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STATEMENT OF MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ ON THE STATUS OF THE HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN, AND WORCESTER DISTRICT ELECTION PROCESS

May 7, 2018

Yesterday afternoon, I spoke with Massachusetts Senate President Harriette Chandler regarding my request that the state extend the nomination papers deadline by two weeks for the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester District left vacant following the sudden resignation of Senator Stan Rosenberg on Friday.

I deeply appreciate the Senate President taking time to personally hear my concerns about this issue. I also appreciate President Chandler explaining her reasons for not supporting what would be an unprecedented legislative exception to our state election laws. Included among those reasons were the fact that new candidates still had a lawful opportunity to run for the now-open State Senate seat via a write-in campaign and her concerns about setting precedent. She cited specifically the May 2 death of four-term Framingham State Representative Chris Walsh who sadly lost his courageous battle with cancer one day after the nomination papers deadline leaving the 6th Middlesex District with no Democratic candidate on the ballot and no mechanism for replacing him without similarly changing longstanding legal precedent.

While I remain troubled by the timing of events on Beacon Hill that have left our district with an uncontested ballot, I respectfully accept President Chandler's decision that no extension of the nomination papers deadline extension for the September 4, 2018 primary ballot will be considered by the State Senate.

In closing, I reiterate my belief and hope that voters in the 24 cities and towns that comprise the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester District must be afforded a full and robust debate about who will represent them in the Massachusetts State Senate.

Candidates wishing to learn more about how to run for this or any office as a write-in candidate can find more information on the Secretary of State's website at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elestkr/stkridx.htm>