

Election Commission 4/25/11

Call to Order by Chair Dube at 5:40 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Mary Anne Dube

Commissioner John Goggins

Commissioner Robert Winant

Old Business:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the meeting held on March 28, 2011. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was the confirmation mailings progress report.

Mr. Meduna

Funding for outgoing postage has been received. Should be going out this week and returns expected to be coming in shortly.

New Business:

The first order of new business was a formal hearing regarding the necessary changes to the voting precinct boundaries as a result of the findings from the 2010 Federal Census. This hearing is meant to provide the public an opportunity to present their concerns and feedback to the Commission prior to the boundaries being drawn up.

The hearing began with City Clerk David Rushford presenting a summary of the research his office has done so far to determine what would be a fair and equitable distribution to create precincts that would meet the required state criteria.

The current city population has been determined to be 181,045. In order to meet the requirements of state law, the ideal arrangement would be to have 10 wards with 18,104 people each. To achieve results as close as possible, each precinct should have a population of 3,621. No precinct can have more than 4,000 population, which allows for a margin of approximately 3% to meet the

Mr. Rushford discussed a map on display that breaks down the precincts that are within the prescribed population limit of 3,621, those within the tolerance limit of 4,000, and those that exceed the tolerance. The precincts that are over the limit are contiguous those either in tolerance or within the prescribed limits. Studies have indicated that, with small adjustments, portions of the precincts over the tolerance He also discussed a map that provides a full layout according to actual figures.

After Mr. Rushford's presentation, time was open for questions. There were no questions from the Board so Chair Dube opened the floor for questions and comments.

Gary Vecchio of Worcester spoke first. He expressed confidence that the clerk's office will be able to format the borders and wanted to know if there would be additional hearings after borders proposed. Chair Dube answered in the affirmative.

Juan Gomez spoke next. He also expressed confidence in the process and will be looking forward to the additional hearings.

As a result of the questions from the audience, the next meeting of the Board was set to be on May 23, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

The next item of new business was nomination and election of officers for the year.

Chair Dube was nominated to continue as Chair by Commissioner Goggins. Commissioner Winant seconded her nomination. She accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously.

Commissioner Goggins nominated Commissioner Winant for the position of Secretary. Chair Dube seconded his nomination. He accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously.

Commissioner Winant nominated Commissioner Goggins for Vice Chair. Chair Dube seconded his nomination. He accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m