

Councillor Owens

In City Council
February 28, 1972

WHEREAS in the City of Cambridge in 1971, only 55% of the voting age population were registered to vote, which percentage is the lowest for any town or city in the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS in the City of Cambridge in 1952, 73% of the voting age population were registered and 74% were registered in 1960, in 1970 only 60.5% were registered to vote in the City of Cambridge;

WHEREAS in the City of Cambridge, the percentage of the voting age population under 35 was 44% in 1950 and 42.6% in 1960, this percentage rose to 53.9% in 1970;

WHEREAS a statistical study of the cities and towns of the Commonwealth shows that as the percentage of the voting age population under 35 that do not live with their parents goes up, the percentage of registered voters drops far more than proportionately;

AND GIVEN THAT we believe that it is the obligation of the City to insure the widest possible participation in our democracy by overcoming all difficulties in raising the percentage of registered voters to the statewide norm of 75 to 80%;

FINALLY, SINCE the Presidential preference primary is scheduled for the 25th of April, 1972, be it

ORDERED:

that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to make available to the Election Commission a sum sufficient to allow the Commission to undertake a broad program of voter registration in the City during the month of March continuing until the deadline for registration on March 25th, 1972.

This program shall include:

FIRST: Voter registration in at least one location in each ward of the City during the hours of 5 to 9 PM every Monday and Thursday evenings.

SECOND: Publicity in the form of notices in newspapers, posters, handbills sent to the parents of all school children, and public service announcements on radio and television. The sum shall be sufficient to cover ads in the Cambridge edition of the Record-American and every weekly issue of the Chronicle, Boston After Dark, and the Phoenix.

City of Cambridge

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FIRST: Voter registration in at least one location in each ward of the City during the hours of 5 to 9 P. M. every Monday and Thursday evening and Saturday mornings from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

The Election Commission requested to confer with high school and college officials in this city with regard to setting up special times and locations in order to allow our young people an opportunity to register

SECOND: Publicity in the form of notices in newspapers, posters, handbills sent to the parents of all school children, and public service announcements on radio and television. The sum shall be sufficient to cover ads in the Cambridge edition of the Record-American and every weekly issue of the Chronicle, Boston After Dark, and the Phoenix.

In City Council February 28, 1972.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of 9 members.

Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy, Attest:-

Paul E. Healy City Clerk.

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ORDER

City Manager requested to make available to Election Commission a sum sufficient to undertake a broad program of voter registration

February 28, 1972

APR 10 1972
CITY CLERK
M. J. ...