



Roll Call

*CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING
Northampton, MA*

A special meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 5 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight
Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.	Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett
Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge
Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe	Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore

Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster was absent.

Announcement of Audio/Video Recording

Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

**Orders
0.128 Warrant for
November 3, 2020
State Election –
2nd reading**

Orders

20.128 Warrant for November 3, 2020 State Election – 2nd reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Foster absent.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS**

20.128 A Warrant
To establish the date, time, and location of an upcoming
State Election

In the City Council September 17, 2020

Upon the Recommendation of City Clerk Pamela L. Powers,

Ordered, Meetings of the inhabitants qualified to vote in the City of Northampton will be held on Tuesday, the third day of November, 2020 in several polling places designated for this purpose by the City Council as follows:

- WARD 1, Precinct A - In Jackson Street School Auditorium
- WARD 1, Precinct B - In Jackson Street School Auditorium
- WARD 2, Precinct A - In Smith Vocational-Agricultural High School Building B
- WARD 2, Precinct B - In Smith Vocational-Agricultural High School Building B
- WARD 3, Precinct A - In the Senior Center, Great Room, 67 Conz Street
- WARD 3, Precinct B - In the Senior Center, Great Room, 67 Conz Street
- WARD 4, Precinct A - In the Senior Center, Patti's Front Room, 67 Conz Street
- WARD 4, Precinct B - In the Senior Center, Activity Room #1, 67 Conz Street
- WARD 5, Precinct A - In Florence Civic and Business Building, 90 Park Street
- WARD 5, Precinct B - In Smith Vocational-Agricultural High School Building B
- WARD 6, Precinct A - In Robert K. Finn Ryan Road School Gymnasium
- WARD 6, Precinct B - In Robert K. Finn Ryan Road School Gymnasium
- WARD 7, Precinct A - In John F. Kennedy Middle School, Community Room
- WARD 7, Precinct B - In Leeds School Gymnasium, Lower Level

The polls will be opened at seven o'clock in the forenoon and closed at eight o'clock in the evening of the said day, and all such members will in the wards in which they are entitled to vote between said hours give in their votes for the following offices:

- ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
- SENATOR IN CONGRESS FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
- REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FOR THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
- COUNCILLOR FOR THE EIGHTH DISTRICT
- SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT FOR HAMPSHIRE FRANKLIN & WORCESTER DISTRICT
- REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT FOR THE FIRST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT
- REGISTER OF PROBATE FOR HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

They will also give their votes, Yes or No, to the following questions:

QUESTION 1
LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems — systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server — with a standardized open access data platform. Owners of motor vehicles with telematics systems would get access to mechanical data through a mobile device application. With vehicle owner authorization, independent repair facilities (those not affiliated with a manufacturer) and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle's on-board diagnostic system, except through an authorization process standardized across all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law's requirements concerning access to the vehicle's mechanical data. Under the proposed law, dealers would have to provide prospective owners with, and prospective owners would have to acknowledge receipt of, the notice before buying or leasing a vehicle. Failure to comply with these notice requirements would subject motor vehicle dealers to sanctions by the applicable licensing authority.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

A YES VOTE would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles' wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

QUESTION 2
LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as "ranked-choice voting," in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter's next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates' support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters' rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

A YES VOTE would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

Passed two readings and enrolled.

Motion to Adjourn

Upon motion made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor Thorpe, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Foster absent.

Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council