

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, August 12, 2021

6:00 P.M.

City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber, 455 Main Street

Call to Order by the Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes of the August 2nd meeting

- 1. Discussion concerning the schedule for the in-person Early Voting locations for the September 14th Municipal Preliminary Election.**
- 2. Memo from the City Clerk regarding Chapter 29 of the Acts of 2021, which is a supplemental budget but contains provisions to extend early voting by mail for elections held between now and December 15, 2021.**
- 3. Discussion concerning Election Day Covid-19 regulations.**
- 4. Discussion concerning the 150 foot rule for Early Voting in person.**
- 5. Discussion concerning drop off boxes for mail in ballots.**
- 6. Discussion concerning the tabulation of vote by mail and in person early voting ballots for September 14th.**
- 7. Discussion concerning re-precincting of the City of Worcester in response to the 2020 U.S. Census.**
- 8. Discussion concerning a report of voting location changes for the 2021 Municipal Elections.**

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:

TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY DURING THE MEETING:

PHONE NUMBER: 415-655-0001

ACCESS CODE: 160-935-9156#

ATTENDEE ID: #

Election Commission Meeting- August 2nd, 2021

Convened at 5:04 pm virtually

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

City Clerk: Nikolin Vangjeli

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to order by the Chairperson, Roll Call: 5 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the July 28th, 2021 meeting, Roll Call: 5 Yeas and 0 Nays.

New Business: Public Hearing

1. Yenni Desroches (was present but did not speak on any Items).

Old Business:

1. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. The City Clerk spoke concerning Early Voting. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Commissioner McCallum who asked for a clarification on mail-in voting. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who stated he was still waiting for report. Commissioner McCallum proposed to implement Early Vote by mail and Early Voting for both the September and November municipal elections, **Roll call: 4 Yeas and 1 Nay.** Chairperson Commissioner Kimberly Vanderspek, Vice Chair Commissioner Winfred Octave, Commissioner John Stewart and Commissioner Danaah McCallum voted Yea and Commissioner Richard Duffy voted Nay.
2. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who spoke on voter turnout. Chairperson Vanderspek and the City Clerk explained the city street listing process to Commissioner Stewart.
3. Chairperson Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. The City Clerk stated he was still waiting for the city to report on the budget.

Motion to Adjourn, Roll Call: 5 Yeas and 0 Nays at 5:35 pm

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 12th, 2021 at 6:00pm



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department
Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk
Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Election Commissioners

FROM: Niko Vangjeli, City Clerk

DATE: August 12, 2021

RE: Chapter 29 of the Acts of 2021, which is a supplemental budget but contains provisions to extend early voting by mail for elections held between now and December 15, 2021

The purpose of this memo is to provide information concerning changes to the Massachusetts state election laws.

VOTER REGISTRATION

- The voter registration deadline for any election held on or before December 15, 2021 shall be 20 days before the election.
- The deadline to register to vote for the September 14th Municipal Preliminary will be **Wednesday, August 25th at 8 p.m.**
- The deadline to register to vote for the November 2nd election will be **Wednesday, October 13th at 8 p.m.**

VOTING BY MAIL

This new law allows voters to use a vote by mail application or any form of written communication to request a ballot and sets the deadline for you to receive any vote by mail applications no later than 5 pm on the fourth business day before Election Day.

- The deadline to request a mail-in early ballot will be 5 p.m. on the 4th business day before an election.

- For the Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 Municipal Preliminary the deadline is **September 8, 2021 at 5 p.m.**
- For the Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Municipal Election the deadline is **October 27, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

RETURNING VOTING BY MAIL BALLOTS

Sets the deadline to return early voting ballots by mail to be the close of polls on the day of the election and allows voters to return their ballot by: (i) delivering it in person to the office of the appropriate city or town clerk; (ii) dropping it in a secured municipal drop box; or (iii) mailing it to the appropriate city or town clerk.

- Mail-in ballots may be returned in person, by mail, or by secured mail in ballot drop boxes at Worcester Fire Stations or **City Hall, 455 Main St, Worcester, MA 01608.**
- All Municipal Preliminary ballots still need to be returned by **8 p.m. on September 14, 2021** in order to be counted.
- Early ballots for the Municipal Election still need to be returned by **8 p.m. on November 2, 2021** in order to be counted.

VOTE IN-PERSON AT AN EARLY VOTING LOCATION

- You can vote early in-person. The board of election commissioners will set the early voting locations schedule at their next meeting August 12th at 6:00 pm.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

- You can vote on Election Day at your assigned polling location. To find your polling location, visit www.worcesterma.gov. Look for the "Where do I Vote?" link.

<u>Sept. 14 Municipal Preliminary</u>	<u>Nov. 2 Municipal Election</u>
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 Polls open 7:00 AM	Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 Polls open 7:00 AM

through 8:00 PM		through 8:00 PM
-----------------	--	-----------------

COUNTING OF EARLY VOTING BALLOTS ON ELECTION DAY

Requires the counting of early voting ballots in accordance with section 25B of chapter 54 and further requires that the inner envelopes be retained with the ballots cast at the election and shall be preserved and destroyed in the manner provided by law for the retention, preservation or destruction of official ballots. Please note that you must count all early voting ballots at the appropriate precinct. Unlike last year for the state primary and state election, you **CANNOT** advance remove or deposit early voting ballots for municipal elections.

CHECK-OUT TABLE

Allows election officials to eliminate the check-out table.

September 14th, 2021 Municipal Preliminary In-person Early Voting Schedule

If you are registered to vote in the City of Worcester, you may take advantage of Early Voting Tuesday, September 7th through Friday, September 10th at any of the following locations:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, September 7 th	9:00 am to 7:00 pm	Unitarian Universalist Church 90 Holden St Worcester, MA 01606
Wednesday, September 8 th	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Lincoln Village Tenants Association 116 Country Club Blvd Worcester, MA 01605
Thursday, September 9 th	9:00 am to 7:00 pm	Stearns Tavern 140 Mill St, Worcester, MA 01602
Friday, September 10 th	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	May St Bldg. - Worcester State University 280 May Street, Worcester, MA 01602

For more information visit www.worcesterma.gov.

2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

VOTE BY MAIL DROP OFF BOXES

IF PLAN TO RETURN YOUR MAIL IN BALLOT IN PERSON? WE HAVE A DEDICATED DROP OFF BOXES.

1. WORCESTER CITY HALL, 455 MAIN STREET - CITY HALL GARAGE ENTRANCE AND 1ST FLOOR BACK OF THE COMMON ENTRANCE.
2. DROP BOXES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EACH EARLY VOTING LOCATION DURING THE SCHEDULED VOTING HOURS.
3. DROP BOXES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EACH OF THE WORCESTER FIRE STATIONS.
 - BURNCOAT STREET, 19 BURNCOAT STREET, WORCESTER
 - FRANKLIN STREET, 266 FRANKLIN STREET, WORCESTER
 - GREENDALE, 438 WEST BOYLSTON STREET, WORCESTER
 - GROVE STREET, (HEADQUARTERS) 141 GROVE STREET,
 - MCKEON ROAD, 80 MCKEON ROAD, WORCESTER
 - PARK AVENUE, 424 PARK AVE, WORCESTER,
 - SOUTH DIVISION, 180 SOUTHBRIDGE STREET
 - SOUTHEAST STATION, 745 GRAFTON STREET
 - TATNUCK SQUARE, 1067 PLEASANT STREET
 - WEBSTER SQUARE, 40 WEBSTER STREET

For more information visit www.worcesterma.gov.

HOUSE No. 3863

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 9, 2021.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill relative to reprecincting (House, No. 820), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 3863).

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

HOUSE No. 3863

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to reprecincting.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish forthwith reprecincting, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 division of each city into convenient voting wards and precincts pursuant to section 1 and section
3 2 of chapter 54 of the General Laws shall be completed, approved locally and submitted through
4 the state secretary to the local election districts review commission, as established by section 9A
5 of chapter 9 of the General Laws, within 30 days after the enactment of legislation dividing the
6 commonwealth into: (i) congressional districts pursuant to the United States Constitution; (ii) 40
7 senatorial districts pursuant to section 2 of Article CI of the Articles of Amendment to the
8 Constitution of the Commonwealth; (iii) 160 representative districts pursuant to section 1 of said
9 Article CI; and (iv) 8 councillor districts pursuant to said section 2 of said Article CI and Article
10 XVI of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any general law or special law to the contrary, the division
12 of each town into convenient voting precincts pursuant to said section 1 and section 6 of said
13 chapter 54, shall be completed, approved locally and submitted through the state secretary to the
14 local election districts review commission within 30 days after the enactment of legislation
15 dividing the commonwealth into: (i) congressional districts pursuant to the United States
16 Constitution; (ii) 40 senatorial districts pursuant to section 2 of Article CI of the Articles of
17 Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth; (iii) 160 representative districts pursuant
18 to section 1 of said Article CI; and (iv) 8 councillor districts pursuant to said section 2 of said
19 Article CI and Article XVI of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the
20 Commonwealth.

21 (c) Notwithstanding any general law or special law to the contrary, the division
22 of each city and town into convenient voting wards or precincts pursuant to subsections (a) and
23 (b) shall be completed, approved locally, and be submitted through the state secretary to the local
24 election districts review commission not later than December 15, 2021.

25 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding any general law or special law to the contrary,
26 subsection (b) of section 1 shall apply to any town with a population greater than 2,500
27 inhabitants based on the 2020 decennial federal census . No town with a population greater than
28 2,500 inhabitants based on the 2020 decennial federal census may change or alter any precinct
29 established pursuant to said subsection (b) of said section 1 for the purpose of forming
30 congressional, councillor, senatorial and representative districts until the next division following
31 the formation of congressional, councillor, senatorial and representative districts after the next
32 decennial federal census.

33 **SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding any general law or special law to the contrary, if a
34 city fails to timely complete, approve and submit a new division of voting wards and precincts
35 through the state secretary to the local election districts review commission pursuant to section 1
36 or if a town fails to timely complete, approve and submit a new division of voting precincts
37 through the state secretary to the local election districts review commission pursuant to section 1,
38 or if the local election districts review commission finds that any such proposed division of
39 voting wards and precincts submitted by a city or any such proposed division of precincts
40 submitted by a town is deficient, the commission shall, within 7 days: (i) make such division of
41 the city into wards and precincts or the town into precincts; or (ii) appoint a special master to
42 make such division, subject to approval and amendment by the commission. The cost of the
43 special master shall be paid by the city or town.

44 **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding any general law or special law to the contrary, the
45 local election districts review commission shall, within 14 days of receipt of the division of each
46 city and town into convenient voting wards or precincts pursuant to of section 1, deliver to the
47 president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives an electronic geographic
48 information system shapefile, or equivalent, containing every city and town ward and precinct
49 within the boundaries of the approved congressional, councillor, senatorial and representative
50 districts and an American Standard Code for Information Interchange, also known as ASCII,
51 compatible file containing a written description of all changes in municipal ward or precinct
52 descriptions for each approved congressional, councillor, senatorial and representative districts.

53 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding any general law or special law to the contrary, the
54 local election districts review commission, in consultation with the state secretary, may
55 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the orderly administration and enforcement of

56 this act by filing notice of the change with the rules and regulations division of the state secretary
57 who shall post such notice on the state secretary's website.

58 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1, 3, 4 and 5 are hereby repealed.

59 **SECTION 7.** Section 6 shall take effect on January 1, 2022.