



STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS

February 27, 1984

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

Mr. Paul Healy
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

MAR 2 12 02 PM '84

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Dear Mr. Healy:

On November 23, 1983, my office advised you of the enactment of Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1983. This law extended the voting hours in certain elections across the state. Through my Division of Local Mandates, I learned that this law would place an additional financial burden upon Massachusetts cities and towns. At my suggestion, the original legislation was changed to include a provision whereby these costs would be assumed by the state.

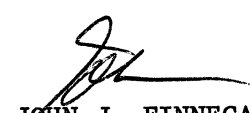
I am pleased to inform you that this week, the General Court allocated the necessary funds to cover the additional costs created by opening the polls at 7:00 AM for the presidential primary on March 13, 1984. Furthermore, in accordance with the statute, I have determined that all cities and towns are entitled to state funding for three additional hours, even though many communities initiated extended voting hours before the enactment of Chapter 503.

Through information received from your community and in accordance with Section 3 of Chapter 503, my office has determined that \$7,779.75 in additional costs will be borne by the City of Cambridge to extend voting hours. This amount, having been certified to the Secretary of State's Office, will be distributed by the Secretary to each city and town prior to the election to meet the cost to be incurred. These funds are to be deposited in the general fund and directly expended without the need of further appropriation.

In the future, this process will remain essentially the same. Each year, after surveying each city and town, the State Auditor will certify the cost figures to the Secretary of State's office, which will then include the amount within the annual state budget. Upon distribution to the cities and towns, these funds will be earmarked for the additional expenses to be incurred. Therefore, inasmuch as this money will be provided directly to you by the Commonwealth, it will not be necessary for your community to annually raise and appropriate the additional funds.

If you have any questions as to how we arrived at the amount or how these funds should be properly applied (i.e., election workers, police, etc.), please do not hesitate to contact the Division of Local Mandates at 727-0980 or toll free 1-800-462-COST.

Very truly yours,


JOHN J. FINNEGAN
Auditor of the Commonwealth

JJF/JMF

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 229
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
02133
617-722-2075

JOHN J. FINNEGAN,
AUDITOR

Comm. from John J. Finnegan, State Auditor
Re: enactment of Chapter 503 of the Acts
of 1983 Re: extension of voting hours in
certain elections across the State & General
Court approval to allocate necessary funds
to cover additional costs created by open-
ing the polls at 7:00 a.m. for the presi-
dential primary on Tuesday, March 13, 1984.

In City Council,

March 12, 1984

3/12/84

Placed on File
Copies to Depts concerned