



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners

TERESA S. NEIGHBOR
Executive Director

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
Fr: Board of Election Commissioners
Re: Council Order 4 – 23 April 2002
Dt: 2 May 2001

RECEIVED
2001 MAY -3 AM 8:39
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Board of Election Commissioners, pursuant to its authority under the Acts of 1921, has been working to meet its mandate for re-precincting based on the 2000 Federal Census data. We wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the technical assistance given to us by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the City of Cambridge MIS Department. The plan, when adopted by the Commissioners, should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Commonwealth by June 22, 2001, accompanied by a physical boundary description of the new wards and precincts.

The four scenarios that we have been considering most closely are as follows:

- 11 wards with 42 precincts
- 11 wards with 33 precincts
- 8 wards with 32 precincts
- 7 wards with 28 precincts

At this time, we tentatively favor the scenario with 33 precincts as it meets legal standards, is least disruptive to the ward structure and achieves the following ends:

- 1) It recognizes existing neighborhoods.
- 2) It enhances administrative efficiencies and better utilizes city resources.
- 3) It promotes the improvement of supervision and training.
- 4) It significantly decreases the amount of capital outlay for technical upgrades and modernization of voting equipment.
- 5) It enhances the possibility of securing polling locations that are user friendly, above and beyond the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Reducing precincts was initially suggested by the Secretary of State, as Cambridge's precincts are higher in number than any comparably sized city. Our current 42 precincts are barely above 50% of the number of residents per precinct as allowed by law. With the 33-precinct scenario, Cambridge will be only at 75% of the 4000 person maximum allowed per precinct.

Every 10 years, we are given the opportunity and responsibility for re-precincting; we seek to anticipate the needs of Cambridge's election system for the next decade. We will be holding public hearings on Thursday, May 24, at 4pm and 6pm and are planning to meet with elected officials and other interested parties prior to that time.



17.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

May 7, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-186, regarding a report on updating the Council and allowing comments before any vote by the Election Commission to reduce the number of wards and precincts in the City, received from the Board of Election Commissioners.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



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Consent Agenda #17

Awaiting Report Item Number
01-186, regarding a report on
updating the Council and
allowing comments before any
vote by the Election Commission
to reduce the number of wards
and precincts in the City.

In City Council May 7, 2001

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