

Board of Election Commissioners Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

6:30 p.m.

(VIRTUAL MEETING)

Levi Lincoln Chamber, City Hall

Call to Order by the Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes of the April 22nd Meeting

New Business

- 1. Discussion concerning poll workers for the September 1, 2020 Election.**
- 2. Discussion concerning the recording of minutes for the Board of Election Commissioners.**

Old Business

- 1. Preparation for the September 1, 2020 State Primary.**
- 2. Discussion concerning the recent legislation pertaining to Covid-19.**
- 3. Discussion concerning a review of polling locations for the 2020 Election Season.**
- 4. Discussion regarding the request from the Worcester City Council to work with the School Superintendent to move voting locations not currently located in Worcester housing authority properties into the Worcester public schools and declare Election Day a teacher development day.**

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:

Chairperson Commissioner Kimberly Vanderspek
Vice Chairperson Commissioner Winifred Octave
Commissioner John Stewart
Commissioner Danaah McCallum
Commissioner Richard Duffy

City Clerk Nikolin Vangjeli
Steve Foster and Paul McDonald representatives from the Post Office

Call to order by the Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call 5 Yeas and 0 Nays

Approval of the Minutes- The Board of Election Commissioners hereby approves the minutes of the Election Commissioners Meeting of January 22, 2020.

New Business

1. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Vice Chairperson Commissioner Octave who spoke concerning the Item, and wanted details on the information the post office representatives had to share with the commission. Chairperson recognized Steve Foster and introduced himself along with Paul McDonald and stated they were there to answer any questions concerning the mailing of ballots.

Chairperson recognized Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who opened the public participation. There were no participants.

- i. Commissioner Stewart nominated Commissioner McCallum who turned down the nomination. Commissioner Octave nominated Chairperson Vanderspek who accepted the position. Roll Call 4 Yeas and 1 Nay
- ii. Commissioner Octave nominated Commissioner McCallum who accepted the position. Roll call 5 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Commissioner McCallum who shared her concerns involving the taking of minutes, and asked if it was the role of the board to take the notes or can it extend into the office of the Election Commission. Commissioner Stewart, Octave, Duffy, and Chairperson Vanderspek all spoke concerning the Item.

- iii. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Octave and nominated her to extend her current appointment as Vice Chair of the commission.

2. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who updated the commission on the Secretary's announcement to reduce the number of signature requirements on nomination papers.
3. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Paul McDonald who spoke concerning the Item. He updated the commission on the plans the state of RI has implemented currently for the mailing of absentee ballots. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Steve Foster who also explained the details of how absentee ballots are cared for and protected during the mailing process. The City Clerk also spoke concerning the Item. Chairperson Vanderspek inquired about the pricing of mailing absentee ballots, and the process RI uses.

Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk and asked for an explanation concerning the difference between Absentee Voting vs Early Voting.

4. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk, who stated that this legislation concerned the towns and cities that recently had special elections, not Worcester.
5. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the list of polling locations he provided the board. Both shared their concerns with voting in locations with a large elderly population. The City Clerk stated that some polling locations may shift if they include high risk populations.
6. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. Vice Chairperson Octave mentioned her communication with a committee working on free rides for the city. The City Clerk asked the Vice Chair if she would speak with the committee concerning free rides on Election Day.

Old Business

1. Chairperson Vanderspek spoke concerning the Item, along with Commissioner McCallum. Motion to have City Clerk discuss with Superintendent and Mayor Petty to explore using the schools for the September and November 2020 elections on a roll call vote 4 Yeas and 0 Nays*.

*Commissioner Stewart disconnected from the line.

Motion to Adjourn- Roll Call 4 Yeas and 0 Nays



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

May 6, 2020

SECRETARY GALVIN RELEASES PLAN TO EXPAND VOTING OPTIONS THIS FALL

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin has released a package of proposed legislative changes he believes will be necessary for the safe and orderly administration of elections this fall. With his proposal, Galvin seeks to expand existing voting by mail procedures so that any Massachusetts voter could choose to vote by mail in the September 1st State Primary and the November 3rd State Election.

Galvin's plan would also expand in person early voting for both the primary and the election. The plan calls for 18 days of early voting for the November election, including two weekends, as well as 7 days of early voting ahead of the September primary.

"I want to make sure that any voter who wants to cast their ballot by mail is able to do so this fall, but it is also essential that we preserve in person voting as an option for those who need it," Galvin said. "The best way to do that is to spread it out over as many days as possible, to avoid crowding in the polling places."

While early voting by mail is currently allowed for November, current state law limits the availability of those mail-in ballots to a 2 week early voting period prior to the election. There is currently no option for voters to request a no-excuse mail-in ballot for the September primary. Galvin is asking the Legislature to allow election officials to mail early ballots to any voter who has requested one, as soon as the ballots are ready.

Other provisions in Galvin's plan are meant to make it easier for voters to request a mail-in ballot. Under the proposal, voters would be able to submit their request for a mail-in ballot electronically. For those who wish to apply using a paper application, Galvin's office plans to distribute applications across the Commonwealth.

"My Elections Division will be working to make sure applications are distributed to all voters, through a variety of methods. We are also in discussions with the Post Office right now to determine the best way to ensure voters do not need to pay for postage to return their mail-in ballots," Galvin continued.



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The proposal also increases options for returning an early ballot, which right now can only be returned by mail or in person by the voter. Galvin's plan would allow voters to return their ballots to an official drop box or ask a family member to deliver the ballot by hand.

Also included in the package are provisions for voters who are hospitalized or quarantined immediately before the election. Galvin's office is proposing that voters admitted to a healthcare facility or forced to self-quarantine within one week of the election be allowed to designate someone to hand-deliver a ballot to them.

Galvin is encouraging the Legislature to act quickly on the proposal, as the printing of ballots for the State Primary will begin immediately after the upcoming June 2nd candidate filing deadline.

"We need to have our plan in place very soon, so that my office can order a sufficient number of mail-in ballot materials for voters, and so that voters can start getting those ballots," Galvin said. "The more time our local election officials have to prepare, the more smoothly this election will run for everyone."

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HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John J. Lawn, Jr. and Michael J. Moran

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act ensuring safe and participatory 2020 state elections in response to COVID-19.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael J. Moran</i>	<i>18th Suffolk</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>

<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>

<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Daniel R. Carey</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act ensuring safe and participatory 2020 state elections in response to COVID-19.

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

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this act shall
2 apply to the September 1, 2020 state primaries, in this act called the primary, and the November
3 3, 2020 biennial state election, in this act called the election. Terms used in this act shall have the
4 meanings assigned by section 7 of chapter 4 and section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws,
5 unless a contrary meaning clearly appears. Other general and special laws shall continue to apply
6 to the primary and the election, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with this act.

7 SECTION 2. The general court finds that all voters who are ill, are confined to their
8 homes to avoid transmission of illness, or wish to avoid polling places as a precautionary
9 measure related to COVID-19, are unable by reason of physical disability to cast their votes in
10 person at the polling places.

11 SECTION 3. On or before the nineteenth day before the election only, the state secretary
12 shall cause to be mailed to all voters at their residential addresses as shown in the central registry
13 of voters, without application, an absent voting ballot and accompanying papers, all in the

14 languages otherwise required by law, as provided in section 91B of chapter 54 of the General
15 Laws, except voters in designated health care facilities to whom subsection (b) of said section
16 91B of said chapter 54 shall continue to apply. The state secretary shall pre-pay return postage
17 for all ballots mailed under this section. Return of undeliverable ballots mailed under this section
18 shall not be a basis for or evidence in a challenge under section 85 or 96 of said chapter 54, or
19 removal from the register of voters under chapter 51 of the General Laws. Voters shall return
20 absent voting ballots to the city or town clerk as provided in section 92 of said chapter 54. The
21 city or town clerk shall provide a secure, locked dropbox outside the building in which the
22 clerk's office is located, for absent voting ballots returned in person under subsection (a) of said
23 section 92 of said chapter 54.

24 SECTION 4. Voters who do not receive a ballot under section 3, or who wish to have
25 their ballot mailed to a different address or to vote in person at the clerk's office, may continue to
26 apply in writing to the city or town clerk under section 89 of chapter 54 of the General Laws.
27 The clerk shall count only the first non-rejected ballot received from any voter.

28 SECTION 5. The state secretary shall establish a statewide Internet portal through which
29 a voter may apply for an absent voting ballot from the city or town clerk, as a form of written
30 communication under section 89 of chapter 54 of the General Laws. The city or town clerk shall
31 process such an Internet application under section 91 of said chapter 54. The Internet portal shall
32 allow such a voter to track the progress of the application and receipt of the ballot.

33 SECTION 6. For the election only, the city or town clerk shall receive and count absent
34 voting ballots mailed not later than November 3 if they are received not later than November 13.

35 A legible postmark shall be conclusive evidence of the date of mailing. Otherwise, the date of the
36 voter's affidavit shall be the date of mailing.

37 SECTION 7. The state secretary, after consulting the department of public health, shall
38 adopt regulations requiring public health safeguards at early voting sites and polling places,
39 including required distancing of voters and election officers, frequent use of sanitizers,
40 appropriate clothing, and use of marking pens.

41 SECTION 8. Early voting in person as provided by section 25B of chapter 54 of the
42 General Laws, except subsections (b) and (e), shall apply to the primary and the election, but the
43 first day of early voting shall be the eleventh business day before the primary and the sixteenth
44 business day before the election.

45 SECTION 9. Election officers need not be residents of the city or town or voters. They
46 may be appointed without regard to enrollment in a political party or to lists submitted by
47 political party committees.

48 SECTION 10. The city or town clerk may decide that only one voting list shall be
49 delivered to the ballot clerks, that there shall be no requirement to check the voter's name against
50 a second list before the voter deposits the ballot under section 83 of chapter 54 of the General
51 Laws, and that inspectors not be appointed for that purpose.

52 SECTION 11. Instead of transmitting absent voting ballots to polling places, the city or
53 town clerk may decide that they shall be scanned in the clerk's office at any time. The clerk may
54 also decide that early voting ballots shall be scanned in the clerk's office at any time. All such
55 scanned ballots shall be kept secured, locked and unexamined, and no results shall be determined
56 or announced until the time for closing the polls on the day of the primary or election. Disclosing

57 any such result before that time shall be punished as a violation of section 14 of chapter 56 of the
58 General Laws.

59 SECTION 12. The last day for voter registration under sections 1F and 26 of chapter 51
60 of the General Laws shall be the tenth day before both the primary and the election.

61 SECTION 13. The state secretary may adopt regulations to carry out this act.

62 SECTION 14. Sections 59 and 60 of chapter 56 of the General Laws shall apply to this
63 act.

2020 Polling Locations			
Ward	Precinct	Location	Address
1	1	UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, HALL	90 HOLDEN ST
1	2	THE WILLOWS AT WORCESTER, GREAT RM	101 BARRY RD
1	3	ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, LA MAISON FRANCAIS	500 SALISBURY ST
1	4	CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL	15 JAMESBURY DR
1	5	PRICE CHOPPER SUPERMARKET, LEFT FRONT	72 PULLMAN ST
2	1	SALEM COVENANT CHURCH, REAR	215 MOUNTAIN ST EAST
2	2	ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEEDS ST SIDE	41 WHITMARSH AVE
2	3	ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEEDS ST SIDE	41 WHITMARSH AVE
2	4	LINCOLN VLG TENANTS ASSN, VICKSBURG SID	116 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD
2	5	GREAT BROOK VALLEY MULTI-PURPOSE CTR	180 CONSTITUTION AVE
3	1	DODGE PARK REST HOME, REAR, LOWER LEV	101 RANDOLPH RD
3	2	WORCESTER ART MUSEUM, RENAISSANCE CO	55 SALISBURY ST
3	3	WORCESTER CENTER FOR CRAFTS, LOBBY	25 SAGAMORE RD
3	4	WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, LOBB	1 SKYLINE DR
3	5	FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD, CHURCH HALL	30 TYLER PRENTICE RD
4	1	MT CARMEL APARTMENTS	50 SHREWSBURY ST
4	2	AMERICAN LEGION EAST POST	326 PLANTATION ST
4	3	BELMONT APARTMENTS, REAR, COMMUNITY R	40 BELMONT ST
4	4	FRIENDLY HOUSE, REAR, GYM	36 WALL ST
4	5	LINCOLN PARK TOWER, COMMUNITY RM	11 LAKE AVE
5	1	ADDISON APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY RM	6 ADDISON ST
5	2	OUR LADY OF LORETO, REAR, PARISH CTR	33 MASSASOIT RD
5	3	LAKE PARK COMM HOUSE, HAMILTON ST SIDE	300 LAKE AVE
5	4	SUPER STOP AND SHOP	949 GRAFTON ST
5	5	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY	414 MASSASOIT RD
6	1	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH RM	128 PROVIDENCE ST
6	2	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH RM	128 PROVIDENCE ST
6	3	BLACKSTONE CORRIDOR VISITOR CENTER*	3 PAUL CLANCY WAY
6	4	BLACKSTONE CORRIDOR VISITOR CENTER*	3 PAUL CLANCY WAY
6	5	EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH	200 GREENWOOD ST
7	1	BEAVER BROOK COMMUNITY BUILDING	15 MANN ST
7	2	SHAW'S SUPERMARKET	68 STAFFORD ST
7	3	COES POND VILLAGE, LOWER LEVEL	39 FIRST ST
7	4	SHAW'S SUPERMARKET	68 STAFFORD ST
7	5	HADWEN PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	6 CLOVER ST
8	1	DEPT OF INSPECTIONAL SVCS, LOWER LEVEL	25 MEADE ST
8	2	ST PETER'S CHURCH, GYMNASIUM	929 MAIN ST
8	3	ST PETER'S CHURCH, GYMNASIUM	929 MAIN ST
8	4	WEBSTER SQUARE TOWERS, COMMUNITY RM	1050 MAIN ST
8	5	SOUTH WORC. NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER*	47 CAMP ST
9	1	WORC STATE UNIV, MAY ST BLDG, AUDITORIUM	280 MAY ST
9	2	WORC STATE UNIV, MAY ST BLDG, AUDITORIUM	280 MAY ST
9	3	WORC STATE UNIV, MAY ST BLDG, AUDITORIUM	280 MAY ST
9	4	WORCESTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHUR	2 AIRPORT DR
9	5	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LOWER LE	1070 PLEASANT ST
10	1	ELM PARK TOWER, COMMUNITY RM	425 PLEASANT ST
10	2	ORDER OF AHEPA LODGE	68 CEDAR ST
10	3	MURRAY AVENUE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY I	50 MURRAY AVE
10	4	MAYSIDE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY RM	26 MAYSIDE LN
10	5	MURRAY AVENUE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY I	50 MURRAY AVE