BOARD OF ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 5:30 P.M.
ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, CITY HALL

Call to Order by the Chairperson
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Approval of the Minutes of the March 10th meeting

I. Annual Organization according to the Worcester Home
Rule Charter, section 7-1(c):
   i. Election of Chair
   ii. Election of Secretary
   iii. Notice of appointment of Vice Chair

II. Discussion concerning the proposed polling locations
for the 2022 State Election Season.
   i. Set public hearing dates May- June

III. Discussions regarding the consent decree, of
Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et al v. City of Worcester,
Massachusetts et al.
   i. Set public hearing dates May- June

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:

TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY DURING THE MEETING:
PHONE NUMBER: 415-655-0001
ACCESS CODE: 160-935-9156#
ATTENDEE ID: #
Log in via your computer:
https://cow.webex.com/meet/ElectionCommissionwebex
Election Commission Meeting- March 10th, 2022

Chairperson Commissioner Kimberly Vanderspek
Vice Chairperson Commissioner Winfred Octave
Commissioner Richard Duffy
Commissioner John Stewart

City Clerk: Nikolin Vangjeli

Pledge of Allegiance
Call to order by the Chairperson, Roll Call: 4 Yeas and 0 Nays.
Motion to Approve the Minutes of the February 17th, 2022 meeting, Roll Call: 4 Yeas and 0 Nays.

New Business

1. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. He updated the Commission concerning the nomination papers.
2. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. The City Clerk spoke on the data conversion.
3. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized the City Clerk who spoke concerning the Item. The City Clerk provided an update on polling location changes. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who spoke concerning the Item.
4. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who spoke concerning the Item, and asked the City Clerk for a report.
5. Chairperson Commissioner Vanderspek recognized Commissioner Stewart who asked the City Clerk for an update on new election technologies.

Motion to Adjourn on a Roll call: 4 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 21st, 2022 at 5:30pm.
## 2022 Proposed Polling Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Precinct</th>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Congregation Beth Israel, social hall</td>
<td>15 Jamesbury Drive</td>
<td>New</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Nelson Place Elem. School</td>
<td>35 Nelson Place</td>
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<td>Assumption University, La Maison Francais</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Market 32</td>
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<td>Unitarian Universalist Church, hall</td>
<td>90 Holden Street</td>
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<td>215 Mountain Street East</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran Hall</td>
<td>41 Whitmarsh Ave</td>
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<td>180 Constitution Avenue</td>
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<td>326 Plantation Street</td>
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<td>33 Massasoit Rd</td>
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<td>128 Providence Street</td>
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<td>Worcester Senior Center</td>
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<td>Hadwen Park Congregational Church</td>
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<td>Split precinct</td>
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<td>5A</td>
<td>Hadwen Park Congregational Church</td>
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<td>Shaw's Supermarket</td>
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<td>Saint Peter's Church, hall</td>
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<td>Saint Peter's Church, hall</td>
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<td>Saint Matthews Church</td>
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<td>Blessed Sacrament: Phelan Center</td>
<td>551 Pleasant Street</td>
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<td>Blessed Sacrament: Phelan Center</td>
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<td>Christ the King Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Worcester Seventh-day Adventist Church</td>
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<td>Congregation Beth Israel, social hall</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Christ the King Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Order of Ahepa Lodge</td>
<td>68 Cedar St</td>
<td>New</td>
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<td>Order of Ahepa Lodge</td>
<td>68 Cedar St</td>
<td>New</td>
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<td>Murray Avenue Apartments, community room</td>
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<td>Elm Park Tower, community room</td>
<td>425 Pleasant Street</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dept. of Inspeclional Services</td>
<td>25 Meade Street</td>
<td>New</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>YMCA</td>
<td>766 Main St.</td>
<td>New</td>
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</table>
December 21, 2021

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I respectfully recommend adoption of the following order to approve the filing of the attached petition with the general court, which would amend the Worcester Home Rule Charter to provide for a new electoral system for electing members of the school committee, as received from Michael E. Traynor, City Solicitor, and forwarded for the consideration of your Honorable Body.

The new electoral system will create a school committee that will consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large. Of the six school committee districts, at least two shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population.

Per the the city solicitor, the vote to adopt the order must be unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager
To: Edward M. Augustus, Jr., City Manager
From: Michael E. Traynor, City Solicitor
Date: December 20, 2021
Re: Home Rule Petition – School Committee Electoral System

In accordance with the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al., Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH and the City Council’s December 7, 2021 vote selecting a new electoral system for electing members of the Worcester School Committee, I am enclosing the following order to approve the filing of the attached petition with the general court that will amend the Worcester Home Rule Charter to incorporate the chosen electoral system. Pursuant to the consent decree, the vote to approve the order must be unanimous.

The new electoral system will create a school committee that will consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large. Of the six school committee districts at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population.

The chosen electoral system requires amendments to five sections of the Charter. To illustrate these changes, also enclosed is a document comparing the current text of each section and the amended section.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael E. Traynor
City Solicitor
CITY OF WORCESTER

Ordered that the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to file with the Great and General Court a home rule petition to amend sections 4-1(a), 4-1(c), 4-6, 7-4(b) and 7-6(a) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, adopted by the voters in 1985, effective January 1, 1987, in conformance with the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al., Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH.

Be It Further Ordered that the city manager be and only he is hereby authorized to approve all amendments to the petition as filed except that the General Court may make clerical corrections or editorial changes in the form of the bill without the approval of the city manager.
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CITY OF WORCESTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. The charter of the city of Worcester is amended as set forth herein to provide that all biennial local municipal elections for the city of Worcester school committee shall be conducted under a district and at-large system, hereinafter referred to as the hybrid system.

SECTION 2. Under the hybrid system, the city of Worcester shall be divided into 6 school committee districts, of which at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population. The hybrid system shall have two at-large seats elected by plurality voting. The district boundaries shall be drawn in consultation with an independent expert retained by the city pursuant to Paragraph R contained within the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al., Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH.

SECTION 3. The Worcester Home Rule Charter, adopted by the voters in 1985, effective January 1, 1987 (“Worcester Home Rule Charter”) is amended by deleting Section 4-1(a) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(a) Composition: - The school committee shall consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large.

SECTION 4. The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting Section 4-1(c) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -
(c) **Eligibility:** -

(1) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of at-large school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the city for one year immediately prior to the election.

(2) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of a district school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the district for one year immediately prior to the election.

(3) For the 2023 school committee election only, if the school committee district boundaries have not been finalized by September 1, 2022, then the date by which a person must have been a resident of the district shall be sixty days following finalization of the school committee district boundaries.

(4) In the event that a district school committee member re-locates their residence to a different district within the city during their term of office, such school committee member will be permitted to serve the remainder of their two-year term but will not be eligible for reelection in the same district.

**SECTION 5.** The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting the text of Section 4-6 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -

(a) **At-large school committee member:** -

If a vacancy shall occur amongst the two at-large members of the school committee, said vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 2-10(a) for the filling of vacancies in the office of councilor-at-large, from among the candidates for election to the office of at-large school committee members at the preceding regular municipal election.
(b) **District school committee member:**

If a vacancy shall occur in the office of district school committee member it shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 4-6(a) for the office of at-large school committee member, except that the list shall be of the candidates for the office of district school committee member in the district in which the vacancy occurs, provided, however, if there be no candidate on such list who remains eligible and willing to serve, the vacancy shall be filled at a special election called by the city council to be held within ninety days after the city council is notified by the board of election commissioners that the vacancy cannot be filled as aforesaid.

**SECTION 6.** The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting Section 7-4(b) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

**b) Signature requirements:**

The number of certified signatures of votes to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of councilor-at-large or school committee member-at-large shall be not less than three hundred. The number of certified signatures of voters from the district from which nomination is sought, required to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of district councilor or district school committee member, shall be not less than one hundred.

**SECTION 7.** The Worcester Home Rule Charter is further amended by deleting Section 7-6(a) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

**(a) Number, requirements:**

(1) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into five districts for the purpose of electing district councilors under Article 2 of this charter. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of
contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

(2) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into six districts for the purpose of electing district school committee members under Article 4 of this charter, of which at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

SECTION 8. The changes to the city of Worcester’s school committee electoral system as set forth in this act shall take effect for the city’s municipal elections in November of 2023.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
Section 4-1. COMPOSITION, TERM OF OFFICE, POWERS

CURRENT:

(a) Composition: The school committee shall consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee and six members elected at-large.

NEW:

(a) Composition: The school committee shall consist of the mayor, who shall chair the committee, six district members and two members elected at-large.

CURRENT:

(c) Eligibility:

Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of school committee member, provided, however, that he/she shall have resided within the City for one year immediately prior to the election.

NEW:

(c) Eligibility:

(1) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of at-large school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the city for one year immediately prior to the election.

(2) Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of a district school committee member provided, however, that the person shall have resided within the district for one year immediately prior to the election.

(3) For the 2023 school committee election only, if the school committee district boundaries have not been finalized by September 1, 2022, then the date by which a person must have been a resident of the district shall be sixty days following finalization of the school committee district boundaries.

(4) In the event that a district school committee member relocates their residence to a different district within the city during their term of office, such school committee member will be permitted to serve the remainder of their two-year term but will not be eligible for reelection in the same district.
Section 4-6. VACANCIES
CURRENT:
If a vacancy shall occur amongst the six at-large members of the school committee, said vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 2-10(a) for the filling of vacancies in the office of councillor-at-large, from among the candidates for election to the office of school committee at the preceding regular municipal election.

NEW:
(a) At-large school committee member:
If a vacancy shall occur amongst the two at-large members of the school committee, said vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 2-10(a) for the filling of vacancies in the office of councilor-at-large, from among the candidates for election to the office of at-large school committee members at the preceding regular municipal election.

(b) District school committee member:
If a vacancy shall occur in the office of district school committee member it shall be filled in the same manner as provided in section 4-6(a) for the office of at-large school committee member, except that the list shall be of the candidates for the office of district school committee member in the district in which the vacancy occurs, provided, however, if there be no candidate on such list who remains eligible and willing to serve, the vacancy shall be filled at a special election called by the city council to be held within ninety days after the city council is notified by the board of election commissioners that the vacancy cannot be filled as aforesaid.

Section 7-4. PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS
CURRENT:
(b) Signature requirements:
The number of required signatures of voters to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of councillor at-large or school committee member shall be not less than three hundred. The number of certified signatures of voters from the district from which nomination is sought, required to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of district councillor, shall be not less than one hundred.

NEW:
(b) Signature requirements:
The number of certified signatures of votes to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate for election to the office of councilor-at-large or school committee member-at-large shall be not less than three hundred. The number of certified signatures of voters from the district from which nomination is sought, required to appear on the petition accompanying the statement of a candidate
for election to the office of district councilor or district school committee member, shall be not less than one hundred.

Section 7-6. DISTRICTS

CURRENT:

(a) Number, requirements:

The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into five districts for the purpose of electing district councilors under Article 2 of this charter. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

NEW:

(a) Number, requirements:

(1) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into five districts for the purpose of electing district councilors under Article 2 of this charter. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.

(2) The board of election commissioners shall divide the city into six districts for the purpose of electing district school committee members under Article 4 of this charter, of which at least 2 shall be majority-minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population. Each such district shall be compact and shall contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants, shall be composed of contiguous existing precincts, and shall be drawn with a view toward preserving the integrity of existing neighborhoods.
CITY OF WORCESTER

Ordered that the city manager be and he is hereby authorized to file with the Great and General Court a home rule petition to amend sections 4-1(a), 4-1(c), 4-6, 7-4(b) and 7-6(a) of the Worcester Home Rule Charter, adopted by the voters in 1985, effective January 1, 1987, in conformance with the terms of the October 26, 2021 consent decree in the United States District Court of Massachusetts matter of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et. al. v. City of Worcester et. al., Case No. 4:21-cv-40015-TSH.

Be It Further Ordered that the city manager be and only he is hereby authorized to approve all amendments to the petition as filed except that the General Court may make clerical corrections or editorial changes in the form of the bill without the approval of the city manager.

In City Council

December 21, 2021

Order adopted by a yea and nay vote of Ten Yeas and No Nays

A Copy. Attest:

Nikolin Vangjeli
City Clerk
The Board of Election Commissioners will hold the following public hearings regarding drawing the 6 district lines for the Worcester School Committee. As required in the consent decree of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et al v. City of Worcester, Massachusetts et al. Furthermore, the board will also take public feedback on the assignments for the 2022 State Election polling locations.

1. **Thursday, May 12th, 2022, 5:30 PM**  
   - **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, HALL, 90 HOLDEN ST**  
     (Parking is available on Shore Drive parking lot)

2. **Thursday, May 19th, 2022, 5:30 PM**  
   - **WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CENTER, 630 PLANTATION STREET**

3. **Thursday, May 26th, 2022, 5:30 PM**  
   - **WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH RM, 128 PROVIDENCE ST**

4. **Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, 5:30 PM**  
   **WORCESTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, 2 AIRPORT DR**

5. **Thursday, June 9th, 2022, 5:30 PM**  
   - **YMCA CENTRAL BRANCH, 766 MAIN ST**
To call into the virtual meetings:
Log in via your computer:

Please make sure your computer has a microphone and a camera.
Phone # 415-655-0001
(Access Code 160-935-9156 #).

To submit testimony you may email elections@worcesterma.gov or mail to Worcester Elections, 455 Main Street, Room 208, Worcester, MA 01608.
Consent decree, of Worcester Interfaith, Inc. et al v. City of Worcester, Massachusetts et al.
Section G of the Consent Decree:

- Hybrid B: A hybrid system that combines single-member district-based seats with at-large seats.
- Under the Hybrid B System, the Worcester School Committee shall be comprised of six (6) single-member district-based seats with at least two (2) majority minority single member districts where Hispanic/Latino/a and Black residents together comprise a majority of the citizen voting age population.
- The Hybrid B System shall have two (2) at-large seats. The at-large seats may be, but are not required to be, elected via plurality voting.
Section R of the Consent Decree:

- District boundaries shall be drawn in accordance with the parameters described in Paragraph G and in consultation with an independent expert retained and paid for by the City that is acceptable to both Plaintiffs and Defendants.
- Plaintiffs shall be provided with all data, analysis, and proposed district maps prepared by the independent expert and shall be afforded the opportunity to meet with and provide feedback to the independent expert during the district drawing process; however, the final decision regarding district boundaries shall rest with the independent expert.
Section S of the Consent Decree:

- District boundaries shall be drawn to optimally meet and protect (1) the Plaintiffs’ interest in ensuring that the Hispanic/Latino/a and Black populations in the City of Worcester have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of its choice, and (2) the City’s interest in ensuring that any adopted election districts are fully compliant with the Voting Rights Act and other applicable state and federal law.

- District boundaries shall be drawn within three (3) months of the adoption by Defendants of the Home Rule Petition using the most recent U.S. Census data.