

## 2006 QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION COMMISSIONER

**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. Responses must be received by Secretary Jesse Stanesa by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, 24 February 2006. Mr. Stanesa's address is 106 Fifth Street #1, Cambridge, Mass. 02141. He may be reached at 617.821.1064 or jesse\_stanesa@hotmail.com.

1. State your name, residential address, business address, and telephone number(s).
2. **Personal.** Give a brief biographical summary, including your occupation and past activity in the Democratic Party, community, Cambridge politics, and voter registration. Please include your experience with proportional representation, Cambridge election procedures, and the election laws, if any. Attach a resume if available. 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. **Voter Participation (registration and turnout).**
  - 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? Do you have any specific suggestions for increasing participation? If so, what, in numbers, are realistic goals and how would the Election Commission accomplish those goals? i.e. city census mail program, door to door or phone census canvassing.
  - b. **Location.** Do you think changing the siting of registration or polling places would improve participation? Did you favor the reduction from 42 to 33 precincts? Do you feel that Cambridge should have more or fewer precincts than it will in 2006? Consistent with the constraints of redistricting boundaries, where, if anywhere, would you add or subtract precincts?
  - c. **Information.** Do you have any proposals for improving the existing voter education program? Do you support or oppose proposals requiring the posting of the MA Voters Bill of Rights in every polling place? Do you support or oppose proposals that would allow Cambridge voters to check their registration status online like Boston voters?
5. **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)? Do you have an opinion on the current policy regarding inactive voters? Do you have any improvements to propose?

6. ***Operation of the Election Commission.*** Do you have any comments on, or changes to propose in the day-to-day administration of the Commission? Do you have any suggestions for making the Commission more efficient? How will you work with the Commission's staff? Do you have any basic principles you follow when hiring and managing staff? Do you favor having evening meeting and hearings of the election 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 that they serve in?
7. ***Enforcement of Ethics Ordinance.*** What is your evaluation of the Commission's performance in administering the Ethics Ordinance since the scope of its duties were expanded in 1993? What, if anything, do you think the Commission should do differently in the future?
8. ***Election Commission Ethics.*** Do you favor efforts to limit the ability of those administering elections to hold fiduciary positions in political campaigns (like campaign chair, co-chair, treasurer or fundraising) other than their own?
9. ***Election Commission Budget.*** What comments or changes, if any, would you suggest for the Election Commission's budget, in order to make the commission more cost-effective? What experience do you have administering and managing budgets?
10. ***Election Day Procedures.*** Now that computerized voting has been used in five municipal elections and five state elections, what is your evaluation of how it has worked? Are there changes you propose for future elections? Do you favor the use of optical scan voting devices in municipal elections? What do you think of new voting technology like Digital Recording Electronic (DRE) voting systems like those made by Diebold? Do you favor the way in which the proportional representation "count" was done in November 2005 and, if not, what would you propose? Do you favor releasing an unofficial proportional representation "count" on election night? Would you support or oppose the creation of a certification process before every election for electronic voting systems administered by the Secretary of State?
11. ***Recount procedures.*** What is your evaluation of the recount procedures of the Commission? What comments or changes, if any, would you suggest?
12. ***Campaign Finance.*** What is your evaluation of the Commission's performance in administering the campaign finance laws in municipal elections?
13. ***Transfer Method.*** Do you favor replacing the Cincinnati Method with proportional distribution in order to eliminate the role of chance in distributing surplus votes, or do you prefer the current system?
14. ***Ballot Design.*** What is your opinion regarding the format of the ballot used for city council and school committee elections? Do you think the instructions provided to voters are clear and that the ballot is easy to read and complete? What improvements, if any, would you suggest?

15. ***Voting Rights***. Do you favor voting rights for legal immigrants in municipal elections? Do you favor lowering the voting age in municipal elections? What special problems or opportunities would such a change cause for the Election Commission? Do you support or oppose a constitutional amendment to remove conditions for absentee voting? Do you favor same day voter registration? Do you support or oppose legislation allowing workers to take two hours off from work to vote on election day? Do you favor provisions under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) that requires voters to provide their driver's license or the last four digits of their social security number to register to vote? Would you support or oppose legislation requiring all voters to show a photo ID before they vote?
16. ***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?