



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-1732 • Telephone: 617-349-4361 • TTY: 617-492-0235  
Fax: 617-349-4366 • Email: Elections2@cambridgema.gov • Website: www.cambridgema.gov/election

### COMMISSIONERS

Darleen G. Bonislawski  
Ethrige A. King, Jr.  
Polyxane S. Cobb  
Peter Sheinfeld

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marsha Weinerman

## **Minutes of the Cambridge Election Commissioners meeting Thursday, August 19, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Cambridge Board of Election Commissioners was held at the Election Commission Office on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Commissioner Bonislawski. Commissioners, Cobb, King, Sheinfeld were also in attendance. Executive Director Marsha Weinerman, Karen Francis and Dave Ryan from the Election Commission and were present. Don Drisdell, City Solicitor and Nancy Glowa, Deputy City Solicitor were on hand for a slated discussion about write-in and sticker candidate related matters in the upcoming municipal election. Ethan Cobb, Robert Winters and Stephen Owades also attended.

The City Solicitor discussed many aspects of the anticipated write-in and sticker candidate situation in the upcoming municipal election. Mr. Drisdell cited legal provisions on this subject but noted that they were rather general and unclear about application to an election in which choices were ranked. He fielded questions from the Commissioners for about an hour. There will be further contacts with his office on this matter.

A motion was then made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Sheinfeld to accept the minutes, as edited, of the July 16, 2009 commissioners meeting. It was passed by a 4-0 vote.

The Executive Director gave a report based on the attached agenda.

The Executive Director thanked Dave Ryan of the Commission staff for reducing the list of those who have not filed the required Statement of Financial Interest Reports. That list had been reduced from sixteen to three.

The board agreed by consensus that the Executive Director should respond to the request for election cost data sent by Dr. Paula Sanford of the University of Georgia.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cobb in response to the request from Councilor Marjorie Decker requesting inclusion in printed or on line Election Commission materials. The motion was worded as follows:

Proposed that an additional list be put up on the website of all write-in candidates, who have made a written request to the Board of Election Commissioners that their names appear on that list.

The motion was Made by Commissioner Cobb and seconded by Commissioner King. It failed with two Votes yes, Commissioners King and Cobb and two votes no, Commissioners Bonislawski and Sheinfeld.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Cobb called attention to a detailed package of changes in Warden and clerk training. She had voluntarily prepared it and asked the other commissioners to review it for later discussion.

Commissioner King noted the Candidate information session after the regular Commission meeting on August 6 at City Hall. Most of the non-incumbent, first-time candidates were on hand for explanation of campaign finance disclosure requirements. All of the Commissioners were in attendance.

Commissioner Bonislawski raised the issue of coverage of election results on election night. She pointed out that people missed the "Cambridge Insideout" style of election night coverage.

Commissioner Bonislawski asked if changes to the vault lock and certain doors had occurred as had been prior protocol. She also stated that her position was that prior protocol should be continued.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Attested by Peter Sheinfeld, Secretary to the Board.



---