

Worcester Board of Elections Meeting
November 22, 2010
Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall
Convened: 5:00pm Adjourned: 7:00pm

Call to Order by Chair Dube

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call- Commissioners present:

Chairperson Mary Ann Dube
Assistant Chair Joseph McGowan
Commissioner Robert Winant
Commissioner Ana Rodriguez

Old Business:

The Provisional Ballot results from the November 2 general election were presented for review. There were 248 provisional ballots of which 28 were accepted. The majority of the issues were from incorrect information from the RMV. Those who voted provisionally and were not accepted have been sent notices that they need to make the appropriate corrections at the Election Commission to be eligible to vote.

The preliminary results of the November 2 general election were presented to the board. The results include the provisional ballots allowed. A motion was made to accept the results as official, the motion was seconded, and the results were unanimously approved by the Board.

The board was then presented with the plans for the upcoming mailing for the street listing for 2010-2012 to update the residency and voting lists as required by state law. Mr. Rushford and Mr. Meduna presented a request from the City Council to request the Board to consider adding a request to the annual Street listing mailer for residents to include their cell phone numbers so they may be given to the Public Works and Parks for addition to the Reverse 911 System. In addition, there is a request as proposed by Mayor O'Brien as to the feasibility and legality of adding a check box for registering people requiring additional assistance during an emergency situation. Many members of the board were concerned about the request and its legality, its feasibility, as well as the ability to protect what is private information and make sure it is not accessible as part of the public record. A motion was made and accepted to not pursue this at a local level unless and until a request or order comes from the State.

New Business:

On November 19, 2010 the Election Commission received a 12 page letter from 3 poll watchers who attended the polls at Ward 8 Precinct 1, Ward 8 Precinct 4 and Ward 4 Precinct 3. This letter provided information on what the poll watchers

allege were several instances of voter fraud they observed during the November 2, 2010 general election. They were concerned that these violations were occurring at the places they observed and, possibly, in other locations. Among the alleged violations:

1. People with a specific political agenda helping voters to select specific candidates.
2. Sample ballots with certain candidates checked off being distributed within 150 feet of the polling place and also present within the polling place.
3. People who were, from the observer's point of view, mentally incapable of making an intelligent choice in the voting process being allowed to vote with the aid of someone else.
4. People not validly registered being allowed to vote official ballots
5. Voters receiving calls near the end of Election Day from people identifying themselves as being from the Election Commission informing them that they needed to get to the polls to vote.
6. Out of state ID's being used to verify voter identity.

Author DelGaudio also stated that the warden did not respond properly to comments made by observers expressing concern.

Several other people who did not contribute information in the letter but who either participated as poll watchers or visited several polling places provided their observations.

Mr. Rushford emphasized the efforts made by Mr. Meduna and himself during the election to address issues as they were brought to their attention so that they could be addressed immediately.

There was a request or clarification on whether any voter can request help or if it is limited to blind or otherwise handicapped persons, those who cannot read, and those who cannot read English or Spanish as noted in the Instructions to the Poll Workers provided by the City. This will be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office for clarification.

Mr. Rushford asked what the people who brought the complaints would like done. They requested the letter be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office for their response. A motion was made to that effect, seconded, and all Board members agreed. A copy of the complaint along with the Commission's communication to the Secretary of State will be mailed to the authors/witnesses. When a response is received from the Secretary of State, the people who requested this action will be notified of the results.

Observer Bonnie Johnson addressed the commission to question the accuracy of the City's Voter List. The RMV has come up as a pivotal issue with voting lists, as seen in the provisional report. Mr. Meduna also explained the process of the Annual Street

Listing and the Confirmation Mailing. Lack of funding and office personnel were discussed as ongoing inhibitors to the completion of the Confirmation Mailing and therefore reduced the quality of the voting list. Bid specs for the 2011 Street Listing and subsequent confirmation mailing were provided.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.