

# **Board of Election Commissioners Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

**6:30 p.m.**

**(VIRTUAL MEETING)**

**Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall**

*In order to ensure the continuation of active public engagement, the City of Worcester will now use a phone conference line for members of the public to participate in all public meetings in the Esther Howland Chamber. Please call 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 735751404#) to participate.*

**Call to Order by the Chairperson**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Approval of the Minutes of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

## **New Business**

- 1. 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**
- 2. Update on the State Nomination papers.**
- 3. Preparation for the September 1, 2020 State Primary.**
- 4. Discussion concerning the recent legislation pertaining to Covid-19.**
- 5. Discussion concerning a review of polling locations for the 2020 Election Season.**
- 6. Discussion regarding the request from the Worcester City Council to work with the WRTA and offer free bus rides to encourage voter's participation on the November 3, 2020.**

## **Old Business**

- 1. 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:**

**Board of Election Commissioners Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall**

**Call to Order by Chairperson, Kimberly VanderSpek**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Present: Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner McCallum, Commissioner Octave, Commissioner Stewart, and Commissioner VanderSpek

**Approval of Minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Minutes Approved

**Old Business**

- 1. Discussion concerning the relocation of polling location Ward 4 Precinct 2 from the American Legion East Post, 326 Plantation Street to the Seabury Heights, 240 Belmont Street, Worcester**

The city has worked with United Way, the AFL-CIO, and City Councilor Candy Mero Carlson to determine if there is a way to keep the location where it is and to have the ramp repaired so that it is ADA compliant. Councilor Carlson has been able to secure funding that would be of no cost to the city. However, there are constraints around time as the current weather will prevent repair before the March election. The ground is frozen and the United Way and AFL-CIO will construct the ramp when weather permits.

After hearing testimony from residents and stakeholders a motion was made to request funding from the city to find a temporary solution to ensure accessibility. Assistant City Clerk Vangjeli will work with the city around finding a temporary solution. Motion filed and passes. The voting location will not be changed.

- 2. Discussion concerning the relocation of polling location Ward 7 Precinct 3 from the Coes Pond Village, 39 First Street to Stearns Tavern, 140 Mill Street, Worcester.**

After hearing testimony from constituents the Board opted to refrain from changing the location. Management from Coes Pond Village have agreed to provide additional parking spaces and to ensure that voters are not threatened with being towed while voting.

- 3. Discussion concerning the implementation of Early Voting(EV) for March 3<sup>rd</sup> Presidential Primary**

The City Clerk spoke with the Secretary concerning extending voting hours during EV and the process by which votes that are casted during EV and absentee ballots will be counted. Those ballots will be counted on the day of the election in the Levi Lincoln Chamber. A scanner will be made available.

As a reminder, the city will send residents information concerning EV and the March 3<sup>rd</sup> election with excise tax bills. It was also requested that the city send the notification to the Office of Disability to ensure adequate contrasts with color, etc.

The city will also promote EV during television and will explore other means of advertisement such as through the WRTA and through DPW.

#### **4. Preparation for the March 3, 2020 elections**

Training will be in Levi Lincoln Chamber. The iPads will be available for EV and for the March election. Poll workers have been hired and there are workers on standby. There has been a lot of interest from the public and a lot of applicants to fill poll worker vacancies.

#### **New Business**

- 1. Discussion regarding the request from the Worcester City Council to work the School Superintendent to move voting locations not currently located in Worcester housing authority properties into Worcester Public schools and declare Election Day a teacher development day.**

The city council put an item on the agenda for the Board to address this possibility. The commission has control after how the City proceeds. The city needs the Board's permission to look into whether this is a possibility. A motion was made to table item until next meeting.

**Next Meeting Date: March 18, 2020 @ 6:30**

**Adjournment**

William Francis Galvin  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth  
 Elections Division  
 One Ashburton Place, Room 1705  
 Boston, MA 02108  
 617-727-2828 or 800-462-VOTE

## 2020 Massachusetts State Primary and State Election Schedule

<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b><i>Deadline Dates</i></b>		
	Party and non-party candidates for district and county offices	Party candidates for federal and state-wide offices	Non-party candidates for federal and state-wide offices
Nomination papers must be available.	February 11, 2020	February 11, 2020	February 11, 2020
Last day for a person running in the state primary to enroll in a party or for a person running only in the state election to unenroll from a party (except newly registered voters).	February 25, 2020	March 3, 2020	March 3, 2020
<b>5:00 p.m., last day and hour to submit nomination papers to Registrars of Voters for certification of signatures.</b>	<b>April 28, 2020</b>	<b>May 5, 2020</b>	<b>July 28, 2020</b>
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for Registrars of Voters to complete certification of signatures.	May 19, 2020	May 26, 2020	August 18, 2020
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for candidates to apply for review of non-certified signatures.	May 21, 2020	May 28, 2020	August 20, 2020
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for Registrars of Voters to complete review of non-certified signatures.	May 22, 2020	June 1, 2020	August 24, 2020
<b>5:00 p.m., last day and hour to file nomination papers (including party enrollment or voter registration certificate and Ethics Commission receipt) with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.</b>	<b>May 26, 2020</b>	<b>June 2, 2020</b>	<b>August 25, 2020</b>
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to file withdrawals of or objections to nomination papers with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.	May 29, 2020	June 5, 2020	August 28, 2020
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals.	June 3, 2020	June 10, 2020	September 2, 2020
<b>PLEASE NOTE: All dates and deadlines below are the same for all candidates.</b>			
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., last day to register to vote and to change party enrollment for the State Primaries (in towns with fewer than 1,500 voters, registration sessions must be held 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.).	Wednesday, August 12, 2020		
<b>State Primaries</b>		<b>Tuesday, September 1, 2020</b>	
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for all write-in or sticker candidates who won in a state primary to file a written acceptance of the nomination and receipt from the State Ethics Commission with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.	Thursday, September 3, 2020		
12:00 p.m., last day and hour to file withdrawals of or objections to nominations made at the state primaries	Friday, September 4, 2020		
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for filling vacancies caused by withdrawals at the state primaries.	Tuesday, September 8, 2020		
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., last day to register to vote for the State Election (in towns with fewer than 1,500 voters, registration sessions must be held 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.).	Wednesday, October 14, 2020		
<b>State Election</b>		<b>Tuesday, November 3, 2020</b>	

2020 Polling Locations				
Ward	Precinct	Location	Address	
1	1	UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, HALL	90 HOLDEN ST	(508) 340-7889
1	2	THE WILLOWS AT WORCESTER, GREAT RM	101 BARRY RD	(508) 713-1129
1	3	ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, LA MAISON FRANCAIS	500 SALISBURY ST	(508) 340-5022
1	4	CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL	15 JAMESBURY DR	(508) 612-1850
1	5	PRICE CHOPPER SUPERMARKET, LEFT FRONT DR	72 PULLMAN ST	(508) 612-2517
2	1	SALEM COVENANT CHURCH, REAR	215 MOUNTAIN ST EAST	(508) 612-2258
2	2	ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEEDS ST SIDE	41 WHITMARSH AVE	(508) 612-0418
2	3	ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEEDS ST SIDE	41 WHITMARSH AVE	(508) 612-3604
2	4	LINCOLN VLG TENANTS ASSN, VICKSBURG SIDE	116 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD	(508) 340-5480
2	5	GREAT BROOK VALLEY MULTI-PURPOSE CTR	180 CONSTITUTION AVE	(508) 340-8199
3	1	DODGE PARK REST HOME, REAR, LOWER LEVEL	101 RANDOLPH RD	(508) 340-7301
3	2	WORCESTER ART MUSEUM, RENAISSANCE COURT	55 SALISBURY ST	(508) 612-3765
3	3	WORCESTER CENTER FOR CRAFTS, LOBBY	25 SAGAMORE RD	(508) 612-5237
3	4	WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, LOBBY	1 SKYLINE DR	(508) 340-9654
3	5	FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD, CHURCH HALL	30 TYLER PRENTICE RD	(508) 713-1599
4	1	MT CARMEL APARTMENTS	50 SHREWSBURY ST	(508) 612-2553
4	2	AMERICAN LEGION EAST POST	326 PLANTATION ST	(508) 340-7008
4	3	BELMONT APARTMENTS, REAR, COMMUNITY RM	40 BELMONT ST	(508) 340-5209
4	4	FRIENDLY HOUSE, REAR, GYM	36 WALL ST	(508) 340-3617
4	5	LINCOLN PARK TOWER, COMMUNITY RM	11 LAKE AVE	(508) 713-1308
5	1	ADDISON APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY RM	6 ADDISON ST	(508) 340-8611
5	2	OUR LADY OF LORETO, REAR, PARISH CTR	33 MASSASOIT RD	(508) 612-5714
5	3	LAKE PARK COMM HOUSE, HAMILTON ST SIDE	300 LAKE AVE	(508) 713-1611
5	4	SUPER STOP AND SHOP	949 GRAFTON ST	(508) 612-2158
5	5	MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY	414 MASSASOIT RD	(508) 340-0106
6	1	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH RM	128 PROVIDENCE ST	(508) 340-7817
6	2	WORCESTER SENIOR CENTER, LUNCH RM	128 PROVIDENCE ST	(508) 340-8245
6	3	BLACKSTONE CORRIDOR VISITOR CENTER	3 PAUL CLANCY WAY	(508) 340-3205
6	4	BLACKSTONE CORRIDOR VISITOR CENTER	3 PAUL CLANCY WAY	(508) 713-7852
6	5	EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH	200 GREENWOOD ST	(508) 713-7139
7	1	BEAVER BROOK COMMUNITY BUILDING	15 MANN ST	(508) 713-5854
7	2	SHAW'S SUPERMARKET	68 STAFFORD ST	(508) 713-5218
7	3	COES POND VILLAGE, LOWER LEVEL	39 FIRST ST	(508) 713-2411
7	4	SHAW'S SUPERMARKET	68 STAFFORD ST	(508) 713-2291
7	5	HADWEN PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	6 CLOVER ST	(508) 713-3732
8	1	DEPT OF INSPECTIONAL SVCS, LOWER LEVEL	25 MEADE ST	(508) 713-5426
8	2	ST PETER'S CHURCH, GYMNASIUM	929 MAIN ST	(508) 713-3712
8	3	ST PETER'S CHURCH, GYMNASIUM	929 MAIN ST	(508) 713-3661
8	4	WEBSTER SQUARE TOWERS, COMMUNITY RM	1050 MAIN ST	(508) 713-7036
8	5	<b>*SOUTH WORC. NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER*</b>	<b>47 CAMP ST</b>	(508) 713-5407
9	1	WORC STATE UNIV, MAY ST BLDG, AUDITORIUM	280 MAY ST	(508) 713-2993
9	2	WORC STATE UNIV, MAY ST BLDG, AUDITORIUM	280 MAY ST	(508) 713-2725
9	3	WORC STATE UNIV, MAY ST BLDG, AUDITORIUM	280 MAY ST	(508) 713-2458
9	4	WORCESTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH	2 AIRPORT DR	(508) 713-3840
9	5	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LOWER LEVEL	1070 PLEASANT ST	(508) 713-5276
10	1	ELM PARK TOWER, COMMUNITY RM	425 PLEASANT ST	(508) 713-3726
10	2	ORDER OF AHEPA LODGE	68 CEDAR ST	(508) 713-5687
10	3	MURRAY AVENUE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY RM	50 MURRAY AVE	(508) 713-5849
10	4	MAYSIDE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY RM	26 MAYSIDE LN	(508) 713-7208
10	5	MURRAY AVENUE APARTMENTS, COMMUNITY RM	50 MURRAY AVE	(508) 713-7739

# CITY OF WORCESTER

## **ORDERED: That**

To encourage voter participation on November 3, 2020, when the offices of President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor's Council, State Senate, State Representative, Register of Probate and Sheriff appear on the ballot, the Board of Election Commissioners be and is hereby requested to work with the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) Administrator to offer free bus service on the aforementioned Election Day.

**In City Council**

**March 17, 2020**

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

**A Copy. Attest:**

  
**Susan M. Ledoux**  
**City Clerk**

Chapter 45  
of the Acts of 2020

T H E C O M M O N W E A L T H O F M A S S A C H U S E T T S

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court

AN ACT GRANTING AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND INCREASE VOTING OPTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY TO RESPOND TO COVID-19.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith provide for the rescheduling of elections as a result of the governor's declaration of emergency to respond to COVID-19 and to increase voting options, 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:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding section 9 of chapter 39, sections 26 and 28 of chapter 51 and chapters 53 and 54 of the General Laws or any other general or special law or by-law to the contrary, a city or town with a municipal caucus or annual or special municipal election scheduled between the effective date of this act and May 30, 2020, may postpone such municipal caucus or municipal election in accordance with this act.

The select board, town council, board of registrars or city council of the city or town may vote on any day prior to the date of their scheduled municipal caucus or municipal election to postpone the municipal caucus or municipal election to a date certain on or before June 30, 2020. Such rescheduled caucus or election shall be held in accordance with all applicable election laws except as otherwise provided in this act.

(b) The select board, town council or city council of a city or town postponing a municipal caucus or municipal election pursuant to this act shall, following consultation with the local election official and the chief operating officer of the municipality as to logistics and feasibility, vote to reschedule the municipal caucus or municipal election. A copy of this act, the vote of the select board, town council or city council and a sample ballot shall be placed on the official municipal website not later than 20 days before the date to which the rescheduled caucus or election has been postponed. Notice of such action shall be provided to the public in other ways reasonably calculated to enable eligible voters to learn of the rescheduled election date and to cast ballots therein. The notice may include, but shall not be limited to, a "reverse-911" call, municipal list-serve notifications, advertisement on local cable television or issuance of a press release sent to local news media.

(c) Consistent with section 107 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, an incumbent elected official whose term would have expired at a municipal annual town election if the election was not postponed pursuant to this act shall continue to serve in the official's position until a successor is elected and qualified.

(d) If this act does not take effect until after the date of a scheduled municipal caucus or municipal election during the state of emergency declared by the governor pursuant to executive order 591, declaration of a state of emergency to respond to COVID-19, the actions of the board of selectmen, town council, city council and local election officials to postpone a municipal caucus or municipal election shall be ratified, validated and confirmed as if this act had been in place prior thereto.

SECTION 2. The last day to register to vote for any annual or special municipal or state election postponed pursuant to this act or otherwise postponed in response to COVID-19 shall be 10 days before the date to which the rescheduled election has been postponed; provided, however, that the board of registrars shall hold a registration session on that date not less than from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The voting list to be used at such rescheduled election shall include all eligible voters registered as of that date.

SECTION 3. The caucus or election materials, including, but not limited to, absentee and official ballots, prepared for a municipal caucus or any annual or special municipal or state election postponed pursuant to this act or otherwise postponed in response to COVID-19 and bearing that date shall be used for the rescheduled caucus or election to the extent practicable. If additional ballots are required to be printed, the ballots shall be identical in form to those prepared for the original caucus or election.

SECTION 4. Absentee ballots cast in connection with the original election date for any annual or special municipal or state election postponed pursuant to this act or otherwise postponed in response to COVID-19, whether returned before the original election or otherwise, and received by the local election official before the close of polls on the date of the rescheduled election, shall be processed in accordance with applicable law; provided, however, that any voter who chooses to vote in person on the date of the rescheduled election may do so if their absentee ballot has not yet been counted. Completed applications to vote by absentee ballot in the rescheduled election shall be accepted by the board of registrars until 12:00 noon on the last business day before the rescheduled election.

For an election held on or before June 30, 2020 any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 in response to a declared state of emergency or from guidance from a medical professional, local or state health official, or any civil authority shall be deemed to be unable by reason of physical disability to cast their vote in person at a polling location.



SECTION 5. (a) Notwithstanding section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, any eligible voter may vote early by mail for any annual or special municipal or state election held on or before June 30, 2020.

(b) Any qualified voter wanting to early vote by mail may file with their local election official an application for an early voting ballot. Any form of written communication evidencing a desire to have an early voting ballot be sent for use for voting at an election shall be given the same effect as an application made in the form prescribed by the state secretary. Local election officials shall send early voting by mail ballots to those who have applied as soon as ballots are available. No application shall be deemed to be seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the local election official before noon on the last business day before the date on which the rescheduled election is held.

(c) Local election officials may substitute absentee ballots for early voting ballots for those voters requesting to vote early by mail in municipal elections. An early voting ballot or absentee ballot substituted for an early voting ballot, along with an envelope bearing an affidavit as set forth in section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws, shall be provided to each qualified voter who participates in early voting by mail.

(d) The local election officials shall cause to be placed on the voting lists opposite the name of a qualified voter who participates in early voting the letters "EV" designating an early voter.

(e) The counting of early voting ballots shall be consistent with section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws and implemented regulations to the extent practicable. All envelopes referred to in this section shall 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.

(f) All early voting ballots voted by mail shall be received by the town clerk before the hour fixed for closing the polls on the date on which the rescheduled election is held. Early voting ballots cast under the authority of this section shall be processed at the polls in a manner consistent with that set forth in said section 25B of said chapter 54.

House of Representatives, March 23, 2020.

Preamble adopted,

*Paul J. Donato*, Speaker.

In Senate, March 23, 2020.

Preamble adopted,

*J. D. El*, President.

House of Representatives, March 23, 2020.

Bill passed to be enacted,

*Paul J. Donato* Speaker.

In Senate, March 23, 2020.

Bill passed to be enacted,

*JB* President.

*March 23*, 2020.

Approved,  
at 4 o'clock and 57 minutes, P. M.

*Charles D. Baker*

Governor.