



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • 617-876-6800

Barbara Ackermann
Mayor

June 21, 1972

Joan Cadden
24 Concord Ave.
Apt. 401
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Joan Cadden,

The Mayor has asked me to tell you that she is interested and in sympathy. She would appreciate any news regarding Joan Cadden vs the Election Commission.

I have been told by the Attorney General's Office that the state allows discretion between Election Codes. What happened in Newton is not a precedent that will necessarily liberate the Cambridge Election Committee.

Also it has been suggested that the Secretary of State would be of more assistance.

I would appreciate it if you would keep in touch. If you would like, the Mayor could bring your problem to the attention of the City Council.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Ackermann
Special Assistant
to the Mayor



Department of the History of Science
Harvard University
Holyoke Center 838, Cambridge, Mass. 02138

May 4, 1972

Secretary
City of Cambridge Election Commission
362 Green Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

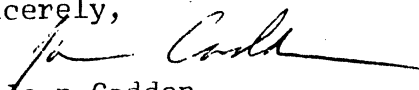
Dear Sir/Madam:

In February, 1972, I was refused the right to register to vote in Cambridge under what I, my husband, my employer, the state in which I was married and the Massachusetts Corporations and Taxation Department all consider to be my name. I was told I would have to register under my husband's surname; I did not do so.

I understand (Boston Globe, April 9, 1972) that Newton City has, at the request of the office of the State Attorney General, recently begun to allow women to register to vote under their own names. I would like to know whether the City of Cambridge has changed its policy in this matter, and, if not, what steps you suggest I take to insure that my name will be properly registered in time for me to vote in the November, 1972 elections.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Joan Cadden

(Residence:
24 Concord Avenue
Apartment 401
Cambridge, Mass. 02138)

DEAR MADAM:

This is to inform you that the City of Cambridge has not changed its policy and married women have to register under their married name.

CAMBRIDGE ELECTION COMMISSION



Department of the History of Science
Harvard University
Holyoke Center 838, Cambridge, Mass. 02138

June 10, 1972

The Honorable Barbara Ackerman
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mayor Ackerman :

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent recently to the Cambridge Election Commission. The letter explains my predicament regarding registering to vote, and I pass it on to you in hope that some acceptable solution can be found.

I am aware that I can legally "change" my name, but, since it has never been other than it is, I find this alternative as compromising as registering to vote under my husband's name. I cannot believe that I must choose between my name and my right to vote. (The situation is rendered particularly ridiculous by the fact that the state in which I was previously registered to vote accepted my name as it is. It seems that when I travel between Colorado and Massachusetts, my name changes automatically.)

As you can see from their reply at the bottom of my letter, the Election Commission could not or would not tell me how I might approach solving my problem. I would appreciate any help or advice you can give me in this matter.

Sincerely,

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JOAN CADDEN VS. THE ELECTION COMMISSION

IN City Council.

OCTOBER 2 1972

Order Adopted

Requesting Early
Hearing by the
Election Commission

File with Order

Adopted-