



The City of
WORCESTER

City Clerk Department

Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk

Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk

Clare M. Robbins, Assistant City Clerk

**BOARD OF ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022 5:30 P.M.

LEVI LINCOLN CHAMBER, WORCESTER CITY HALL

Call to Order by the Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes of the June 9th

NEW BUSINESS

1. Preparation for the September 6th, 2022 State Primary.
2. Communication from the City Clerk regarding the June 22, 2022, election reform law titled "The VOTES Act". The VOTES Act makes several of the temporary changes from the pandemic permanent.
3. Approval of the proposed in person early voting locations for the upcoming September 6th State Primary Election.
4. Discussion regarding counting mail in ballots on the weekend before the September 6th and November 8th Elections in the Levi Lincoln Chamber- City Hall.
5. Discussion concerning poll workers for the September 6th State Primary.

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>

Board of Election, Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

Date: June 9, 2022

Location: YMCA, 766 Main Street, Worcester

Members Present: Kimberley Vanderspek, Winifred Octave, Brenda Jenkins, John DiCicco, and Paul Franco.

City Officials Present: Niko Vangjeli, City Solicitor Mike Traynor.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Pledge of Alliance was said.

Public Hearing on Consent Decree and Proposed 6 School Districts

First Business Item: Dr. Persily proposed two new maps utilizing the CVAP data.

Candy Mero-Carlson, District 2 City Councilor spoke first. She had questions for Dr. Persily. Who hired Dr. Persily? Plaintiffs and City agreed to use his services. He is working for the Court to craft the map but wants to accommodate all concerns. Are the current proposed maps aligned with the consent decree? Yes, they are according to Dr. Persily. Councilor Mero-Carlson concerned about Belmont Street and Quinsigamond Village. Dr. Persily says he welcomes this kind of input. Plaintiffs are still analyzing the maps but the final map should try to accommodate any concerns. Westside comes unscathed because District 1 because it is all white.

Commissioner Franco objected to the Councilor saying that the all-white Districts make this unfair. He says the Westside should have its school district as well as any other district. He also pointed out that District 1 has a black city councilor so it is unfair to assume that these white districts are biased against minorities.

Prof. Persily can redraw districts to accommodate any concerns. The Commission will welcome any concerns.

Niko says the public can go to the website and make suggestions on the maps.

Kate Toomey, City Councilor, asked about the definition of Citizen Voting Age Population as the measure the racial percentages in the district. US citizens over the age of 18 is the standard required.

Kimberley asked Niko is the map more manageable than the previous plans. He said it was more manageable as it limited split precincts and split districts.

Kimberley reiterated that the maps are in line with the consent decree and they are according to Dr. Persily.

Kimberly asked if the school committee districts could be renamed something other than numbers. Dr. Persily said he would use letters in the next map.

Niko showed the public how to find the maps on the website.

CVAP data for Districts 1 and 2 are just over 50%.

Second Business Item: Proposed Polling Locations. We have 62 precincts now based upon the population.

No one from the public voted to speak on the polling.

Winifred asked to hear from the plaintiffs legal team about the proposed maps.

Public hearing closed at 6:15 pm.

Regular Business: All 62 precincts were approved by the Commission unanimously.

Bi-lingual Postcards will be mailed to all registered voters.

Voting for the maps deferred to the next meeting.

Preparation for the primary will offer 7 days of early voting. August 23-September 2nd are being proposed. Locations will be discussed at the next meeting.

Text messages, emails to proposed poll workers resulted 180 applicants. We need 400 poll workers. Applications can be made on line.

Next Meeting scheduled for July 27th at 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Election Commissioners

FROM: Niko Vangjeli, City Clerk

DATE: July 6, 2022

RE: June 22, 2022, election reform law titled “The VOTES Act” was signed into law. Among other things, the VOTES Act makes several of the temporary changes from the pandemic permanent.

The purpose of this memo is to provide information concerning changes to the Massachusetts state election laws for 2022.

2022 ELECTION DATES

- **State Primary, Tuesday, September 6th 7 AM – 8 PM**
- **State Election, Tuesday, November 8th 7 AM – 8 PM**

On June 22, 2022, an election reform law titled “The VOTES Act” was signed into law. Among other things, the VOTES Act makes several of the temporary changes from the pandemic permanent.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Beginning July 22, 2022, the voter registration deadline for all elections and town meetings will be 10 calendar days before the date of the meeting or election.

- **Last day to: Register to Vote for the September 6th State Primary, August 27th 9 AM – 5 PM**
- **Last day to: Register to Vote for the November 8th State Election, October 29th 9 AM – 5 PM**

IN PERSON EARLY VOTING

- Early voting for the September 6th State Primary will begin on **Saturday, August 27 and end on Friday, September 2nd**
 - For the November 8th State Election will begin on **Saturday, October 22nd and end on Friday, November 4th**

VOTE BY MAIL EARLY VOTING

Effective immediately, early voting by mail must be available for all state elections, state primaries, and presidential primaries.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth will be mailing Vote by Mail applications at least 45 days before every regular state primary, state election, and presidential primary. The applications will be sent to everyone registered to vote by the 60th day before the election who has not already applied for a ballot. The applications will be pre-addressed to the local election office and postage pre-paid.

VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATION DEADLINES

The deadline to receive a request for any ballot (early or absentee) to be mailed is now 5 business days before the election.

- For the September 6th State Primary, because Labor Day is not a business day, the deadline for you to receive vote by mail applications is **5 p.m. Monday, August 29th**
- For the November 8th State Election, the deadline for you to receive vote by mail applications is **5 p.m. Tuesday, November 1st**

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT RETURN

For most elections, all ballots will still have to be returned by close of polls on Election Day.

- September 6th State Primary ballot return by the **CLOSE of Polls on Election Day at 8 PM.**
- Beginning with the 2022 State Election, ballots will be able to arrive up to **3 days after Election Day** for biennial state elections only.

VOTE BY MAIL DROP BOXES

Worcester City Hall and the 10 Worcester Fire Stations

BALLOT PROCESSING

Similar to 2020, we now have the option of advance removing ballots from their envelopes and advance depositing ballots into the tabulator or ballot box ahead of Election Day. All ballot removal and depositing before Election Day will still need to happen in public sessions.

CHECK-OUT TABLE ON ELECTION DAY

Allows election officials to eliminate the check-out table.

ACCESSIBLE VOTE BY MAIL

Voters who have a disability which prevents them from being able to independently mark a paper ballot are allowed to request a reasonable accommodation. Additional information on accessible voting by mail will be forthcoming.

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Beginning on January 1, 2023, applicants at the RMV will no longer have the option to opt out of automatic voter registration. Instead, the RMV will be required to transmit the names and addresses of all eligible citizen applicants to local election officials for voter registration purposes. Applicants who are automatically registered to vote will now be allowed to decline registration only after receiving the acknowledgment notice we send to them.

ONLINE PORTALS

The Secretary of State Elections Division will also be required to establish an online ballot request portal for voters to use to request their ballots online. The law states that a wet signature cannot be required for this portal. Additional information on the portal will be provided after the Secretary's Information Technology Division is able to examine the requirements in the law.

150 FOOT RULE

Beginning with early voting for the September 6th State Primary, the 150 foot rule prohibiting campaigning around polling places will be extended to early voting sites as well. This means that there shall be *no campaigning for or against a candidate or question on the ballot for that election within 150 feet of the entrance to the early voting site during voting*

hours. Signature gathering of any kind will also be prohibited during the voting hours.

September, 6th 2022

State Primary Elections

In-person Early Voting Schedule

If you are registered to vote in the City of Worcester, you may take advantage of Early Voting Saturday, August 27th through Friday, September 2nd at any of the following locations:

Date	Time	Location
Saturday, August 27 th	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Worcester Senior Center 128 Providence Street, Worcester, MA 01604
Sunday, August 28 th	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Worcester Senior Center 128 Providence Street, Worcester, MA 01604
Monday, August 29 th	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Living Word Church of Worcester 30 Tyler Prentice Road, Worcester, MA 01605
Tuesday, August 30 th	9:00 am to 7:00pm	Unitarian Universalist Church, hall 90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606
Wednesday, August 31 st	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Stearns Tavern 140 Mill Street, Worcester, MA 01602
Thursday, September 1 st	9:00 am to 7:00 pm	Worcester Seventh-day Adventist Church 2 Airport Drive, Worcester, MA 01602
Friday, September 2 nd	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Central Community Branch YMCA 766 Main Street Worcester, MA 01610

For more information visit www.worcesterma.gov.

2022 STATE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION

VOTE BY MAIL DROP OFF BOXES

IF PLAN TO RETURN YOUR MAIL IN BALLOT IN PERSON? WE HAVE 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.