

# City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 25, 1996  
(recessed 3/18 meetg)

Charter Right #1 C. Toomey re amendment to limit optical scanning system to state & federal elections

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
	✓			V.M. Kathleen L. Born
	✓			Ms. Henrietta Davis
	✓			Mr. Francis H. Duehay
	✓			Mr. Anthony Galluccio
	✓			Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
	✓			Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
	✓			Ms. Katherine Triantafillou
	✓			Mayor Sheila T. Russell

1      8      0      0

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*(received 3/18/meeting)*

*Charter Right # 1*

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✓				Ms. Katherine Triantafillou
✓				Mayor Sheila T. Russell

7      2      0      0



# City of Cambridge

14.  
 Calendar Item #1  
 IN CITY COUNCIL  
 March 4, 1996  
 March 25, 1996

- WHEREAS:** A City Council Resolution of December 13, 1993, introduced by City Councilor Russell, supported an inquiry into options for Computerizing the Proportional Representation Election System; and
- WHEREAS:** The Center for Voting and Democracy, using the 1991 Cambridge Municipal Election ballots, demonstrated conclusively in a report released in June, 1994, that computerized tabulation of ballots in a preferential voting system was feasible; and
- WHEREAS:** A City Council Order of October 17, 1994, introduced by Councilors Sullivan, Myers, and Russell, requested a Review of the Optech System in the Ballot Counting Process; and
- WHEREAS:** The Cambridge Election Commission has determined that the punchcard system used for state and federal elections is rapidly becoming outmoded and must be replaced; and
- WHEREAS:** The Cambridge Election Commission has concluded that computerization of the PR Count would better serve the general citizenry of Cambridge in providing accurate results in a timely fashion, consistent with the reality and perception of the integrity of the Count; and
- WHEREAS:** The Technical Working Committee for Computerization of Cambridge Elections, established by the Cambridge Board of Election Commissioners, met twenty times between March and December, 1995, to examine alternatives for computerizing state, federal, and municipal elections; and
- WHEREAS:** The Technical Working Committee unanimously recommended to the Commission the adoption of a unified, computerized voting system adaptable for all Cambridge elections, plurality (state and federal) as well as proportional representation (municipal); and
- WHEREAS:** The recommended precinct-based optical scanning system, using "Marksense" paper ballots, is currently used in 138 cities and towns in the Commonwealth, and is approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS: On January 31, 1996, the Cambridge Election Commission held a public forum to solicit public input on the recommendations of the Technical Working Committee, and the overwhelming consensus of the speakers was to computerize municipal elections; and

WHEREAS: On February 14, 1996, upon review of information gathered in the public forum and through consultation with City Councilors, the Election Commission agreed with the Technical Working Committee's findings and unanimously endorsed conversion of all elections to the precinct-based optical scanning system using "Marksense" paper ballots; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 54A; Section 16 provides that "in conducting any election by proportional representation or preferential voting, mechanical or other devices may be used, ....if the city council or the town passes a vote providing expressly that such devices shall be used in such election;" now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council authorize adoption of a precinct-based optical scanning system using "Marksense" paper ballots for all state, federal, and municipal elections; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Election Commission to implement this resolution effective for the November, 1996, Presidential Election.

In City Council March 25, 1996.

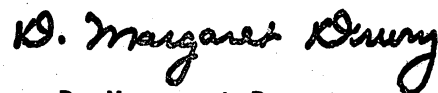
Adopted by a yea and nay vote:-

Yeas 7; Nays 2; Absent 0.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

Calendar Item #1 :

CM-148

Relative to a resolution submitted by the Board of Election Commissioners requesting the City Council to authorize the adoption of a precinct-based optical scanning system using "Marksense" paper ballots for all state, federal, and municipal elections in the City of Cambridge.

In City Council March 18, 1996

Councillor Toomey motion to amend  
Order - on a voice vote the amendment -  
Failed adoption  
~~8-1-0~~ 1-8-0

Order adopted  
7-2-0