



Northampton Board of Registrars

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm

1. Meeting Called To Order

Announcement that the meeting is held via Zoom and will be audio and video recorded. All votes of the committee must be by roll call vote.

At 5:36 pm Clerk Powers called the meeting to order. Present at the meeting were Registrars Joseph Tarantino and Catherine Kay. Registrar Daniel Polachek resigned from the Board of Registrars effective September 10, 2021.

The meeting was video and audio recorded using Zoom. All votes taken during the meeting were done by roll call vote.

Mayor Narkewicz has been informed that a board member has resigned and has been asked to find replacement. A list of Republicans has been forwarded to the Mayor for review.

2. Review Meeting Minutes From The Previous Meeting

- [MINUTES OF SEPT. 22, 2020](#)
- [MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021](#)
- [MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2021](#)
- [MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2021](#)
- [MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2021](#)

A motion was made by Registrar Tarantino to approve the meeting minutes for September 22, 2020, March 9, March 18, July 13 & August 10, 2021; Registrar Kay seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

3. Preliminary Election Statues & Upcoming Associated Events

- Early voting dates, times, locations
- Mail-in Voting Status

As of the meeting date, just over 500 400 early vote ballots had been requested and mailed out. Even though the Sec. of the State sent out postcards announcing the extension of Early Voting by mail, the response has been cool. One postcard went out to every address with a registered voter (one per address). Here is the message developed by Elections Division:

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

Dear Northampton Voter:

Voting in Massachusetts is safe, easy and convenient. State laws were recently changed to allow you to cast your **September 28th preliminary and November 2nd municipal election** ballots by mail, with no excuse needed.

If you would like to vote by mail you can print an application from my website at **www.MailMyBallotMA.com**. Apply soon! Your Vote by Mail application must reach your city clerk by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22nd**.

If you prefer to vote in person, you can still vote at your polling place on Election Day or early before the preliminary **at the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street** from **Tuesday, September 21st through Friday, September 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and before the



William Francis Galvin

November election, **Saturday, October 23rd, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sunday, October 24th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m** and **Mon- day, October 25th through Friday, October 29th from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.**

Early voting is scheduled at the Northampton Senior Center for 9/21, 2/22, 9/23, & 9/24. Hours for EV are 8:30 – 4:30 each day.

4. Northampton Reprecincting status

Clerk Powers reports that the first meeting of the Reprecincting working group meet on Monday, September 13, 2021. Members of the working group include the City Clerk, Office of Planning & Sustainability, and a citizen representative from each ward. The Mayor has also cleared the way other departments to participate, as needed.

The decennial census was completed last year and we have been given official revised population data for our community. When this data is plotted on a map, there is a significant enough change in where people

are living that the precinct boundaries defined after the 2010 census no longer satisfy the statutory requirement for consistency in population size per district. This requires action on our part to replot the ward and precinct lines that will result in precinct population counts that are more equal, adhering to geographic and demographic markers that are defined by law.

5. Ranked Choice Voting Committee Update

Registrar Kay reports that there is RCV implementation committee appointed to advise the City Solicitor on the language that will be used to adopt RCV in Northampton. This language will be sent to the state legislature for approval before being put to the voters on a ballot. Bob Boulrice is the Chair; Catherine Kay is Vice-Chair. Other members include Councilor Bill Dwight, and citizen representatives John Crowley & Mark Ventola. The committee has met three times and is working to identify the tasks that need to be completed. Legislation from Easthampton & Amherst has been reviewed.

Registrar Tarantino is concerned about using RCV in Northampton due to how complicated the process is to determine winners. Registrar Kay supports the efficiency of RCV as a way to cut costs for a preliminary election. She is concerned that there are unintended consequences of using RCV that need to be addressed and is also concerned about how a complex system might confuse voters or disenfranchise voters. Whatever approach Northampton uses, voter confidence needs to be at a maximum level and the integrity of the election needs to be maintained. .

Whatever approach the RCV committee comes up with, the method will need to be placed before the voters for adoptions and the success of RCV will depend on voter education.

6. ROV Statistics – Not Reviewed

7. Status Of Charter Changes Pertaining To Elections

- [H.830 AN ACT TO AMEND THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF NORTHAMPTON TO ALLOW RESIDENTS SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS](#)

This legislation has not moved forward at the state level. It is unclear whether this will be acted upon before the end of the session.

- [H.831 AN ACT TO AMEND THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF NORTHAMPTON TO ALLOW FOR EARLY MAIL-IN BALLOTS](#)

This particular legislation was superseded by state-wide legislation to extend early voting through the end of 2021.

- [H.832 AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF NORTHAMPTON TO ALLOW RESIDENT NON-CITIZENS TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS](#)

This legislation has not moved forward at the state level. It is unclear whether this will be acted upon before the end of the session.

- [H.2202 - SUBSTITUTED WITH BILL H.3995 AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF NORTHAMPTON \(MULTIPLE CHANGES\)](#)

This legislation has been approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. All proposed changes by the City Council have been adopted and are now part of Northampton's Charter.

8. Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2021 - 5:30 Pm via Teleconference

- October 12th
- November 9th
- December 14th

No date changes were proposed.

9. New Business: None

10. Adjourn: At 6:17 pm, Registrar Kay moved to adjourn the meeting; Registrar Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.
