

## **2020 ELECTION COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Instructions to Candidates: The following questionnaire will be used to evaluate candidates for the office of Democratic Election Commissioner. Please answer each question so that we can compare the answers of each candidate and so that you can give the Cambridge Democratic City Committee a full and fair picture of your qualifications and ideas for the position. Responses should be in a form suitable for reproduction, in single-spaced format.

Questionnaire responses must be received by Secretary David Lakeman by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Responses can be mailed to 84 Prescott Street Apt. 6, Cambridge, MA 02138 or e-mailed to [cambridgedems@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgedems@gmail.com).

1. State your name, residential address, business address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address.
2. Personal. Give a brief biographical summary, including your occupation and past activity in the Democratic Party, community, Cambridge politics, and voter registration. Attach a resume or CV. Please include your experience, if any, with election law, proportional representation, and Cambridge election procedures. Is there, or do you anticipate, anything (time, other commitments) that would present a conflict of interest or otherwise make it difficult to fulfill your duties as Election Commissioner for the full four-year term?
3. Reason for Seeking Office. Please explain why you are seeking the office of Election Commissioner.
4. Please give a brief overview of your managerial experience.
5. Voter Participation, Protection, and Privacy.
  - a. Increasing participation. Given the dynamic nature of the City of Cambridge, with a highly transient population, how do you propose to increase the number of people who register and vote across elections for different offices? Do you have any specific suggestions for increasing participation? Do you have any specific suggestions for improving the assistance provided to voters who need it?
  - b. Information. Do you have or support any proposals for improving the existing voter education program?

- c. Protection and Monitoring. How can the Commission protect the privacy of voters, ensure that all voters feel safe, and allow no kind of intimidation or electioneering, while also allowing other entities access to polling places for purposes of monitoring and evaluation?
6. Accuracy of Voter Lists. Do you think that the existing system is adequate to minimize voter list inaccuracies (e.g., erroneously dropping voters, or carrying nonresidents on the voter lists)?
7. Election Commission Staff. What is the proper balance between the commissioners and the staff? How will you work with the Commission's staff?
8. Election Commission Budget. What experience do you have administering and managing budgets?
9. Operation of the Election Commission. Do you have any comments on, or changes to propose in, the day-to-day administration of the Commission? How would you evaluate the Commission's training of election workers? How important is it to you that election day workers live in the communities where they serve?
10. Early Voting and Election Day Procedures. How can the Commission avoid problems at Early Voting and Election Day polling places? What role should the Commissioners play in insuring trouble-free elections? Do you favor the continued use of optical scan voting devices in Cambridge elections? How would you evaluate the way in which the proportional representation "count" was done in November 2019?
11. Recount Procedures. What is your evaluation of the recount procedures of the Commission? With reference to the commission's handling of previous City Council and School Committee recounts, what changes, if any, would you suggest?
12. In the upcoming re-precincting following the 2020 Census, in what ways should public input be taken into account? How many public meetings should be held to take public input?
13. Please evaluate recent changes in election law and their impact on Cambridge.
14. Miscellaneous. Do you have any other suggestions for carrying out the powers and duties of an Election Commissioner? Is there anything else you would like the Cambridge Democratic City Committee to consider in evaluating your candidacy for the office of Election Commissioner?