



**BOARD OF ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 5:30 P.M.
ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

Call to Order by the Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes of the March 10th meeting

- I. Annual Organization according to the Worcester Home Rule Charter, section 7-1(c):**
 - i. Election of Chair**
 - ii. Election of Secretary**
 - iii. Notice of appointment of Vice Chair**

- II. Discussion concerning the proposed polling locations for the 2022 State Election Season.**
 - i. Set public hearing dates May- June**

- III. Discussions regarding the consent decree, of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et al v. City of Worcester, Massachusetts et al.**
 - i. Set public hearing dates May- June**

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:

TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY DURING THE MEETING:

PHONE NUMBER: 415-655-0001

ACCESS CODE: 160-935-9156#

ATTENDEE ID: #

Log in via your computer:

<https://cow.webex.com/meet/ElectionCommissionwebex>

Election Commission Meeting- March 10th, 2022

Chairperson Commissioner Kimberly Vanderspek
Vice Chairperson Commissioner Winfred Octave
Commissioner Richard Duffy
Commissioner John Stewart

City Clerk: Nikolin Vangjeli

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to order by the Chairperson, Roll Call: 4 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the February 17th, 2022 meeting, Roll Call: 4 Yeas and 0 Nays.

New Business

1. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. He updated the Commission concerning the nomination papers.
2. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. The City Clerk spoke on the data conversion.
3. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. The City Clerk provided an update on polling location changes. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who spoke concerning the Item.
4. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who spoke concerning the Item, and asked the City Clerk for a report.
5. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who asked the City Clerk for an update on new election technologies.

Motion to Adjourn on a Roll call: 4 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 21st, 2022 at 5:30pm.



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department

Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk

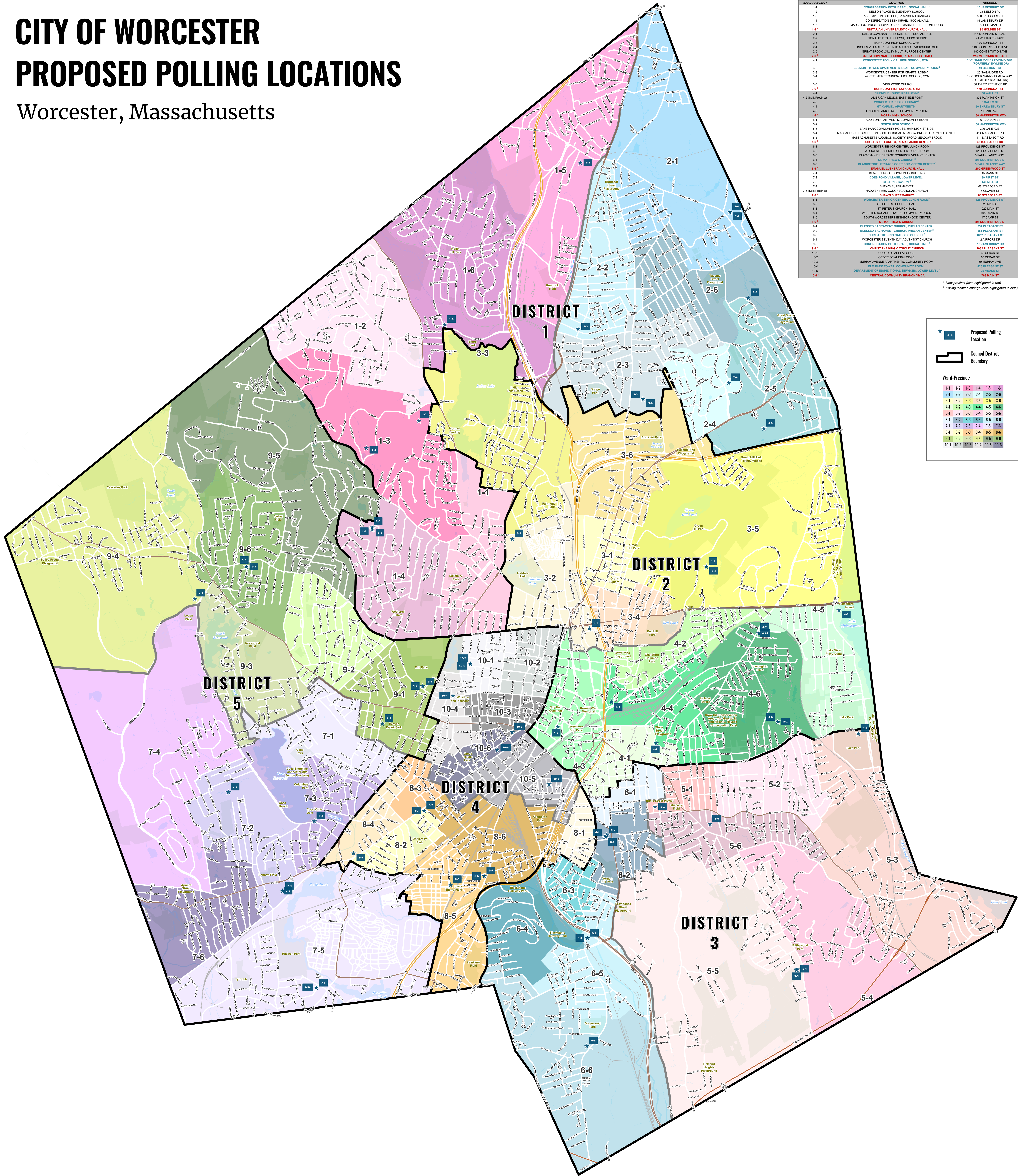
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk

Clare M. Robbins, Assistant City Clerk

2022 Proposed Polling Locations				
Ward	Precinct	Location:	Address	
1	1	Congregation Beth Israel, social hall	15 Jamesbury Drive	New
1	2	Nelson Place Elem. School	35 Nelson Place	
1	3	Assumption University, La Maison Francais	500 Salisbury Street	
1	4	Congregation Beth Israel, social hall	15 Jamesbury Drive	
1	5	Market 32	72 Pullman Street	
1	6	Unitarian Universalist Church, hall	90 Holden Street	New
2	1	Salem Covenant Church, hall	215 Mountain Street East	
2	2	Zion Lutheran Hall	41 Whitmarsh Ave	
2	3	Burncoat High School, Gym	179 Burncoat St.	
2	4	Lincoln Village Residents Alliance	116 Country Club Blvd	
2	5	Great Brook Valley Multipurpose Center	180 Constitution Avenue	
2	6	Salem Covenant Church, hall	215 Mountain Street East	
3	1	Worcester Technical High School, Gym	1 Skyline Drive	New
3	2	Belmont Apartments, community room	40 Belmont Street, rear	New
3	3	Worcester Center for Crafts	25 Sagamore Road	
3	4	Worcester Technical High School, Gym	1 Skyline Drive	
3	5	Living Word Church	30 Tyler Prentice Road	
3	6	Burncoat High School, Gym	179 Burncoat St.	New
4	1	Friendly House	36 Wall Street	New
4	2	American Legion East Side Post	326 Plantation Street	Split
4	2A	American Legion East Side Post	326 Plantation Street	precinct
4	3	Public Library	3 Salem Street	New
4	4	Mt. Carmel Apartments	50 Shrewsbury Street	New
4	5	Lincoln Park Tower, community room	11 Lake Avenue	
4	6	North High	Harrington Way	New
5	1	Addison Apartments, community room	6 Addison Street	
5	2	North High	Harrington Way	New
5	3	Lake Park Community House	300 Lake Avenue	
5	4	Massachusetts Audubon Society, Learning C	414 Massasoit Road	
5	5	Massachusetts Audubon Society, Visitor Cent	414 Massasoit Road	
5	6	Our Lady of Loreto	33 Massasoit Rd	New
6	1	Worcester Senior Center	128 Providence Street	
6	2	Worcester Senior Center	128 Providence Street	
6	3	Blackstone Heritage Corridor	3 Paul Clancy Way	
6	4	Saint Matthews Church	695 Southbridge Street	New
6	5	Blackstone Heritage Corridor	3 Paul Clancy Way	New
6	6	Emanuel Lutheran Church	200 Greenwood Street	New
7	1	Beaver Brook Community Building	15 Mann Street	
7	2	Coes Pond Village	39 First Street	New
7	3	Stearns Tavern	140 Mill St.	New
7	4	Shaw's Supermarket	68 Stafford Street	
7	5	Hadwen Park Congregational Church	6 Clover Street	Split
7	5A	Hadwen Park Congregational Church	6 Clover Street	precinct
7	6	Shaw's Supermarket	68 Stafford Street	New
8	1	Worcester Senior Center	128 Providence Street	New
8	2	Saint Peter's Church, hall	929 Main Street	
8	3	Saint Peter's Church, hall	929 Main Street	
8	4	Webster Square Towers, community room	1050 Main Street	
8	5	South Worc. Neighborhood Center	47 Camp St.	
8	6	Saint Matthews Church	695 Southbridge Street	New
9	1	Blessed Sacrament: Phelan Center	551 Pleasant Street	New
9	2	Blessed Sacrament: Phelan Center	551 Pleasant Street	New
9	3	Christ the King Catholic Church	1052 Pleasant St	New
9	4	Worcester Seventh-day Adventist Church	2 Airport Dr	
9	5	Congregation Beth Israel, social hall	15 Jamesbury Drive	New
9	6	Christ the King Catholic Church	1052 Pleasant St	New
10	1	Order of Ahepa Lodge	68 Cedar St	New
10	2	Order of Ahepa Lodge	68 Cedar St	
10	3	Murray Avenue Apartments, community room	50 Murray Avenue	
10	4	Elm Park Tower, community room	425 Pleasant Street	New
10	5	Dept. of Inspectional Services	25 Meade Street	New
10	6	YMCA	766 Main St.	New

CITY OF WORCESTER PROPOSED POLLING LOCATIONS

Worcester, Massachusetts



WARD/PRECINCT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1-1	CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, SOCIAL HALL	11 JAMESWAY DR
1-2	NELSON PLACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	55 NELSON PL
1-3	ASSABTOWN COLLEGE, LA MARION FRANCIS	150 TALBOTT ST
1-4	CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, SOCIAL HALL	15 JAMESWAY DR
1-4*	MARKET ST. PRICE CHOPPER SUPERMARKET, LEFT FRONT DOOR	60 HOLDEN ST
1-4*	UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH HALL	41 WINTHURP AVE
2-1	SALEM COVENANT CHURCH, REAR, BOGAL HALL	215 WOODMAN ST EAST
2-2	ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEIST ST SIDE	208 WINTHURP AVE
2-3	BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL, GYM	179 BURNCOAT ST
2-4	LINCOLN VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL, VOCKERSBURG SIDE	118 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD
2-5	GREAT BROOK VALLEY MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER	180 CONSTITUTION AVE
2-6	SALEM COVENANT CHURCH, REAR, BOGAL HALL	215 WOODMAN ST EAST
3-1	WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, GYM 1	1 OFFICER MANNY FAMILIA WAY
3-2	BELMONT TOWER APARTMENTS, REAR, COMMUNITY ROOM	48 BELMONT ST
3-3	WORCESTER CENTER FOR CHARITY, LOBBY	25 SACARAMEO RD
3-4	WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, GYM	1 OFFICER MANNY FAMILIA WAY
3-4*	LIVING WORD CHURCH	30 TYLER PRENTICE RD
3-4*	BURNCOAT HIGH SCHOOL, GYM	179 BURNCOAT ST
4-1	AMERICAN LEGION EAST SIDE POST	328 PLANTATION ST
4-2	WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	3 SULLY ST
4-3	ST. CAROL APARTMENTS	55 GREYSBURY ST
4-4	LINCOLN PARK TOWER, COMMUNITY ROOM	11 LAKE AVE
4-4*	NORTH HIGH SCHOOL	155 HARRINGTON WAY
5-1	ADDITION APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY ROOM	6 ADDISON CT
5-2	LAKE PARK COMMUNITY HOUSE, HAMPTON ST SIDE	155 HARRINGTON WAY
5-3	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY BROAD MEADOW BROOK, LEARNING CENTER	300 LAKE AVE
5-4	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY BROAD MEADOW BROOK	414 MASSABOAT RD
5-5	OUR LADY OF LORETO, BEAR, MARSH CENTER	23 MASSABOAT RD
6-1	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH ROOM	128 PROVIDENCE ST
6-2	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH ROOM	128 PROVIDENCE ST
6-3	BLACKSTONE HERITAGE CONCORD VISITOR CENTER	3 PEARL CLANCY WAY
6-4	ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH	495 SOUTHWORSHIP ST
6-5	BLACKSTONE HERITAGE CONCORD VISITOR CENTER*	3 PEARL CLANCY WAY
6-5*	EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, HALL	200 GREENWOOD ST
7-1	EDGEMOOR COMMONS BUILDING	15 MANN ST
7-2	COES POND VILLAGE, LOWER LEVEL	33 FIRST ST
7-3	ST. ANNE'S TOWN	16 HILL ST
7-4	SHAW'S SUPERMARKET	66 STAFFORD ST
7-5	HAWDEN PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	6 CLOVER ST
7-5 (SR Precinct)	SHAW'S SUPERMARKET	66 STAFFORD ST
8-1	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH ROOM	128 PROVIDENCE ST
8-2	ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HALL	809 MARK ST
8-3	HEBERT SQUARE TOWERS, COMMUNITY ROOM	155 MANN ST
8-4	SOUTH WORCESTER NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	47 CAMP ST
8-4*	ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH	495 SOUTHWORSHIP ST
8-5	BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, PHILAN CENTER*	501 PLEASANT ST
8-6	BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, PHILAN CENTER*	501 PLEASANT ST
8-6*	CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH	152 PLEASANT ST
8-6*	WORCESTER SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH	2 FAIRPORT DR
8-6*	CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, SOCIAL HALL	15 JAMESWAY DR
8-6*	CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH	152 PLEASANT ST
10-1	ORDER OF AMEN, LODGE	80 CEDAR ST
10-2	MURRAY AVENUE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY ROOM	18 CEDAR ST
10-3	616 PARK TOWER, COMMUNITY ROOM	55 MURRAY AVE
10-4	DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTORIAL SERVICES, LOWER LEVEL	425 PLEASANT ST
10-5	THE MARK ST	33 MARK ST
10-6	CENTRAL COMMUNITY BRANCH, YMCA	78 MARK ST

* New precinct (area highlighted in red)
* Polling location change (also highlighted in blue)

Proposed Polling Location

Council District Boundary

Ward-Precinct

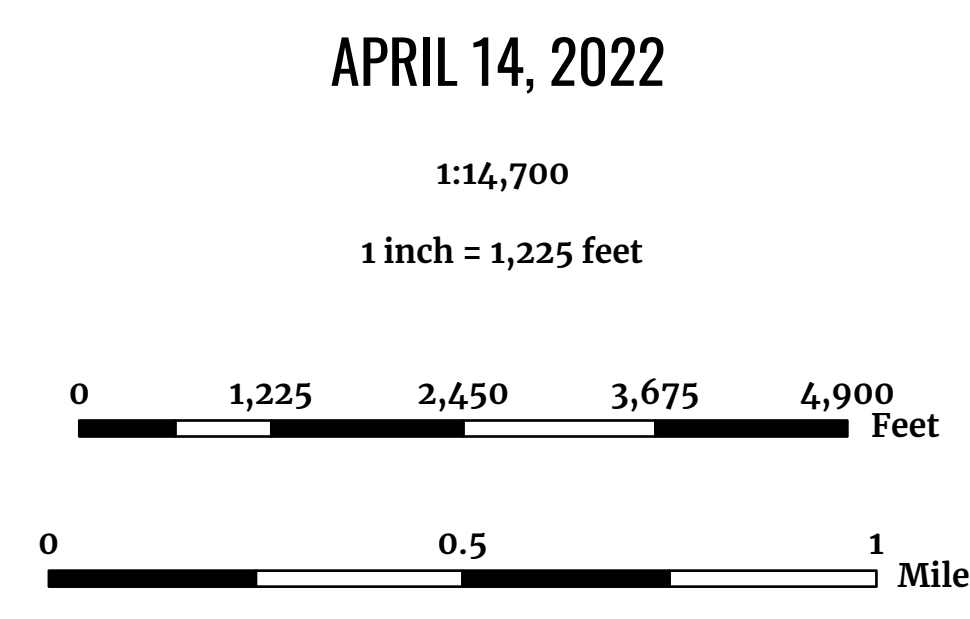
1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6
2-1	2-2	2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6
3-1	3-2	3-3	3-4	3-5	3-6
4-1	4-2	4-3	4-4	4-5	4-6
5-1	5-2	5-3	5-4	5-5	5-6
6-1	6-2	6-3	6-4	6-5	6-6
7-1	7-2	7-3	7-4	7-5	7-6
8-1	8-2	8-3	8-4	8-5	8-6
9-1	9-2	9-3	9-4	9-5	9-6
10-1	10-2	10-3	10-4	10-5	10-6



DATA SOURCES:
All data: City of Worcester Geographic Information System
Original Data - Digitized at 1:180 scale (Data true resolution: 1 inch = 40 feet).
Updated Using Spring 2002 Aerial Photography at 1:1,200 scale (1 inch = 100 feet).
Further Updates Using City of Worcester Information.

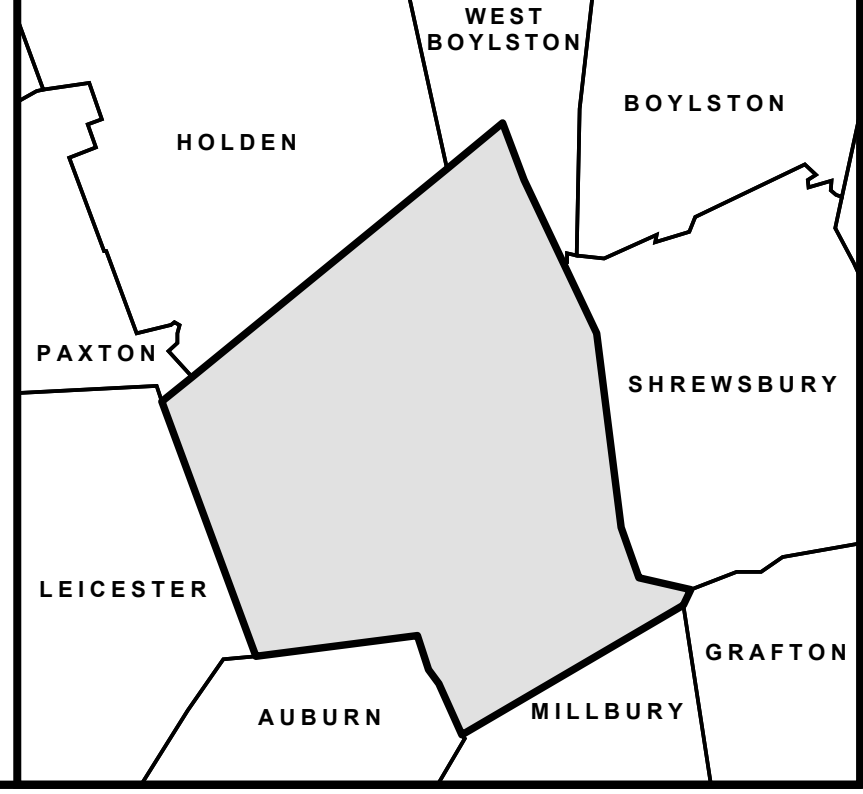
OFFICIAL DISTRICT, WARD, & PRECINCT BOUNDARIES:
City Council Districts updated from Census 2020 data. The ward and precinct boundaries were adopted by the Board of Election Commissioners October 14, 2021 and were approved by the Local Election Districts Review Committee October 27, 2021. These boundaries became effective December 31, 2021.

COORDINATE SYSTEM:
All map data is in the Massachusetts State Plane Coordinate system, North American Datum of 1983, Massachusetts Mainland Zone (42151). Units are measured in Feet.



Produced by the City of Worcester
Technical Services Department
Geographic Information Systems Division
Worcester, Massachusetts

Considerable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, correctness and timeliness of data presented; however, this information is only as accurate as its sources and may not reflect the most current information. The City of Worcester assumes no liability for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies and makes no warranty, representation or guaranty of any kind, express or implied, as to the content or for any decisions made or actions taken or not taken by the user based upon any information provided on this map.



Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



December 21, 2021

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I respectfully recommend adoption of the following order to approve the filing of the attached petition with the general court, which would amend the Worcester Home Rule Charter to provide for a new electoral system for electing members of the school committee, as received from Michael E. Traynor, City Solicitor, and forwarded for the consideration of your Honorable Body.

The new electoral system will create a school committee that will consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large. Of the six school committee districts, at least two shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population.

Per the the city solicitor, the vote to adopt the order must be unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



To: Edward M. Augustus, Jr., City Manager
From: Michael E. Traynor, City Solicitor
Date: December 20, 2021
Re: Home Rule Petition – School Committee Electoral System

In accordance with the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of *Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al.*, Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH and the City Council's December 7, 2021 vote selecting a new electoral system for electing members of the Worcester School Committee, I am enclosing the following order to approve the filing of the attached petition with the general court that will amend the Worcester Home Rule Charter to incorporate the chosen electoral system. Pursuant to the consent decree, the vote to approve the order must be unanimous.

The new electoral system will create a school committee that will consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large. Of the six school committee districts at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population.

The chosen electoral system requires amendments to five sections of the Charter. To illustrate these changes, also enclosed is a document comparing the current text of each section and the amended section.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Traynor
City Solicitor

CITY OF WORCESTER

Ordered that the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to file with the Great and General Court a home rule petition to amend sections 4-1(a), 4-1(c), 4-6, 7-4(b) and 7-6(a) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, adopted by the voters in 1985, effective January 1, 1987, in conformance with the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of *Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al.*, Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH.

Be It Further Ordered that the city manager be and only he is hereby authorized to approve all amendments to the petition as filed except that the General Court may make clerical corrections or editorial changes in the form of the bill without the approval of the city manager.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CITY OF WORCESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The charter of the city of Worcester is amended as set forth herein to provide that all biennial local municipal elections for the city of Worcester school committee shall be conducted under a district and at-large system, hereinafter referred to as the hybrid system.

SECTION 2. Under the hybrid system, the city of Worcester shall be divided into 6 school committee districts, of which at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population. The hybrid system shall have two at-large seats elected by plurality voting. The district boundaries shall be drawn in consultation with an independent expert retained by the city pursuant to Paragraph R contained within the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of *Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al.*, Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH.

SECTION 3. The Worcester Home Rule Charter, adopted by the voters in 1985, effective January 1, 1987 (“Worcester Home Rule Charter”) is amended by deleting Section 4-1(a) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(a) Composition: - The school committee shall consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large.

SECTION 4. The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting Section 4-1(c) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(c) Eligibility: -

(1) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of at-large school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the city for one year immediately prior to the election.

(2) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of a district school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the district for one year immediately prior to the election.

(3) For the 2023 school committee election only, if the school committee district boundaries have not been finalized by September 1, 2022, then the date by which a person must have been a resident of the district shall be sixty days following finalization of the school committee district boundaries.

(4) In the event that a district school committee member re-locates their residence to a different district within the city during their term of office, such school committee member will be permitted to serve the remainder of their two-year term but will not be eligible for reelection in the same district.

SECTION 5. The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting the text of Section 4-6 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(a) At-large school committee member: -

If a vacancy shall occur amongst the two at-large members of the school committee, said vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 2-10(a) for the filling of vacancies in the office of councilor-at-large, from among the candidates for election to the office of at-large school committee members at the preceding regular municipal election.

(b) District school committee member: -

If a vacancy shall occur in the office of district school committee member it shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 4-6(a) for the office of at-large school committee member, except that the list shall be of the candidates for the office of district school committee member in the district in which the vacancy occurs, provided, however, if there be no candidate on such list who remains eligible and willing to serve, the vacancy shall be filled at a special election called by the city council to be held within ninety days after the city council is notified by the board of election commissioners that the vacancy cannot be filled as aforesaid.

SECTION 6. The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting Section 7-4(b) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(b) Signature requirements:

The number of certified signatures of votes to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of councilor-at-large or school committee member-at-large shall be not less than three hundred. The number of certified signatures of voters from the district from which nomination is sought, required to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of district councilor or district school committee member, shall be not less than one hundred.

SECTION 7. The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting Section 7-6(a) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(a) Number, requirements: -

(1) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into five districts for the purpose of electing district councilors under Article 2 of this charter. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of

contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

(2) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into six districts for the purpose of electing district school committee members under Article 4 of this charter, of which at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

SECTION 8. The changes to the city of Worcester's school committee electoral system as set forth in this act shall take effect for the city's municipal elections in November of 2023.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

COMPARISONS OF THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED CHARTER SECTIONS

Section 4-1. COMPOSITION, TERM OF OFFICE, POWERS

CURRENT:

(a) Composition: The school committee shall consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee and six members elected at-large.

NEW:

(a) Composition: - The school committee shall consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large.

CURRENT:

(c) Eligibility:

Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of school committee member, provided, however, that he/she shall have resided within the City for one year immediately prior to the election.

NEW:

(c) Eligibility: -

(1) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of at-large school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the city for one year immediately prior to the election.

(2) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of a district school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the district for one year immediately prior to the election.

(3) For the 2023 school committee election only, if the school committee district boundaries have not been finalized by September 1, 2022, then the date by which a person must have been a resident of the district shall be sixty days following finalization of the school committee district boundaries.

(4) In the event that a district school committee member re-locates their residence to a different district within the city during their term of office, such school committee member will be permitted to serve the remainder of their two-year term but will not be eligible for reelection in the same district.

Section 4-6. VACANCIES

CURRENT:

If a vacancy shall occur amongst the six at-large members of the school committee, said vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 2-10(a) for the filing of vacancies in the office of councillor-at-large, from among the candidates for election to the office of school committee at the preceding regular municipal election.

NEW:

(a) At-large school committee member:

If a vacancy shall occur amongst the two at-large members of the school committee, said vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 2-10(a) for the filling of vacancies in the office of councilor-at-large, from among the candidates for election to the office of at-large school committee members at the preceding regular municipal election.

(b) District school committee member:

If a vacancy shall occur in the office of district school committee member it shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 4-6(a) for the office of at-large school committee member, except that the list shall be of the candidates for the office of district school committee member in the district in which the vacancy occurs, provided, however, if there be no candidate on such list who remains eligible and willing to serve, the vacancy shall be filled at a special election called by the city council to be held within ninety days after the city council is notified by the board of election commissioners that the vacancy cannot be filled as aforesaid.

Section 7-4. PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS

CURRENT:

(b) Signature requirements:

The number of required signatures of voters to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of councillor at-large or school committee member shall be not less than three hundred. The number of certified signatures of voters from the district from which nomination is sought, required to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of district councillor, shall be not less than one hundred.

NEW:

(b) Signature requirements:

The number of certified signatures of votes to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of councilor-at-large or school committee member-at-large shall be not less than three hundred. The number of certified signatures of voters from the district from which nomination is sought, required to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate

for election to the office of district councilor or district school committee member, shall be not less than one hundred.

Section 7-6. DISTRICTS

CURRENT:

(a) Number, requirements:

The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into five districts for the purpose of electing district councilors under Article 2 of this charter. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

NEW:

(a) Number, requirements:

(1) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into five districts for the purpose of electing district councilors under Article 2 of this charter. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

(2) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into six districts for the purpose of electing district school committee members under Article 4 of this charter, of which at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

CITY OF WORCESTER

Ordered that the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to file with the Great and General Court a home rule petition to amend sections 4-1(a), 4-1(c), 4-6, 7-4(b) and 7-6(a) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, adopted by the voters in 1985, effective January 1, 1987, in conformance with the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of *Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al.*, Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH.

Be It Further Ordered that the city manager be and only he is hereby authorized to approve all amendments to the petition as filed except that the General Court may make clerical corrections or editorial changes in the form of the bill without the approval of the city manager.

In City Council

December 21, 2021

Order adopted by a yea and nay vote of Ten Yeas and No Nays

A Copy. Attest:



Nikolin Vangjeli
City Clerk



The City of
WORCESTER

The Board of Election Commissioners will hold the following public hearings regarding drawing the 6 district lines for the Worcester School Committee. As required in the consent decree of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et al v. City of Worcester, Massachusetts et al. Furthermore, the board will also take public feedback on the assignments for the 2022 State Election polling locations.

1. Thursday, May 12th, 2022, 5:30 PM

- *UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, HALL, 90 HOLDEN ST
(Parking is available on Shore Drive parking lot)*

2. Thursday, May 19th, 2022, 5:30 PM

- WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CENTER, 630 PLANTATION STREET

3. Thursday, May 26th, 2022, 5:30 PM

- WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH RM, 128 PROVIDENCE ST

4. Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, 5:30 PM

WORCESTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, 2 AIRPORT DR

5. Thursday, June 9th, 2022, 5:30 PM

- YMCA CENTRAL BRANCH, 766 MAIN ST



The City of
WORCESTER

To call into the virtual meetings:

Log in via your computer:

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**To submit testimony you may email
elections@worcesterma.gov or mail to
Worcester Elections, 455 Main Street, Room
208, Worcester, MA 01608.**



The City of
WORCESTER

Consent decree, of
Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et
al v. City of Worcester,
Massachusetts et al.



Section G of the Consent Decree:

- Hybrid B: A hybrid system that combines single-member district-based seats with at-large seats.
- Under the Hybrid B System, the Worcester School Committee shall be comprised of six (6) single-member district-based seats with at least two (2) majority minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population.
- The Hybrid B System shall have two (2) at-large seats. The at-large seats may be, but are not required to be, elected via plurality voting.



Section R of the Consent Decree:

- ▶ District boundaries shall be drawn in accordance with the parameters described in Paragraph G and in consultation with an independent expert retained and paid for by the City that is acceptable to both Plaintiffs and Defendants.
- ▶ **Plaintiffs shall be provided with all data, analysis, and proposed district maps prepared by the independent expert and shall be afforded the opportunity to meet with and provide feedback to the independent expert during the district drawing process;** however, the final decision regarding district boundaries shall rest with the independent expert.



Section S of the Consent Decree:

- ▶ District boundaries shall be drawn to optimally meet and protect (1) the Plaintiffs' interest in ensuring that the Hispanic/Latino/a and Black populations in the City of Worcester have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of its choice, and (2) the City's interest in ensuring that any adopted election districts are fully compliant with the Voting Rights Act and other applicable state and federal law.
- ▶ **District boundaries shall be drawn within three (3) months of the adoption by Defendants of the Home Rule Petition using the most recent U.S. Census data.**