



City of Cambridge

O-16
IN CITY COUNCIL
June 9, 2003

VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: According to the Cambridge Election Commission, there were 60,353 persons age 18 and over residing in Cambridge in 1999. In September 1999, there were 56,802 active and inactive voters in Cambridge-nearly 95 percent of the voting age population. Yet, when one accounts for the resident aliens and students registered outside Cambridge in the voting age population, as well as those eligible to register who did not do so, it is obvious that 95 percent of the voting age population was not registered to vote; and

WHEREAS: In order for an initiative petition to be approved in Cambridge in 1999, it would have had to receive 18,934 votes - a figure higher than the total number of voters in each of the last 10 Cambridge municipal elections. Clearly, the unintended effect of the "Motor Voter Law" has been to render the initiative petition process set forth in G.L. c. 43, ss. 37-44 inoperable; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record asking for the assistance of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Election Laws with the problem of the effect of the "Motor Voter Law" in rendering inoperable the initiative petition process set forth in G.L. c. 43, ss. 37-44.

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R-824

ORDER#16

Requesting the assistance of the
Legislature's Joint Committee on
Election Laws with the problem of
the effect of the "Motor Voter Law"
in rendering inoperable the initiative
petition process in G.L.c. 43,
ss. 37-44.

**Vice Mayor Davis, Councillor
Murphy and Councillor Simmons**

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