



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**Northampton Board of Registrars**

**On-line Zoom Teleconference Meeting  
Date/Time: Aug. 10, 2021, 5:30 pm**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's Emergency Order Modifying the State's Open Meeting Law issued March 12, 2020, this meeting was held using remote Participation

**Meeting Minutes**

1. At 5:35 the meeting was called to order. Present at the meeting were Registrar Kay and Clerk Powers. Registrars Polachek and Tarantino were absent. No votes were taken at this meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
2. Public Comment: No public participation at this meeting.
3. Review meeting minutes of previous meeting(s): Minutes of September 22, 2020, March 9, March 18, and July 13, 2021 will be held over until the next meeting.
4. Sept. 28, 2021 Preliminary Election Status & Upcoming Events
  - Mayor & At-Large Council Election: Both of these elected positions will appear on the 9/28/2021 ballot. Each position has five candidates – the preliminary will whittle the candidate field down to two for Mayor and four for At-Large Councilor. A recent article in the Daily Hampshire Gazette stated that the At-Large candidates were moving forward to the General Election, but this was reported in error. All of the candidates are aware that they will be on the ballot for the Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> election.
  - Drawing of Names for position on the ballot: The drawing of names for position on the ballot will take place on August 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
  - Early In-Person & Mail-In Voting: There will be in-person and mail-in no excuse early voting for both municipal elections as a result of Governor Baker signing a supplemental budget on July 29, 2021. Two warrants have been sent to city council for approval:
    - **21.310 Warrant for September 28, 2021 Preliminary Election**-this warrant sets the date, time and locations of polling locations for the Preliminary Election day.
    - **21.311 Warrant to Set Early Voting Dates, Times and Locations in Northampton**-City Council must approve the dates set for in-person EV as this is an unbudgeted activity. Proposed in person EV @ the Senior Center 9/21 – 9/24 & 10/23 – 10/29 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
  - The Sec. of State will be alerting every household with a registered voter that in-person and mail-in no excuse early voting will be available in Northampton – and will also include the dates of in-person EV. This will be done at no cost to the city.
  - The Sec. of State will also be supplying instructions to the voter sheets as well as mail-out and mail-back envelopes. Normally this is a cost incurred by the municipality.
5. Northampton Reprecincting

The decennial census was completed last year and we have been given a peek at the unofficial revised population data for our community. The official data will be available on or about August 12<sup>th</sup> (a revised date from Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>), but the preliminary data tells us that the city's population has declined by 123 people since 2010. While this might be considered good news, there is a notable shift that is a concern and needs our attention.

When the 2020 population 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.

Clerk Powers is forming a group to look at a proposed re-draw of district lines to see whether they make sense for Northampton, adjust if necessary, and ultimately confirm that revised lines meet the statutory requirements.

Here is the overall plan & timeline, but is subject to change, as needed:

- September 13 – The committee will have its first meeting to go over the objectives and look at what we've been given as proposed new boundary lines.
- Sept. 30 – The U.S. Census will release finalized population counts
- Oct. 4 – The committee will meet and make necessary adjustments to boundary lines based on finalized data
- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> reading by City Council on committee's recommendation
- Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – Public Hearing for revised districts plan
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading by City Council
- Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> – Northampton's proposed plan due to Sec. of Commonwealth's Local Election Districts Review Commission

6. Ranked Choice Voting Update- The RCV committee had its second meeting on 8/10 (earlier today) and is underway to define its objectives and timeline.

7. Review of Statistics

**BOR Voter Activity**

Added – 129

Changed – 333

Deleted – 84

Number of Registered Voters as of 7/31/2021: 21,347

Number of Absentee Ballot Applications Received for 2021: 11

Other: Nomination papers for the Municipal Preliminary Election have all been certified and picked up by candidates from the Registrar of Voters.

8. Future Business and Meeting Dates: The next meeting date is September 14, 2021 @ 5:30 pm

9. Adjourn: At 6:05 pm the meeting adjourned.