

Election Commission 3/28/11

Call to Order by Chair Dube at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Mary Anne Dube

Commissioner John Goggins

Commissioner Ana Rodriguez

Commissioner Robert Winant

Old Business:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the meeting held on Feb 17, 2011. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

The first item on the agenda was the street listings. Joshua Meduna provided an update on the progress as follows:

There were 64,277 pieces mailed. There were 26,910 responses received through all methods of return (mail, internet, drop off box at the Worcester Public Library) for a total response rate of 41.87%. The number of households not responding totaled 37,367. Voters listed as resident at the non-responding households will be moved to the inactive status.

A follow up confirmation mailing will be sent out in mid-April to the households that did not respond. Those that respond to the follow up mailing will be placed back on the active list. Those that still do not respond will be removed from the list altogether.

Members of the audience had the following questions:

1. What are the procedures to confirm voters who were removed from the list are eligible to be reinstated?
2. If a voter has moved from one voting precinct to another without changing their address, what are the procedures to determine their eligibility to vote?

Joshua Meduna provided answers to both of these queries. He explained that any action including, but not limited to, signing nomination or petition papers, returning the postage paid confirmation card, or making any changes to the voter record will immediately restore the inactive voter to the active voting list. He also explained that voters who have moved but not notified the elections office prior to the 20-day registration deadline preceding an election, should report to their old polling location where they will be asked to present identification, and complete an "Affirmation of Current and Continuous Residence."

New Business:

The first item under new business was redistricting as a result of the 2010 census. Mr. Rushford provided the following summary:

The city population has increased and the City Clerk's office is working with the Secretary of State's GIS office to outline a goal for redistricting. A preliminary model has been drawn up from estimates created in 2009. However, it still needs to be determined how close the actual growth is to the 2009 estimates. The election commission should strive to keep the new precincts as close as possible to the existing ones. Preliminary data from the actual census may be available for the April meeting.

Chair Dube queried if the district councilors be notified of the direction and should hearings be held as things proceed. Mr. Rushford replied in the affirmative. Hearings will be scheduled and announced as the redistricting proceeds.

The final agenda item was funding for primaries. The Secretary of State's office had voiced concerns about some possible funding issues for future presidential primaries. However, this has been resolved so this item was tabled.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.