy Order 2019 #175 requesting that City Manager direct the Executive Director and the City Solicitor to report back to the Government Operations Rules and Claims Committee on May 28.
- May 15<sup>th</sup>—Public hearing held at 51 Inman Street, two people from the public attended, Robert Winters and Gary Mello. The Board scheduled a meeting for May 22 to provide an additional opportunity for public comment and to provide the City Solicitor an opportunity to research the board's authority on the matter of limiting the number of ovals.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>—The City Solicitor confirmed the Board's authority to limit the number of ovals on the Municipal Election ballot at fifteen (15). Three (3) people from the public attendance (Robert Winters, John Hawkinson and Gary Mello).
- The Executive Director reported that she received a letter on May 22, 2019 from Nancy Glowa, the City Solicitor confirming the Board's authority to limit the number of ovals on municipal ballots to 15. R2
- Also in the Executive Director's report was a letter in support of limiting the number of ovals to 15 on the municipal ballot from former Commissioner Poly Cobb

#### Assistant Director's Report – Verbal

Statement of Financial Interests—69 out of 165 were received as of May 22.

Testing for the Image Cast software for the PR count is being conducted all week

The Assistant Director reported two improvements as a result of the new voter machines and software.

- Precinct tapes will display the number of #1 votes (these tapes are posted on the walls of each precinct, so the public will be able to get a sense of results for the #1 votes only)
- Absentee ballots candidates' names can now be rotated, same as the regular ballots.

### III COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Marquardt congratulated Commissioner King for his re-appointment to the Election Board.

### IV: PUBLIC COMMENT

#### In attendance

Robert Winters, John Hawkinson and Gary Mello

John Hawkinson—recommends that the Election Commission go one step further in addition to posting the precincts tapes with the #1 votes at each precinct. Would the commission consider printing an additional copy of each tape and posting them publicly at the Senior Center, so that the public can review all the tapes in a central location prior to the formal count?

The Assistant Director gave Mr. Hawkinson an immediate response: She said that she needs to first speak with the Senior Center to see if there's a place to post all 34 precinct tapes that the public can view on election night.

V: ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Motion: To approve the proposed change to the City Council and the School Committee ballots limiting the number of ovals to 15

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

The Motion Passed: 4-0

New Business

Next meeting will be held on June 5, 2019 at 5:30

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:03 PM

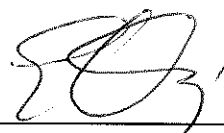
Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

The Motion passed: 4-0

A True Record

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



Ethridge A. King, Secretary