

RESOLVED: That the City Council be recorded in support of this lawsuit; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Law Department to prepare and file an amicus brief in support of this lawsuit; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in three weeks.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS



City of Cambridge

O-11
IN CITY COUNCIL
June 2, 2003

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

- WHEREAS: The 1994 "Motor Voter Law," intended to increase citizen participation in elections by promoting voter registration, also tightened requirements for removing names from the Voting Lists; and
- WHEREAS: Municipal Voting Lists soon came to include the names of many people who were no longer residents, artificially inflating the Lists; and
- WHEREAS: In Massachusetts, a local initiative petition requires approval by at least one-third of the registered voters for passage, artificial inflation of the Voting Lists effectively dilutes rights of actual resident voters; and
- WHEREAS: In Cambridge, in order to be approved, an initiative petition would have to receive more affirmative votes than the total number of votes cast in any recent municipal election; and
- WHEREAS: More than two years ago the Cambridge Election Commissioners drafted a proposal to correct this problem that was approved unanimously by the City Council, and submitted to the 2001 Legislative session as H. 995; and
- WHEREAS: H. 995 was put into study and other bills to address this dilution of the rights of actual voters have been filed in this legislative session; and
- WHEREAS: Secretary of State William Galvin's office testified on April 9, 2001 against the bill; and
- WHEREAS: The Office of the Secretary of State has failed to take any steps to correct the unintended dilution of voting rights; and
- WHEREAS: The Committee for Cambridge Rent Control and other plaintiffs have filed a lawsuit to compel action by the Secretary of State; now therefore be it

CM-124

ORDER#11

City Manager to direct the Law Department to prepare and file an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit filed by the Committee for Cambridge Rent Control and other plaintiffs to compel action by the Secretary of State to avoid dilution of the rights of voters under the 1994 "Motor Voter Law", and to report back to the City Council on this matter in three weeks.

Councillor Simmons

In City Council June 2, 2003

ORDER ADOPTED.

**CHARTER RIGHT
EXERCISED BY
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS**