Board of Election Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
6:30 p.m.
Room 401, City Hall

Call to Order by the Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes of the March 16th Meeting

New Business

1. Annual Organization according to the Worcester Home Rule Charter, section 7-1(c):
   A. Election of Chair
   B. Election of Secretary
   C. Notice of appointment of Vice Chair

Old Business

2. Update concerning the 2017 Street Listing.
3. Update concerning the 2017 Student Civics Camp & Poll Worker program.
5. Update concerning the process necessary to implement Early Voting in Municipal Elections.

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:
BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING
THURSDAY MARCH 16, 2017
Levi Lincoln Chamber
CITY HALL, WORCESTER, MA

Call to order by Vice Chair Diane Mohieldin
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call:
Chairman: Michael Perotto, excused
Commissioner: Diane Mohieldin
Commissioner: Robert Winant
Commissioner: Richard Duffy
Commissioner: Winfred Octave, late arrival

Approval of Minutes December 8, 2016

OLD BUSINESS
Update on the street listing mailing and responses by Niko Vangjeli, Assistant City Clerk 70 thousand forms mailed. Looking process all the responses by mid to end of April. Inactive confirmation notices will be mailed first week of June this year. Update concerning the 2017 municipal elections deadline May 16th to be verified and approved by city clerk with place of residence.

Update by Niko Vangjeli, Assistant City Clerk, on the student civic camp and poll worker program. Selection of students completed with Worcester State on reserving speakers.
Update by Niko Vangjeli, Assistant City Clerk on the process necessary to implement early voting in municipal elections. Mayor to look into early voting for municipal elections. Change in law required, Motion to draft letter of support for Early Voting 2nd by Bob Winant.

NEW BUSINESS:
Discussion with Niko on the 2017 polling locations looking for locations 6/4 and 8/5. Discussed parking and lot repair and spill over for voters in we were to move Ward 8 Precinct 5 to the St Matthews Parish, 695 Southbridge St, Worcester, MA 01610.

Next meeting for April 18th, 2017
Meeting postponed to April 26, 2017 due to schedule conflict.

Motion to Adjourn By Bob Winant
2nd Dick Duffy
| 0 | 0 | I | 0 | I | 0 | 0 | I | 0 | I | 0 | I | 0 | I | 0 | I | 0 | I | 0 | I |
| 11 | Forest Hill Drive | II | 22 | Pasadena Parkway | 69 | Flowing Ave | 52 | Winifred Ave | 42 | May | 14 | Dubiel Dr | 69 | Faith St | 107 | Ward St | 37 | Barry Road | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Dear Representative Mahoney,

On March 16, 2017, at the meeting of the Board of Election Commissioners, the commission voted that I write to you and request you as the chair on the joint committee on election laws to explore the possibility of amending M.G.L. ch.54 §25B to allow municipalities to host Early Voting in Municipal Elections. According to M.G.L. ch.54 §25B, early voting is only available in biennial state elections. However, the Worcester Board of Election Commissioners along with the Office of the Worcester City Clerk believes that Early Voting is also necessary in Municipal Elections. During the 2016 Presidential Election, Early Voting showed its potential to increase voter turnout, promoted participation, and allowed citizens the opportunity to participate in the vital democratic process for a period of 12 days.

Although it poses a new administrative challenge for election officials, Early Voting proved to make voting more convenient for citizens. Election officials experienced shorter lines on Election Day, early identification and correction of registration errors and greater access to voting and increased voter satisfaction. During the October 24th -November 4th, 2016 Early Voting period, over 1 million ballots were cast across the Commonwealth. Approximately 16,265 (15.5%) of Worcester’s registered voters took advantage of Early Voting. There were an additional 50,038 (47.9%) registered voters who voted on Election Day, bringing the total voter turnout for the November 8th Election to 66,303 (63.47%). In comparison to past elections, 61,708 people (59.46%) voted in the last presidential election in 2012, while 38,975 (35.89%) voted in the last state election in 2014. The 2016 election turnout surpassed all previous elections in Worcester by 4%, and we believe that this is only the beginning of Early Voting successes in the Commonwealth.

We look forward to seeing this initiative progress through the legislative process. If there is anything else you may need, don’t hesitate to contact my office.

For The Commission,

Susan M. Ledoux
City Clerk