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MY NAME IS MICHAEL FLAHERTY THE CHAIR ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND WE ARE HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS DOCKET 0130, IT IS A PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW REGARDING AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO OFFER EARLY VOTING IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. THIS PETITION PROPOSES THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OFFER EARLY VOTING FOR BYE ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BEGINNING IN 2019 FOR ANY QUALIFIED VOTER AND ALSO PROPOSES THAT BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS .. ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS, DATE, STAFFING, A PROCESS FOR APPLYING FOR, RECEIVING, SEPARATING, COMPILING, RECORDING AND SECURING EARLY VOTER BALLOTS. >> VOTING SITES SHALL BE THE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 25 B OF CHAPTER 54 OF THE MASS GENERAL LAWS.

I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THIS HEARING IS BEING STREAMLINED ON BOSTON CITY COUNCIL TV ONLINE AND BEING RECORDED AND WILL BE BROADCAST AT A LATER DATE ON COMCAST CHANNEL 8, RCN CHANNEL 82 AND VERIZON, CHANNEL 1964, I WILL NOW TURN IT OVER THE THE LEAD SPONSORS, MY COLLEAGUES CITY COUNCILOR JOSH ZAKIM AND CITY COUNCILOR KIM JANEY AND WE HAVE BEEN JOINED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN FOR OPENING REMARKS WE WILL GET IT INTO INTO IT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND WE HAVE A PANEL GUEST AS WELL AS MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO TESTIFY CAN DO SO AT THAT TIME. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES THE LEAD SPONSOR, COUNCILOR JOSH ZAKIM. >> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO THANK YOU, COUNCILOR JANEY FOR HER COSPONSORSHIP AND

LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE, LONG BEFORE SHE JOINED THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL AND OUR COLLEAGUES FOR THIS, FOR THE SUPPORT AND OF COURSE TO OUR ELECTION COMMISSIONERS AND THE DEPARTMENT HERE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU DO ON THIS EVERY DAY AND THIS MAY BE A QUESTION OF BEING THE VICTIM OF YOUR OWN SUCCESS BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE SO WELL WITH EARLY VOTING IN OUR STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS, YOU KNOW, THIS HAS SOMETHING WE THINK WE CAN AND SHOULD EXPAND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND I KNOW, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU GENTLEMEN, THE FOLKS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE WHEN IT COMES TO TURNOUT AND PARTICIPATION A IN ANY ELECTION BUT PARTICULARLY IN A MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN OUR NONMAYOR Y'ALL YEARS AND .. BECAUSE WE FOUND IN OTHER ELECTIONS, WHETHER THE STATE, GENERAL ELECTION, THIS PAST NOVEMBER, THE PRESIDENT Y'ALL IN 2016, PRESIDENTIAL.

>> NOW MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO CAST VOTES AND INCREASES TURNOUT .. AND PROVIDES PEOPLE WITH MORE OPTIONS TO HAVE THEIR VOICE HEARD, TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR DEMOCRACY, AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE LOOKING TO DO HERE SO I CERTAINLY AM EXCITED TO WORK ON THIS, THIS BILL CAME ABOUT THROUGH A CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH OFFICIALS IN CAMBRIDGE, WITH THE VICE MAYOR AND THE MAYOR OVER THERE AND ACTUALLY HAVE ALREADY SENT UP A VERSION FOR CAMBRIDGE OF THIS PETITION TO THE STATE HOUSE, PEOPLE ARE WORKING ON THIS AND THERE ARE OTHER BILLS UP AT THE STATEHOUSE LOOKING TO MAKE IT A STATEWIDE TO GIVE CITIZEN AND TOWNS TO DO THIS AND THAT WOULD BE GREAT BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT BOSTON IS LEADING ON, THIS AS WE HAVE

ON SO MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES AS YOU AND YOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE MEN AND WOMEN YOU WORK WITH HAVE DONE SUCH A GREAT JOB OF ADMINISTERING EARLY VOTING, IN OUR STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD, TO MAKING SURE THAT EVERYONE WHO IS ELIGIBLE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY VOTE, WE ARE ALL GOING TO BE UP ON THE BALLOT IN A FEW MONTHS AND, YOU KNOW, TWO YEARS AFTER THAT WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER MAYOR Y'ALL, MAYORIAL ELECTION AND THIS IS SO .. TORT IMPORTANT TO GIVE EVERYBODY AN OPPORTUNITY AND I LOOK GARZA FER FORWARD TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS AS EFFECTIVE AS POLICY AND WHAT ELSE WE NEED TO DO HERE AS A CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY OF BOSTON TO GET THIS DONE AND AGAIN I WANT TO THANK THE CHAIRMAN FOR WORKING WITH US TO HOLD THIS HEARING QUICKLY, AND PUT IT TOGETHER AND OBVIOUSLY REALLY FEEL PRIVILEGED TO HAVE SUPPORT FOR MY COLLEAGUES AND OF COURSE OUR COSPONSOR, COUNCIL DOLLAR JANEY, COUNCILOR JANEY.

>> THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES CITY COUNCILOR KIM JANEY.

>> FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY COLLEAGUE JOSH ZAKIM FOR HIS LEAD IN THIS ELECTION, CERTAINLY THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT FOR THE WORK YOU DO EVERY DAY AND ALL THE STREAKS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH US AROUND THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

AS COUNCILOR ZAKIM NOTED IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE SURE OUR ELECTIONS ARE EASY, THAT THEY ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE RESIDENT OF OUR CITY, WE LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING NATIONALLY, WE SEE VOTER SUPPRESSION IN OTHER PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOSTON BE A LEADER ON THIS FRONT.

WE HAVE ALREADY HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH STATE EARLY VOTING WITH OUR STATE ELECTIONS AND I THINK IT

IS HIGH TIME THAT WE LOOK AT OUR CITY ELECTIONS.

SO I WOULD LIKE TO JUST GET RIGHT IN IT, SO I WILL KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF AND GO BACK TO THE CHAIR.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR JANEY, WE ARE ALSO JOINED BY OUR COLLEAGUE COUNCILOR O'MALLEY AND I HAVE IN MY HANDS A LETTER HERE THAT COUNCILOR PRESIDENT ANDRE CAMPBELL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE READ INTO THE RECORD WHICH SAYS DEAR COUNCILOR FLAHERTY I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND TODAY'S DOCKET PETITION FOR SPECIAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO OFFER EARLY VOTING IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, I AM PROUD TO WORK BE MY COLLEAGUES, COUNCILOR JANEY AND ZAKIM TO DO SPONSOR THIS ORDINANCE HOWEVER I HAVE A LONGSTANDING CONFLICT AND CAN'T ATTEND THE HEARING. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON THE PASSAGE OF THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

COUNCILOR FLYNN, DO YOU HAVE ANY OPENING DISMENTS.

>> YES, THANK YOU, COUNCILOR FLAHERTY, AND I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO COUNCILOR JANEY FOR HER WORK ON THIS ISSUE. AND COUNCILOR ZAKIM, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIR OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE ON, I AM THE VICE CHAIR SO I ENJOY WORKING WITH 0 COUNCILOR ZAKIM. THIS IS CERTAINLY A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE, IN MY OPINION, AND WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR OR FOCUS ON IS WHAT IMPACT WOULD EARLY VOTING HAVE ON THE DISABLED, WHAT TYPE OF OUTREACH COULD WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT 0 THOSE IN THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO EARLY VOTING AS EVERY VOTER, AND THE OTHER ISSUE I WOULD BE -- I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE INFORMATION ON IS WHAT IMPACT WOULD THIS HAVE ON -- OR HOW CAN WE INCLUDE VETERANS THAT ARE SERVING OVERSEAS? OFTEN, AT THIS DIFFICULT TO GET

AN ABSENTEE BALLOT TO SOMEONE OVERSEAS, BUT MAYBE WITH EARLY VOTING WE COULD GIVE THEM ENOUGH TIME TO GET THAT BALLOT MAILED OUT TO THEM .. I DO KNOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS TO EVEN VOTE BY E-MAIL, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ANY PLANS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON HOW THIS COULD ASSIST VETERANS AND HOW THIS COULD ALSO ASSIST THOSE ON IN THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY AND I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE, COMMISSIONER.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR FLYNN.
ANY OPENING COMMENTS ORCS
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY?

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, GOOD AFTERNOON, COMMISSIONER AND REGISTRAR, I ONE OF MY FAVORITE PODCASTS WAS WITH YOU TWO ON MY PODCAST TALKING ABOUT HOW WE OUGHT TO MAKE IT EASIER NOT HARDER FOR FOLKS TO VOTE AND THIS GOES RIGHT INTO THAT. THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS, COUNCILOR ZAKIM, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND COUNCILOR JANEY, JUST VERY, VERY BRIEFLY, I ABSOLUTELY SUPPORT THIS.

WE OUGHT TO HAVE EARLY VOTING FOR EVERY ELECTION.

I AM TALKING ABOUT NOT PRESIDENT Y'ALL, MIDTERMS, MUNICIPAL EVEN SPECIAL ELECTIONS IT IS A PROVEN SUCCESS THAT WORKS AND IF YOU LOOK BACK TO STATE PRIMARY ELECTION .. THIS YEAR, OR LAST YEAR, IN EARLY SEPTEMBER OF 2018, THE DAY AFTER LABOR DAY MOST OF US THOUGHT THE TURNOUT WOULD BE VERY, VERY LOW.

IT WASN'T.

AND THERE IS SORT OF AN AWAKENED CIVIC ACTIVISM THAT ONLY IN BOSTON, ONLY IN THE COMMONWEALTH BUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR POKES TO VOTE EARLIER IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT

DIRECTION.
IT IS GOING TO COST MONEY.
THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT.
BUT I WOULD ARGUE THAT IT IS THE
MOST -- AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT
EXPENDITURES THAT WE SHOULD BE
MAKING AS WE TALK ABOUT THE
BUDGET THIS YEAR, MAKE SURE WE
ALLOCATE SEVERAL HUNDRED
THOUSAND OR A MILLION DOLLARS
WHATEVER IT WOULD COST TO HAVE A
FULLY OPERATIONAL EARLY VOTING
SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.
AND I KNOW IT IS GOING TO --
ANOTHER CONCERN MAY BE TAXING
YOUR STAFF COMMISSIONER, I GET
THAT, AGAIN I WOULD ARGUE THIS
IS SO IMPORTANT WE OUGHT TO BE
HIRING MORE STAFF FOR YOU TO
MAKE SURE THIS CAN BE
IMPLEMENTED AND IMPLEMENTED WELL
SO I AM SO EXCITED TO HAVE THIS
OPPORTUNITY.
I REALLY APPRECIATE MR. CHAIRMAN
YOUR CALLING THIS HEARING EARLY
SO WE CAN HOPEFULLY GET THIS
DONE BY THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
THIS FALL.
THANK YOU.

>> WELCOME TO BOTH THE
COMMISSIONER, REGISTRAR FOR
YOUR, PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND
TITLE AND AFFILIATION FOR THE
RECORD AND AS YOU, TELL US YOUR
THOUGHTS ON THIS.

>> THANKS, GOOD MORNING, MY NAME
IS DIONNE IRISH, COMMISSIONER OF
THE BOSTON ELECTION DEPARTMENT.
DAR MARTY THE ASSISTANT
REGISTRAR FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN FLAHERTY
AND COUNCILOR ZAKIM, JANEY,
FLYNN AND O'MALLEY, IT IS A
PLEASURE TO WORK ALONG YOU AND
CERTAINLY APPRECIATE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY AT
THIS HEARING.

BEFORE I GET INTO THE SYSTEM I
WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY JUST TO THANK TWO
EMPLOYEES FOR THE DEPARTMENT WHO
RECENTLY RETIRED, THEY PROVIDED
OVER, OVER 100 YEARS COMBINED OF

SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BOSTON,
SO I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE
ANNA KAZAR AND HURLEY ON RECENT
RETIREMENTS.

WITH RESPECT TO EARLY VOTING, WE
ARE BIG SUPPORTERS, MAYOR WALSH
A IS A BIG SUPPORTER OF EARLY
VOTING AND WE ARE ALL IN FAVOR
OF MAKING THINGS EASIER FOR
VOTERS AND WE ARE WILLING TO
MAKE WHATEVER SACRIFICES WE NEED
TO DO ON OUR SIDE JUST TO MAKE
IT CONVENIENT, BECAUSE THIS --
WE UNDERSTAND WHAT OUR JOB IS
ALL ABOUT.

I AM SURE YOU GUYS HAVE ALL GOT
TEN FEEDBACK FROM VOTERS AS WELL
AS MYSELF AND MAY HAVE GOTTEN
E-MAILS, PHONE CALLS, JUST IN
PERSON COMMENTS FROM VOTERS, HOW
HAPPY THEY WERE WITH THEIR ADDED
CONVENIENCE, THAT EARLY VOTING
PROVIDED THEM AND THE NUMBERS
BACK IT UP IN 2018, WE HAD ABOUT
20,000 PEOPLE VOTE EARLY, AND
OUR FIRST GO ROUND IN 2006 TEEN
WHICH WAS THE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION WE HAD A 50,000 PEOPLE
VOTE EARLY, SO WE ARE VERY HAPPY
WITH THE PROGRESS WE ARE SEEING
SO WE ARE IN SUPPORT.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE
WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION
AND THEY ARE RELATIVE TO
TIMELINE.

SOMEONE, ONE IS THAT THE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION CYCLE IS MORE
OF A CONDENSED TIMELINE THAT THE
OTHER DESIGNS WE HAVE HAD EARLY
VOTING IN.

OUR MUNICIPAL PRELIMINARY
ELECTION IS LATER IN SEPTEMBER,
SO WE DO HAVE A SHORTER WINDOW
BETWEEN BOTH ELECTIONS AND -- WE
THINK THAT WE COULD MAKE THE
NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR THAT.
I THINK THAT THE MAJOR THING I
WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION
IS THAT I THINK CURRENTLY THIS
PROPOSAL CALLS FOR IT TO BE
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY FOR
PASSAGE BUT WE WILL NEED LEAD
TIME SHOULD WE WANT TO IMPLEMENT
IT FOR 2019.

WE WOULD NEED AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO SECURE LOCATIONS AND MAKE THE LOGISTICAL PRESENTATIONS IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER EARLY VOTING.

FOR THIS ELECTION YEAR.

>> WITH RESPECT TO HOW THIS WOULD IMPACT MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY SERVING OVERSEAS, FEEL FREE TO JOIN IN, BUT I DO THINK THAT THE CURRENT ABSENTEE PROCESS WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER SUITED FOR THOSE -- FOR FOLKS WHO ARE OVERSEAS BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE ABSENTEE BALLOTS EARLIER THAN WE WOULD HAVE EARLY VOTING BALLOTS; IS THAT CORRECT?

>> RIGHT, YES.

>> AND SO BUT WITH RESPECT TO VETERANS THAT ARE HERE I THINK WE CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND DO MORE OUTREACH TO GROUPS THAT ARE HERE TO MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND THE EARLY VOTING AND THE ABSENTEE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE. WITH RESPECT TO FOLKS WITH DISABILITIES, WE ARE CONTINUALLY WORKING WITH .. OUR COMMISSIONER FOR DISABILITIES, IN FACT, COMMISSIONER MCCAR, SHE IS ON OUR ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SO WE ARE CONSTANTLY JUST GETTING INPUT AND ADVICE AND MAKING SURE WE ARE MAKING THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS TO EDUCATE FOLKS THAT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THEM AND ON THE ADMINISTRATION SIDE, WE HAVE MADE IT A PRIORITY TO MAKE SURE ALL POLL WORKERS UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN PROPERLY SERVE VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES. WE EVEN CREATED A VIDEO THAT IS TRAINING THAT COMMISSIONER MCCROSS STARTED, MADE A VIDEO WHERE WE ARE CONTINUALLY GIVING THEM INFORMATION, IT IS A BIG PART OF OUR TRAINING, AND WE ALSO HAVE ENCOURAGED SOME OF OUR COWORKERS TO VOLUNTEER TO BE WHAT WE CALL ACCESSIBILITY AMBASSADORS WHERE WE GIVE THEM

ENHANCED STREAMING AND IN ADDITION TO THAT WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE EQUIPMENT THAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE AT EVERY POLLING PLACE TO SERVE VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES.

IN ADDITION, AND THAT'S ALSO AVAILABLE FOR FOLKS AT ALL OF OUR EARLY VOTING SITES.

I WILL LEAVE IT THERE FOR NOW AND WE ARE PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

>> THANK YOU BOTH, DIONNE AND SABINO, AS YOU KNOW THE COUNCIL WORKED VERY CLOSELY OVER THE YEARS WITH THE ELECTION COMMISSION.

I LOVE THE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL WITH THE TRANSLITERATION AND BALANCE AT THAT TIME JUST TRYING TO DO THE IMPLEMENTATION, THE ROLLOUT WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH YOUR PRESS PREDECESSOR, I KNOW SABINO HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT FOR THE TRANSITION, SO WE ALWAYS HAVE HAD THIS GOOD POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP SO I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH RESPECT TO GETTING THIS OFF THE GROUND AND IMPLEMENTING THIS PROPOSAL THE EARLY VOTING, WE WILL GET IT DONE AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN AND GET IT TURNED AROUND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN THE IF THERE IS A SPECIAL ELECTION BETWEEN NOW AND THEN, MAYBE IT IS POSSIBLE WE COULD DO A PILOT, YOU KNOW, TO AT LEAST WORK OUT THE KINKS ON THAT PARTICULAR ELECTION.

THERE IS NOT ONE RIGHT NOW BUT IN THE EVENT THAT THERE IS EITHER A MUNICIPAL OR A STATE SPECIAL -- JUST FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN THE EVENT THERE IS A VACANCY OR A SPECIAL, IT MAKES SENSE TO MAYBE GET OUR HANDS AROUND POTENTIALLY DOING A QUICK PILOT ON THAT ELECTION, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE WITH YOUR DEPARTMENT. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTIONS ON YOUR TESTIMONY, DOES THE, DOES THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

CURRENTLY, DO THEY HAVE THE ABILITY WITH THE CURRENT STAFFING TO IMPLEMENT THIS IF IT WERE TO HAPPEN SNOWSTORM.

>> TO, TOMORROW?

>> IF IT IS IT WERE PASSED TOMORROW, YES.

.. THEY THAT WOULD GIVE US SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME TO PREPARE AND PARTICULARLY LIKE EARLY ON THIS REAR, YOU KNOW, WE ARE ALREADY SECURING POLLING PLACES FOR ELECTION DAY SO WE NEED TO SECURE LOCATIONS FOR EARLY VOTING SITES.

WE WOULD NEED TO START SECURING POLL WORKERS, IDENTIFYING TRAINING SITES AND DATES AND JUST LOGISTICAL THINGS BUT WITH THE STAFF WE HAVE NOW, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, GIVEN ENOUGH TIME.

>> AND WHAT WOULD BE THE ESTIMATED COST OF DOING THE EARLY VOTING IN BOSTON FOR A MUNICIPAL ELECTION?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?

>> ABOUT 380,000.

>> 380?

>> YES.

AND THEN CITY WIDE, WE ARE TALKING LIKE, YOU KNOW, ONE SEAT PER WARD OR, I GUESS HOW MANY POLLING LOCATIONS?

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR EARLY VOTING POLLING LOCATIONS ACROSS THE CITY A IS IS IT GOING TO BE DONE BY WARD OR PRECINCT OR --

>> FIRST OF ALL, THE NUMBER I JUST GAVE YOU, THAT'S JUST FOR ONE EARLY VOTING ELECTION, RIGHT?

SO THAT WOULDN'T -- IF WE HAD MULTIPLE, IT WOULD BE MULTIPLIED BY THAT AMOUNT.

NOW --.

>> AND THAT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT IS A DISTRICT OR AT LARGE OR SORT OF LIKE -- 380,000 CITY WIDE.

>> CITY WIDE.

>> EARLY VOTING CITY WIDE?

>> CITY WIDE IF IT WAS JUST ONE DISTRICT A LOT LESS.

>> A LOT LESS?

>> YES.

>> IN TERMS OF HOW WE APPROACH SITING FOR EARLY VOTING, WE LOOK AT CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS. WE ALSO LOOK AT NEIGHBORHOODS AND WE PUT TOGETHER SCHEDULES THAT OFFER EARLY VOTING LOCATION OPPORTUNITY, EITHER IN OR VERY CLOSE TO EVERY SINGLE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE CITY AND TRY TO MAKE SURE IT IS AS EQUITABLE AS POSSIBLE.

>> AND THE EQUITY -- AND ALSO MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS NO -- THERE IS NO VOTER FRAUD AS WELL. HOW WOULD WE PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THAT?

>> ABSOLUTELY.

THAT'S THE REASON WHY WE IMPLEMENTED ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS THAT WE USE FOR CHECKING IN VOTERS.

THERE ARE -- THEY ARE INTERCONNECTED SO WHEN SOMEONE GOES TO ONE EARLY VOTING SITE AND VOTES, WE KNOW, THAT'S RECORDED AT EVERY SINGLE SITE SO THERE IS NO ABILITY FOR SOMEONE TO GO AND VOTE TWICE.

>> AND HOW MANY DAYS IN ADVANCE DO YOU ENVISION EARLY VOTING TAKING PLACE IN BOSTON BEFORE THE ELECTION?

>> WHAT -- THE WAY THIS IS WRITTEN OUT, IT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE FOR THE STATE ELECTION, SO IT WOULD BE A I THINK 11 DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY, THE END OF FRIDAY, BEFORE THE TUESDAY ELECTION, IN NOVEMBER.

>> SPECIFIC POLL LOCATION WOULD BE STAFFED OR MANED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE 11 DAYS?

..

>> WE WOULD CITY A CITY HALL, FOR EVERY WEEKDAY, EVERY DAY DURING THE WEEK WE TYPICALLY OFFER EARLY VOTING AND THEN THE LAST GO AROUND WE HAD A TUESDAY, THURSDAY SCHEDULE, WHERE WE WERE OUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY ON

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, AND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, WE WERE IN EVERY COUNCIL DISTRICT.

WE HAD ONE LOCATION PER DISTRICT OPENED ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. TO I THINK SIX, A -- 6:00 P.M.

HOW DID THAT WORK FROM YOUR 0 VANTAGE POINT?

>> IT WORKED VERY WELL, EARLY VOTING WEEKEND WE HAD ABOUT 8,000 PEOPLE VOTE THAT WEEKEND.

>> WERE THERE ANY ISSUES OF NOTE WE HAVE LEARNED FROM?

>> NO.

I THINK A LOT OF THE CHALLENGES DATA THE THAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON ARE THINGS THAT ARE NOT VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, JUST BACK CHANNEL THINGS IN HOW WE PROCESS THINGS OR HOW WE CAN BE MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE AND I THINK WE MADE A GREAT LEAP FROM YEAR ONE, 2016 TO YEAR TWO SO WE ARE CONTINUALLY LOOKING FOR WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE ON THAT AND ONE OF THE THINGS WE ARE LOOKING AT IS HOW WE PROCESS EARLY VOTING BALLOTS ON LEB DAY ELECTION DAY.

FOLKS ARE ABLE TO VOTE EARLY ON ELECTION DAY WERE STILL SENDING THEM TO EACH PRECINCT, WHICH IT IS STILL QUITE A CHANNEL FOR THE POLL WORKERS TO PROCESS THE IN PRESENT VOTERS AND DEAL WITH THE EARLY VOTING BALLOTS, SO WE ARE LOOKING TO SEE IF WE ARE ABLE TO DO WHAT WE CALL A VALUE TABULATION FACILITY WHERE WE COULD PROCESS THOSE BALLOTS SOMEWHERE ELSE HE.

>> ELSE ON ELECTION DAY AND WE RELIEVE OUR POLL WORKERS OF THAT BURDEN.

>> I WAS WONDERING HOW THOSE ARE ROCOUNT SOD THE EARLY VOTING BALLOTS ARE BRA BROUGHT TO THE SPECIFIC WARD AND PRECINCT OF THAT INDIVIDUAL VOTER AND THEN PUT INTO THE SAME BOX OR COUNTED AFTER OR COUNTED BEFORE THE, THE TABBED FROM THE MACHINE?

>> THEY ARE COUNTED LIKE DURING

THE DAY, SEPARATE DAY.
SO WE ARE TRAINED THE TEAMED 0 0
TEAMS TO HAVE A PERSON ASSIGNED
TWO, PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO DO A
CHECKOFF AND -- ON THE EARLY
VOTING LIST AND OPEN THE BALLOTS
AND FEED IT INTO THE MACHINE AS
THE OPPORTUNITY ALLOWS US DURING
THE DAY.

>> VERY GOOD.

AND THEN YOU SEE THAT CHANGING
IN TERMS OF YOU SEE THAT
PROCEDURE CHANGING WHERE YOU
WOULD -- WHAT WOULD BE THE NEW
METHOD YOU ARE EXPLORING IN
INSTEAD OF HAVING PERSON GO TO
THE PRECINCT YOU ARE TALKING
ABOUT WHAT?

>> SO YOU KNOW IT IS A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO SAY
PUBLICLY WE ARE -- FOR THE NEXT
ELECTION WE SHOULD HAVE NEW
VOTING MACHINES, SO WE ARE WILL
WILLING -- WE ARE IN THE PROCESS
OF PROCESSING A REQUEST FOR
PROMISE FISCALS AND HOPE TO HAVE
NEW MACHINES THAT WOULD INCREASE
CAPABILITY TO ALLOW US TO, ALLOW
US TO DESIGNATE A FACILITY, A
TABULATION FACILITY, THAT IT
WOULD BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE TO
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO OBSERVE AND
WE WOULD HAVE A TEAM OF MAYBE 40
TO 50 POLL WORKERS WHO ARE JUST
PROCESSING EARLY VOTING BALLOTS
ALL DAY LONG AT THAT SITE
INSTEAD OF SENDING THEM OUT TO
EACH PRECINCT.

>> AND IS IT POSSIBLE FOR -- SO
SOMEONE IS GOING TO EARLY VOTE
AND THE ONLY ONE IN THAT
PRECINCT AND IN THAT WARD TO
EARLY VOTE, IS THERE A WAY TO
PROTECT THAT INDIVIDUAL'S
IDENTITY AS TO WHO THEY VOTED
FOR?

>>

>> EARLY VOTING IS SIMILAR TO
ABSENTEE VOTING WHERE SOMEONE,
YOU KNOW, YOU DO MAKE YOUR
CHOICE AND YOU INSERT THEM IN
THE ENVELOPE AND THERE IS
INFORMATION ON THAT ENVELOPE,
BUT WHEN THE BALLOTS ARE

PROCESSED ALL OF THOSE ENVELOPES
ARE OPENED UP.

WE CHECK OUT THE VOTERS' NAME ON
THE LIST BUT THE BALLOTS
THEMSELVES THE POLL WORKERS ARE
NOT LOOKING AT THOSE BALLOTS.
THEY REALLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME
TO DO ALL OF THAT.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS OPENING
UP ALL THE BALLOTS AND FEEDING
THEM THROUGH THE MACHINE.
SO FROM THE TRAINING THAT WE
HAVE AND THE FOLKS THAT WE HAD
TO DO THE WORK FOR US, WERE, WE
ARE VERY CONFIDENT THAT VOTES
ARE CONFIDENT Y'ALL AS THEY CAN,
CONFIDENTIAL AS THEY CAN BE WITH
THAT TYPE OF PROCESS ..

>> VERY GOOD.

>> AND THE UP IN PAL ELECTION IS
SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER YOU MAY HAVE
SITUATIONS WHERE THERE ARE ONLY
LIKE ONE OR 20 PEOPLE FROM A
SPECIFIC PRECINCT THAT WILL
PARTICIPATE IN EARLY VOTING AND AND
THERE BY FOLKS MAY KNOW WHO THEY
VOTE FOR, SO AS LONG AS THE
SAFEGUARDS ARE THERE TO PROTECT
THAT INDIVIDUAL'S PRIVACY.

>> AS LONG AS THERE ARE OTHER
VOTES BEING CAST IN THAT
PRECINCT, ALL THE THE RESULTS
WILL BE TABULATED TOGETHER.

>> SO FOR INSTANCE, THE EARLY
VOTING, CENTRAL TABULATION SITE
ARE NOT GOING TO BE RESULTS
RELEASED SEPARATELY FROM THE
ACTUAL ELECTION RESULT.

>> VERY GOOD.

THANK YOU.

>> THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES
COUNCILOR ZAKIM.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

GENTLEMEN -- CHAIRMAN, I HAVE
SOMEWHAT OF AN EXHAUSTIVE FIRST
GO SO I THINK I CAN KEEP MY
QUESTIONS PRETTY BRIEF.

FIRST ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE HAVE
DATES NOW SET FOR 2019 ELECTION,
I KNOW WHEN THE COUNCILOR JANEY
AND I WERE PUTTING THIS TOGETHER
THAT WAS THE GOAL AND IT STILL
IS THE GOOD, I THINK BUT I WANT
TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT

ALTHOUGH THIS BODY AND THE MAYOR CAN THE ACT SWIFTLY UH ON THESE UP IN BEACON HILL THESE THINGS CAN SOMETIMES LANGUISH AND WAY TONIGHT MAKE A SURE WE DO HAVE ENOUGH TIME SO STATING THAT THE GOAL HERE IS STILL TO HAVE THIS IN PLACE IF WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS BUILDING AND UP TO BEACON HILL FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION, BUT INSERTING SOME LANGUAGE IN THE BILL THAT WOULD SAY, YOU KNOW, FOR THE NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION AFTER ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION SORT OF ADDRESS THAT ISSUE BECAUSE I WANT TO BE REALISTIC AND MAKE SURE YOU AND THE FOLKS THAT WORK IN YOUR DEPARTMENT HAVE TIME TO GET THIS SET UP, I THINK IS SOMETHING WE CAN DO TO ADDRESS THAT.

AND THEN WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT THE COSTS OF BEING 380,000, THAT'S WHAT WAS FOR -- IN NOVEMBER, WHAT WE HAD FOR CITY WIDE EARLY VOTING? IS THAT WHAT THAT IS BASED ON?

>> THAT IS BASED ON OUR PROJECTION FOR WHAT IT WOULD COST FOR 2019 FOR CITY ELECTIONS WE ACTUALLY DO OUR OWN PRINTING SO THERE IS A LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN THE COST.

>> OKAY.

STATE ELECTIONS, STATE ELECTIONS, THE STATE PRINTS THE BALLOTS FOR US.

>> SO THAT IS A SOMEWHAT INCREASED COST?

>> YES.

>> DOES IT MATTER, IS IT A FACT IN THE ISSUE, EVEN WITH EARLY VOTING WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE LOWER TURNOUT IN A MUNICIPAL ELECTION THAN SAY THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

DOES THAT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON COSTS?

>> NO.

THAT WOULD NOT IMPACT THE COST BECAUSE WE ARE STILL PREPARED THE SAME AND ORDER THE SAME NUMBER OF BALLOTS AND HIRE THE SAME NUMBER OF STAFF WITH THE

EXPECTATION THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE SAME TYPE OF TURNOUT.

>> EXCELLENT.

WELL I THINK MY GOAL HERE AND WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN WITH THE CHAIRMAN AND WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WITH OUR COLLEAGUES AND OBVIOUSLY ULTIMATELY WITH THE MAYOR IS GET A VERSION OF THIS BILL THROUGH THIS COUNCIL UP TO BEACON HILL TO WORK AS FAST AS WE CAN.

AND LIKE I SAID ACKNOWLEDGING THEY CAN BE VERY SLOW UP THERE, PARTICULARLY ON ACTING ON SOME OF THE HOME RULE PETITIONS, BUT THIS IS AN EASY STEP THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND I APPRECIATE BOTH OF YOU COMING AND -- WITH THAT ATTITUDE, WHICH IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME PAGE HERE OF TRYING TO MAKE THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND TRYING TO GET THE WORD OUT TO RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE AN EASY OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS.

AND I O, IN THE LEGISLATION WE INTENTIONALLY GAVE QUITE A BIT OF DISCRETION TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION IN HOW --

>> I APPRECIATE THAT.

>> IN HOW YOU CAN OPERATION BECAUSE WE WANT THIS TO WORK, WE DON'T WANT TO BE OVERLY PRESCRIPTIVE BUT TO GET THE AUTHORIZATION FROM THE STATE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL FOR YOUR BODY TO GET THIS IN PLACE.

SO THAT'S IT.

I THINK I WANT TO THANK THE CHAIRMAN OR ASKING SO MANY OF THE DETAILED QUESTIONS I HAD EARLIER, AND IWO LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING THIS DONE.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR ZAKIM AND ALSO JOINED BY CITY COUNCILOR ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE AND CHAIRMAN CIOMMO.

>> WE RECOGNIZE COUNCILOR JANEY.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN W THE \$380,000 PROVIDED COSTS FOR CITY WIDE VOTING AND MUNICIPAL RATE THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THIS CENTRAL TABULATION FACILITY?

>> MUNICIPAL RACE]

>> ACTUALLY, THAT DOES NOT.

>> SO COULD WE POTENTIALLY BE LOOKING AT MORE 0 COSTS.

>> MORE COSTS?

>> POTENTIALLY.

>> YES.

AND WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THAT \$380,000 COULD YOU BREAK LICK HOW MUCH OF THAT IS STAFFING VERSUS BALLOTS VERSUS -- COULD YOU ADJUST GIVE AN OVERVIEW, A BREAKDOWN OF THAT MONEY?

>> .

>> BASED UPON WHAT WE DID THIS PAST STATE ELECTION, THE MAJORITY OF THE COST IS MORE THE ADVERTISEMENT AND LETTING PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHERE IT IS HAPPENING, WITH THE MAILING THAT WE DID ACROSS THE WHOLE SITUATE.

AND THE POST OFFICE COSTS ARE EXTREMELY HIGH.

PRINTING OF THE FLYERS THEMSELVES, THAT CAME UP TO A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 170,000, THAT'S POSTAGE, MAILING, ANY KIND OF OTHER ADDITIONAL ADVERTISEMENTS THAT WE DID. THE PART OF POLL WORKERS, WE ASSUME IT WILL BE THE SAME, 40 LOCATIONS WE USED THIS PAST STATE ELECTION AND WE CAME UP WITH THE COST OF \$82,000, JUST FOR POLL WORKERS DURING THAT TWO-WEEK EARLY VOTING PERIOD. PRINTING COSTS, COULD BE IN THE VICINITY OF 40 TO \$50,000, DEPENDS ON HOW MANY REGISTERS VOTERS WE HAVE AND HOW MANY BALLOTS WE NEED TO ORDER. WE BASED IT ON A 30 PERCENT TURNOUT FOR EARLY VOTING. AND THAT'S WHERE WE CAME UP WITH THAT COST.

AND THERE ARE SOME THE ADDITIONAL VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT

ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT TO ALL OF 0
THESE EARLY VOTING SITES,
MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES, SOME
PROGRAMMING COSTS AND SO ON AND
SO FORTH AND THAT'S HOW WE CAME
UP WITH THAT COST OF 380.

>> IS THERE A PROJECTED COST FOR
THE ACTUAL CENTRAL TABULATION
AUTHORITY?

>> ABOUT \$15,000, GIVE OR TAKE,
DEPENDING ON HOW MANY BALLOTS
HAVE TO BE PROCESSED.

>> OKAY.

>> AND HOW MANY STATIONS WERE
ACTUALLY GOING TO HOUSE DURING
THAT CENTRAL TABULATION
FACILITY.

>> WE COULD BE LOOKING AT
400,000, LET'S SAY?

>> YES.

>> IF WE ARE INCLUDING THAT.
OF THE 80,000 FOR POLL WORKERS,
HOW MUCH OF THAT IS FOR
TRAINING?

IS THERE TRAINING INCLUDED?

>> THAT IS ALL INCLUSIVE,
TRAINING AS WELL.

>> WONDERFULABLE AND WE TALKED
ABOUT 40 LOCATIONS, THAT'S FOR
THE CITY OF BOSTON, WHAT YOU DID
FOR THE STATE ELECTIONS, YES?

>> AND HOW DO YOU ENSURE THAT
YOU MENTIONED EQUITY,
COMMISSIONER, HOW DO YOU ENSURE
THAT THEY ARE KIND OF PLACED
THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN A WAY
THAT MAKES SURE THAT ALL OF THE
COUNCIL DISTRICTS ARE COVERED,
THAT I ASSUME THEY ALL HAVE TO
BE ADA COMPLIANT?

YES?

>> YES, UH-HUH.

>> SO WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT IN
TERMS OF MAKING SURE THERE IS
EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY AND NOT
JUST ADA COMPLIANT BUT, YOU
KNOW, THEY ARE CLOSE TO THE T,
THEY HAVE PARKING?

LIKE WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU ARE
LOOKING AT?

>> YOU SORT OF MENTIONED THEM, A
THE.

A COMPLIANT, WE ARE LOOKING AT
LOCATIONS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE BY

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, THEY HAVE PARKING, [ADA].

>> IN THE MIDST OF NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS ARE SORT OF WALKABLE. WE ARE LOOKING AT THE CITY GEOGRAPHICALLY TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE IN EVERY PART OF THE CITY, BUT WE ARE ALSO LOOKING AT THE CITY BY NEIGHBORHOOD AND COUNCIL DISTRICT SO THERE ARE MANY FOCUS, FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU JUST LOOK AT DISTRICT 2, FOR EXAMPLE, JUST HAVING A POLLING PLACE FOR EARLY VOTING IN DISTRICT 2 WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING SOUTH BOSTON AND CHINATOWN AND DISTRICT PARTS, THE NORTH, DIFFERENT PARTS OF DIFFERENT DISTRICTS, IT IS IMPORTANT SO WE LOOK AT ALL OF THAT AS WELL, AND ULTIMATELY WE PUT TOGETHER A DRAFT AND PUT IT OUT FOR THE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK, PUBLIC FEEDBACK AND LET THE, LOOK FOR OFFICIAL FEEDBACK AND FROM THERE WE GO ON TO OUR FINAL SCHEDULE.

>> ASSUMING THAT THIS PASSES, AT WHAT POINT IN TIME DO YOU DO THAT?

SO WHAT IS THE TIMELINE TO PUTTING OUT A LIST OF HERE ARE THE 40 SITES WE ARE THINKING ABOUT AND TRYING TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC TO GET FEEDBACK?

>> LET'S SAY THIS WAS PASSED TODAY.

>> YES.

>> SO ACTUALLY I AM THINKING FOR 2018, I THINK WE PUT IT OUT IN ABOUT FEBRUARY, BEGAN PUTTING OUT DRAFTS.

>> AND WHO ARE THE GROUPS THAT YOU PUT IT OUT TO? FOR FEEDBACK?

>> SO GROUPS THAT ARE ON OUR ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THAT INCLUDES MASS VOTES, THE CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION, I HAVE ET AID -- THE ROCKS FORD COALITION, ABCD AND FROM THERE WE SENT IT OUT TO EVERY CITY COUNCILOR AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

>> YES.

THANK YOU.

AND WHEN YOU SEND INFORMATION
OUT, I ASSUME IN ALL LANGUAGES?

>> OR WHICH LANGUAGES?

>> IN TERMS OF THE DRAFT OF THE
PROPOSAL?

>> YES.

>> THAT IS PRETTY MUCH SENT OUT
IN ENGLISH.

>> SO IF YOU WERE SAY SENDING
STUFF OUT TO CPA, THE CHINESE
PROGRESSIVE, YOU MENTIONED
DISTRICT 2, IS THERE INFORMATION
GOING OUT?

ARE THEY REQUIRED TO THEN
TRANSLATE?

>> SO ACTUALLY IN TERMS OF
LOOKING AT THE DRAFT, IT IS IN
ENGLISH AND THE MEMBERS OF THE
CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION,
THEY ARE ON OUR ELECTION
ADVISORY COMMISSION, SO --
LANGUAGE AT THAT POINT IN TERMS
OF WHEN WE DO OUTREACH, WE DO
OUTREACH IN 11 DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES.

>> OKAY.

COULD YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT INCREASED IN PARTICIPATION
THAT WE HAVE SEEN AS WE HAVE
LOOKED AT EARLY VOTING IN PAST
ELECTIONS?

>> INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION?

>> YES.

SO YOU MENTIONED FOR 2016, WE
SAW 50,000 PEOPLE VOTE EARLY,
AND IN THE MIDTERMS LAST FALL WE
SAW 28,000 PEOPLE?

DID YOU SEE INCREASES IN
PARTICULAR OF WARDS AND
PRECINCTS?

WERE SOME RELATIVELY FLAT?

NO CHANGE OR WHAT -- AND PERHAPS
YOU DON'T HAVE THIS INFORMATION
WITH YOU THIS MORNING, WHICH IS
FINE, BUT I WOULD BE INTERESTED
TO SEE WHERE WE SAW PEOPLE
REALLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT,
AND WHERE IF WE DIDN'T SEE A LOT
OF PEOPLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT
WHAT COULD WE DO MORE TO KIND OF
ENGAGE POKES IN THOSE COMMUNITY
TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE KNOW
THAT THIS IS AN OPTION TO

HOPEFULLY INCREASE TURNOUT IN THOSE COMMUNITIES?

SO I DON'T KNOW IF YOU THAT KIND OF MAPPING OF WHICH WARDS AND PRECINCTS REALLY LIKED EARLY VOTING AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT WHERE THERE WERE OTHERS THAT NEED TO DO MORE WORK .. TO KIND OF GET THE WORD OUT.

DO YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF ANALYSIS?

>> THE WHEELS ARE SPINNING WHEN YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION, BECAUSE IN THE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION, LIKE RESEARCH WORLD THERE ARE A, THERE IS A LOT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT EARLY VOTING INCREASES TURNOUT AND THE DATA ANALYSIS YOU WOULD NEED TO DO TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS NOT SOMETHING WE UNDERTOOK AND IT IS NOT AS RELEVANT FOR OUR PURPOSES, BUT WE DID LOOK AT WHICH NEIGHBORHOODS DID PARTICIPATE MORE IN EARLY VOTING THAN OTHERS, ACTUALLY WHICH PRECINCTS AND WE DID SEE A TREND THAT IN THE PRECINCTS THAT HAVE MORE VOTERS, PRECINCTS THAT ARE ACTUALLY TRYING TO ADJUST IN TERMS OF MAKING SUBTELEVISIONS BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY VOTERS AND SO MUCH GROWTH IN THOSE PARTICULAR PRECINCTS AND TYPICALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN LONG LINES IN THE PAST ON ELECTION DAYS BEFORE EARLY VOTING, A LOT OF THOSE VOTERS FROM THOSE PRECINCTS ACTUALLY USE EARLY VOTING TO AVOID THE LINES ON ELECTION DAY.

>> SO PEOPLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EARLY VOTING ARE NOT NECESSARILY INCREASING TURNOUT OVERALL, BUT PEOPLE DO WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE WHEN IT IS CONVENIENT FOR THEM?

>> YES.

>> IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING? THANK YOU.

>> COUNCILOR JANEY, THE CHAIR RECOGNIZING COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.
SO JUST FOLKS WHO ARE WATCHING
THIS OR STREAMING THIS ONLINE
KNOW, RIGHT NOW, IF WE DO
NOTHING, THE ONLY WAY SOMEONE
CAN VOTE IN THIS MUNICIPAL
ELECTION IS TO VOTE ON ELECTION
DAY OR REQUEST AN ABSENTEE
BALLOT WHICH ANYONE CAN DO BUT
IF THEY COME TO CITY HALL TO
VOTE EARLY, LEGALLY AND THIS IS
NOT THE CITY OF BOSTON LAW, THIS
IS NOT A CITY OF BOSTON
ORDINANCE, THE IT IS STATE,
LEGALLY SOMEONE CANNOT EARLY
VOTE IF THEY ARE GOING TO BE IN
THE CITY ON ELECTION DAY; IS
THAT CORRECT?

>> AGAIN, THIS IS NOT AN
ORDINANCE, I THINK EVERYONE IN
THIS BUILDING AGREES IT IS A
RIDICULOUS IDEA.
SO AT A MINIMUM, WHAT WOULD IT
TAKE, AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM AND I
AM NOT ADVOCATING FOR THIS
BECAUSE I THINK THAT HAVING
EARLY VOTE SITES IN THE
COMMUNITY IS WHAT IS CRUCIAL TO
SUCCESS, BUT AT A MINIMUM, WHAT
WOULD IT TAKE TO ALLOW FOR EARLY
VOTING -- BECAUSE I THINK YOU
HAD MENTIONED IN YOUR REMARK,
THERE 2 EARLY VOTING PROCESS YOU
CAN VOTE EVERY DAY OR MOST DAYS
DURING BUSINESS HOURS AT CITY
HALL AS WELL AS SOME SATELLITE
LOCATIONS OUT IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD SO AT A MINIMUM
WHAT WOULD IT ALLOW FOR EARLY
VOTING IN CITY HALL?

ASSORT OF REMOVE THAT COMPLETELY
ARBITRARY CAPRICIOUS BARRIER
THAT HAS BEEN SET THAT WOULD
ONLY ALLOW FOR VOTING EARLY IF
YOU ARE GOING TO BE AWAY FROM
YOUR MUNICIPALITY ON ELECTION
DAY?
WOULD THAT TAKE A HOME --
PETITION AS WELL?

>> I BELIEVE IT WOULD.

>> OKAY.

>> SO -- IF YOU ARE ASKING THE
QUESTION IN REGARDS TO IF YOU
ARE GOING TO BE AWAY FROM THE

CITY ON ELECTION DAY, THERE IS AN ABSENTEE PROCESS FOR THAT.

>> UNDERSTOOD.

>> IF YOU ARE SAYING EARLY VOTING FOR ANYBODY IN THE CITY HALL, THEN, YES, THIS HOME PETITION IS NECESSARY.

>> YES, I GET THAT, BUT TECHNICALLY, YOU CAN NOT POTOSI HALL AND VOTE EARLY.

UNDER THE OLD LAW OR UNDER THE ESTABLISHED STATE LAW, UNLESS YOU ARE GOING TO BE -- UNDER THE PAIN AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY --

>> ONE OF THEM IS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY THAT PREVENTS YOU ARE GOING TO THE POLLS, WITH SUN AN SPHRENTS THE CITY AND ONE IS A RELIGIOUS BELIEF YOU CAN'T ENTER ONE OF THOSE BUILDINGS OR YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME OR WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE.

>> SO I GUESS FOR ME IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN MADDENING THAT, NOT MINIMIZING THOSE ARE ALL IMPORTANT REASONS WHY YOU COULDN'T BUT WE SHOULD OF COURSE MAKE IT EASIER AND ONE THING THAT EARLY VOTING DOES IS IT ALLOWS FOR IT TO BE EASIER.

>> YES.

>> SO YOU SAID YOU WOULD NEED ABOUT SINCE MONTHS LEAD TIME SO IF WE COULD GET THIS PASSED AND THEN I GUESS THIS QUESTION, MR. CHAIRMAN THREW YOU, TO YOU AND THE MAKER IT WOULD THEN BE A HOME -- WE COULD THEORETICALLY VOTE ON THIS WEDNESDAY, MAYOR WALSH COULD SIGN IT TOMORROW, THURSDAY AND GOAT THE STATE LEGISLATURE BY FRIDAY BUT THEY WOULD STILL NEED A LEGISLATIVE FIT.

SO I GUESS, MR. CHAIRMAN THROUGH YOU TO THE MAKER OR THROUGH YOU, DO WE HAVE ALLIES SET ON BEACON HILL, BEACON HILL THAT ARE READY TO TAKE THE LEAD ON?

>> TALKING TO COUPLING LOHR ZAKIM AND JANEY, THE MAYOR WOULD NEED TO SIGN IT AS WELL AND THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP TRY TO GET THIS EXPEDITED FOR 2019, THE

GOAL AND OBJECTIVE IS TO BE
READY TO GO FOR 2019 IF WE CAN
GET WITHIN THAT SIX MONTH WINDOW
THAT THE COMMISSION SEARCH
TELLING US THAT HE NEEDS, IF
THAT IS NOT THE CASE, THE
LANGUAGE IN HERE COULD BE
AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE
APPROPRIATE DATE WE WOULD BE
ABLE TO GET THIS DONE.

>> DO YOU KNOW OUR OTHER -- IS
THIS HAPPENING IN OTHER
MUNICIPALITIES?

>> CURRENTLY?
CONCURRENTLY?

>> SO IN PARTICULAR, CAMBRIDGE
WORKED WITH US ON DRAFTING, THEY
SENT A VIRTUALLY HOME RULE
PETITION AT THE END OF LAST
YEAR, THEIR LEGISLATIVE
DELEGATION IS WORKING ON 0, THIS
I SPOKE TO MEMBERS OF THE BOSTON
DELEGATION WHO ARE HAPPY TO WORK
ON THIS AND THERE HAS BEEN A
REAL PUSH AND I WANT TO GIVE A
SHOUT TO REPRESENTATIVE ANDY
VARGAS OF PAYROLL WHO WHO HAS
BEEN DOING A LOT OF ENGAGEMENT
AND ACCESS SO THERE IS AN
APPETITE FOR THIS, YOU KNOW HOW
SLOW THINGS CAN BE UP THERE SO
WE DO WANT TO WORK --

>> A GLACIAL PACE.

>> WORK AS EFFECTIVELY AS WE
CAN.

>> I DON'T HAVE A QUESTION OF
THE STATEMENT THAT THE BENEFITS
TO EARLY VOTING ARE TOO MANY TO
LIST.

WE WOULD SPEND HOURS DOING IT,
AND WE HAVE SEEN IT TWICE NOW,
WHAT A SUCCESS IT CAN BE AND WE
EVEN SAW THE SUCCESS, IN THE
MIDST OF A BACKDROP OF A VERY
THE -- VERY INTENSE PRESIDENTIAL
REK AND THEN WE AND THEN WE SAW
DURING A MIDYEAR ELECTION,
MIDTERM ELECTION, WHICH ALSO HAD
A LOT OF EXCITEMENT AND
ACTIVITY.

THAT WILL CONTINUE, THE EASIER
WE MAKE IT FOR FOLKS TO VOTE,
THE MORE PARTICIPATION WE WILL
SEE.

TWO PERFECT EXAMPLES OF THAT
THUS FAR, AND THE PACKET THAT
THIS IS WORKING SO WELL NOT ONLY
IN BOSTON BUT CLEARLY AROUND THE
COMMONWEALTH SHOWS A REAL
DESIRE.

YOU GUYS CAN HANDLE IT, YOU HAVE
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT JOBS
AND YOU DO IT SO WELL.

YOUR TEAM DOES IT SO WELL, AND
PO I -- I AM EXCITED THERE SEEMS
TO BE A ESSENTIALLY A
BROAD-BASED AGREEMENT THIS THIS,
AMONG THE MEMBERS OF OUR BODY TO
GET THIS DONE, SO I AM JUST
HOPEFUL WE CAN GET IT DONE FOR
THIS YEAR'S ELECTION.

THAT IS THE KEY.

THAT IS CRUCIAL, IF WE KICK THE
CAN DOWN THE ROAD, I AM NOT
SAYING WE WOULD DO IT, MORE
OFTEN IT IS GOING ON THE
LEGISLATURE BUT IF WE CONTINUE
TO DELAY THIS WE ARE GOING TO
CHOKER THIS AND ALL OF THE
MOMENTUM WE HAVE SEEN IS GOING
TO BE FOR NOUGHT SO I AM SO
DELIGHTED TO BE HERE AND
ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO GET THIS
DONE AS SOON AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE
WE OUGHT, TO CHAIRMAN, CHAIRMAN.

>> RECOGNIZES COUNCILOR ANNISSA
ESSAIBI GEORGE, THANK YOU,
COUNCILORS.

>> [SPEAKING AWAY FROM
MICROPHONE] -- WOULD IT BE
AVAILABLE FOR BOTH THE
PRELIMINARIES AND THE FINALS
THIS COMING YEAR?

SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER?

>> AS I UNDERSTAND THIS
PROPOSAL, IT IS FOR THE -- TO DO
IT IN SIMILAR AT THAT FASHION TO
WHAT HAPPENS FOR THE STATE
ELECTION WHICH IS PRIOR TO THE
NOVEMBER ELECTION.

>> SO FOR PRIOR TO THE GENERAL,
IT DOESN'T IMPACT THE
PRELIMINARY OR THE PRIMARY OR
ANY PRIMARY?

>> YES.

AND THE COSTS AS YOU OUTLINED, I
THINK THAT DETAIL IS VERY
HELPFUL, AND APPRECIATE THE

EXPENSE, THE NEED TO DO THIS AND ALL OF THAT BUT I WOULD IMAGINE IF THIS WERE TO BECOME REGULAR PRACTICE, AND WE WERE TO DO THIS GOING FORWARD, THAT THE COST WOULD OVER TIME BE DECREASED SUBSTANTIAL AS A PART OF STANDARD PRACTICE?

>> YES.

>> I THINK WE ARE GOING TO EXPERIENCE SOME UP FRONT ADVERTISING COSTS, NO DOUBT, BUT OVER THE LONG-TERM --

>> YES.

>> -- EVEN IN THE MIDTERM, WE WOULD FIND IT IS NOT BEING SO EXPENSIVE TO DO IT?

>> I BELIEVE OVER TIME, THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DECREASE COSTS.

WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN A DECREASE IN COST FROM 2016 TO 2018 IN TERMS OF ACQUIRING THE HARDWARE, THE ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

WE ALREADY HAVE THOSE THINGS NOW, IN TERMS OF THE ADVERTISING PIECE OF OUR BUDGET, AS EARLY VOTING BECOMES A PART OF OUR VOTING CULTURE, I THINK THAT THERE WOULD BE LESS OF A NEED TO MAYBE NOT SPEND AS MUCH AS WE ARE DOING NOW.

SO, YOU KNOW, I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING WE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON.

>> ALL RIGHT.

SO I JUST -- I GUESS I JUST FOR CLARIFICATION FOR ME, THIS IS NOT FOR A PRELIMINARY OR A PRIMARY, IT IS JUST FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION?

PERHAPS THIS IS A QUESTION TO THE CHAIR, TO THE MAKERS.

>> JUST THE FINAL -- NOVEMBER ELECTION AS OPPOSED TO SEPTEMBER PRIMARY --

>> -- HOW IT WORKS TO DATE --

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> AND THAT'S OUR CURRENTLY HOW IT WORKS WITH THE STATE.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE.

THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES CITY

COUNCILOR CIOMMO.

>> COUNCILOR MARK CIOMMO.

>> 380,000 OBVIOUSLY I AM GLAD YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION, COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE.

I THOUGHT THAT WE DID DO IT IN THE PRIMARIES.

WE DIDN'T DO EARLY VOTING IN THE PRIMARIES.

IT WAS JUST FROM THE GENERAL.

OKAY. SO THE 380,000 IS JUST FOR THAT EARLY VOTING THE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER ELECTION?

>> YES.

>> AND I KNOW, I THINK YOU ANSWERED THIS QUESTION EARLIER, BUT YOU KIND OF CRUSHED THE NUMBERS ON LIKE HAVE WE SEEN AN INCREASE OVERALL KIND OF, YOU KNOW, APPLES TO APPLES, YOU KNOW, AN OFF YEAR WOULD BE THE LAST ELECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN 50, FOR EXAMPLE OR WE DIDN'T DO IT IN 15, BUT WE ARE, GOING FORWARD, IF WE DO THIS, WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE EFFECT ON TURNOUT AND WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL VOTE IS EARLY VERSUS FINAL?

>> YES.

>> SO.

>> SO IN 2016, ABOUT 17 PERCENT OF THE OVERALL VOTE WAS EARLY VOTE.

IN 2018, ABOUT JUST ALMOST 13 PERCENT OF THE OVERALL VOTE WAS EARLY VOTING.

>> RIGHT.

>> IN TERMS OF -- THE RESEARCH I HAVE DONE WITH FOLKS WHO HAVE LOOKED AT EARLY VOTING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THERE IS NO CLEAR INDICATION THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY TIE EARLY VOTING TO INCREASE IN TURNOUT, AND IT IS ALSO MORE DIFFICULT TO DO THAT BECAUSE WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THE UNIVERSE OF VOTERS CHANGES OVER TIME.

IN 2016, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAD MANY MORE VOTERS THAN WE DID THE YEAR PRIOR TO THAT.

WE HAD OVER 400,000 VOTERS, I

THINK -- SO WHEN YOU HAVE MORE VOTERS ADDED TO THE ROLES, THAT AFFECT IT IS TURNOUT PERCENTAGE, BUT, IN FACT WE MAY HAVE HAD MORE VOTERS VOTE IN THAT ELECTION THAN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION.

>> RIGHT.

>> SO THERE ARE SOME STATISTICAL THINGS YOU WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT. BUT THE WAY WE HAVE ALWAYS APPROACHED IT IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE MAKING IT AS CONVENIENCE AS POSSIBLE, THAT WE ARE EDUCATING THE PUBLIC THAT THEY KNOW OUR SCHEDULE AND IT IS AVAILABLE TO THEM, AND WE ARE LOOKING AT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT TURN OUT AT THE SITES AND WHAT IS EFFECTIVE AND WHAT IS NOT EFFECTIVE AND THAT'S WHY WE MADE CHANGES FROM 2016 TO 2018 BECAUSE WE LOOKED AT THE NUMBERS AND THE AVERAGE -- THEY HAD ABOUT 200 VOTES PER HOUR AND WE HAD LONG LINES ALMOST ALL THE TIME IN 2016, AND WE REALIZED THAT WE NEEDED TO UPDATE THE WINDOW OF TIME, WE NEEDED SPACES THAT ACCOMMODATED MORE PEOPLE AND MORE VOTING BOOTHS, MORE PEOPLE AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE, SO WE DID THAT IN 2018, AND THAT WORKED IMMENSELY WELL, FOLKS COULD LITERALLY WALK IN AND OUT HAVING VOTED IN ABOUT TEN, 15 MINUTES.

>> RIGHT.

AND I DID VOTE EARLY.

IT WAS GREATLY CONVENIENT.

THERE WAS A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT -- THAT AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THAT.

2016, TO YOUR POINT, WAS --

THERE WERE HUGE LINES, AT THE EARLY VOTING POLLS SO I AM GLAD

TO HEAR YOU CAN KIND OF

CRUNCHING THOSE NUMBERS AND TRY

TO MAKE IT LESS CUMBERSOME TO

VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL YEARS.

SO THANK YOU, GUYS FOR THE WORK

YOU DO IN YOUR WHOLE DEPARTMENT.

>> THANK YOU.

I JUST WANTED, I JUST WANTED TO

ADD ONE MORE THING, ONE THING WE REALIZED IN EARLY VOTING IS THAT IT MAY NOT INCREASE -- WE CAN'T SAY IT INCREASED THE NUMBER OF VOTERS.

WE KNOW THAT IT IS CONVENIENT TO A LOT OF VOTERS WHO PREVIOUSLY DIDN'T HAVE AS MANY OPTIONS IN HOW TO CAST THEIR BALLOT, WHETHER IT BE PUBLIC SAFETY FOLKS, FOLKS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD, FOLKS WHO ARE WORKING ON A CAMPAIGN AND FOLKS WHO MAYBE HAVE TWO JOBS AND I LIKE TO USE MY MOTHER FOR EXAMPLE, SHE DOESN'T WORK TWO JOBS BUT BECAUSE OF HER COMMUTE AND THE HOURS SHE WORKS SHE LITERALLY HAS LIKE MAYBE A ONE HOUR WINDOW AT THE END OF THE DAY TO GET TO HER POLLING PLACE.

>> RIGHT.

>> THANK YOU AGAIN.

>> ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OF THIS PANEL FROM MY COLLEAGUES BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO THE SECOND PANEL?

>> A COUNCILOR FROM COUNCILOR JANEY?

>> A QUESTION FROM COUNCILOR JANEY?

>> I JUST WANT TO ECHO WHAT COUNCILOR O'MALLEY WAS SAYING AROUND KIND OF THE EARLY VOTING AT CITY HALL.

LIKE THAT -- PEOPLE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TRAVEL OUT OF TOWN OR HAVE A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT OR WHATEVER REASON THEY MAY HAVE, THEY SHOULD JUST BE ABLE TO BE GO AND VOTE.

I AM WONDERING WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT, IN ADDITION TO THE CATEGORIES THAT YOU MENTIONED, POLL WORKERS HAVE A HARD TIME VOTING ON ELECTION DAY, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE WORKING A POLL THAT IS NOT THEIR OWN POLL, WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATIONS ARE GIVEN TO THEM CURRENTLY?

>> IF ANYTHING.

>> IN COUNTY THEY GET LIKE A TWO HOUR BREAK TO GO TO THEIR

POLLING PLACE TO VOTE.
BUT EARLY VOTING DOES HELP THEM
TREMENDOUSLY.

>> EXACTLY.

EXACTLY.

EXACTLY.

WELL, THANK YOU.

>> SURE.

AND THANK YOU, COUNCILOR JANEY
TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT SO FOR
COLLEGE KIDS WHO ARE HERE OR WHO
ARE TRAVELING, THOSE THAT ARE
OUT OF STATE, PROBABLY MOST, WE
WILL DO AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BUT
THOSE WHO ARE EITHER IN STATE OR
JUST MAYBE OVER THE STATE LINES,
TEND TO COME BACK FOR ELECTION
DAY IN THE EVENT THEY ARE NOT
ABLE TO COME BACK ON THAT
TUESDAY, BECAUSE OF 0 A SCHOOL
DAY THEY COULD PROBABLY TEND TO
COME IN THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE
ELECTION AND COUNCILOR JANE'S --
JANEY'S POINT IF THEY DON'T HAVE
A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT THEY
PROBABLY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO
DO ABSENTEE BUT AT THAT POINT
THE WEEKEND BEFORE THE ELECTION
IT IS ALMOST TOO LATE SO --.

AND EVEN EARLY VOTING.

>> BY THE SAME TOKEN IF YOU A
CITY OF BOSTON COLLEGE KID
COMING IN A SATURDAY TO VOTE
BEFORE TUESDAY BECAUSE THEY ARE
STUCK IN CLASS I THINK THEY
SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO THAT
WITHOUT GOING THROUGH FORMAL I
GUESS ABSENTEE PROCESS.

>> ONE LAST QUESTION.

AND HAVE WE TALKED ABOUT
EXPANDING THE WINDOW FOR
ABSENTEE VOTING?

>> AT ALL?

>> SO TO COUNCILOR FLYNN'S POINT
AROUND THAT, YOU KNOW, PEOPLE,
MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE IN SERVICE
SOMEWHERE ELSE OR COLLEGE
STUDENTS, ARE WE THINKING ABOUT
EXPANDING, HAVE WE EVER HAD THAT
CONVERSATION ABOUT EXPANDING THE
WINDOW FOR ABSENTEE, CASTING AN
ABSENTEE BALLOT?

>> ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE CAST
PRETTY MUCH AS SOON AS WE

RECEIVE THE ABSENTEE BALLOT SO
IF THE ELECTION THIS PAST
ELECTION CYCLE SEPTEMBER 4TH WE
HAD BALLOTS WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF
OUR POSSESSION TO BE MAILED OUT
TO ANYONE, SO IT DIDN'T
INTERFERE WITH THE EARLY VOTING
SCHEDULE.

>> BUT HOW EARLY ARE THEY
AVAILABLE?

IS IT A WIDE ENOUGH WINDOW I
GUESS IS MY QUESTION?

>> WELL, THE WINDOW IS THE DAY
THAT THE ELECTION GETS CERTIFIED
FROM THE PRIMARY AND BALANCE
PLOTS ARE PRODUCED, AND ONCE WE
RECEIVE THEM, HER IN THE MAIL.

>> AND AVAILABLE?

>> SO IT COULD BE WITHIN A WEEK
TO TEN DAYS IF WE DO RECEIVE
THEM BUT IT IS ALL IN REGARDS TO
FINALIZING THE ELECTION, BALLOTS
BEING PRINTED AND DELIVERED TO
EACH COMMUNITY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH, THANK
YOU VERY MUCH COMMISSIONER
DIONNE ANDED IRISH AND -- THANK
YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION
AND GO TO THE SECOND PANEL AND
ASK YOU TO MAYBE STICK AROUND.
I THINK IT WILL BE A PRETTY
BRIEF PANEL BUT AS A COURTESY OF
THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING, SO
KNOW THAT JONATHAN DRACON IS
HERE AND ALSO GEORGE PILLSBURY
AND CHERYL CRAWFORD IS NOT HERE,
SO I DON'T SEE CHERYL AND I
DON'T SEE GEORGE.

>> GEORGE COULD NOT --

>> SO JONATHAN, JONATHAN, COHEN
HAIR OF THE MASSACHUSETTS --
FORCE.

>> AND THE GENTLEMAN THAT IS
WITH HIM, YOU GUYS CAN COME
RIGHT DOWN HERE.

>> GREAT.

COME ON DOWN.
WELCOME.

>> COME ON DOWN.

>> YOU CAN JUST OPEN --

>> JUMP OVER IT.

>> THERE YOU GO.

>> AND YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY

HERE OR IF YOU WANT TO GO INTO THE AUDIENCE, IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU, WHEREVER YOU ARE MOST COMFORTABLE, COMMISSIONER. THANK YOU, JONATHAN AND WHO YOUR NAAH, STATE YOUR NAME AND AFFILIATION FOR THE RECORD.

>> YES --.

>> IAN FROM --

>> THANK YOU, JONATHAN AND IAN.

>> JUST INTRODUCE YOURSELVES FOR THE RECORD AND YOUR AFFILIATION, YOU THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS THIS NOW.

>> YES.

MY NAME IS JONATHAN COHEN, I AM THE CHAIR OF THE ISSUES COMMITTEE WITH PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS.

WE ARE BART POSSESS THE MONITORING ELECTION COALITION.

I CAN -- FIRST OF ALL, I THANK COUNCILOR IS A KIPP AND JANEY FOR CALLING THIS HEARING AS WELL AS COUNCILOR FLAHERTY ORCS MALI AND ESSAIBI GEORGE AND CIOMMO WHO ARE HERE.

MY NAME IS -- JOHN COHEN, PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS, STATEWIDE -- ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO ISSUES -- RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE -- INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL PREK PROTECTION AND GOOD GOVERNMENT AND STRONG DEMOCRACY AND NO BETTER WAY TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY THAN INCREASE ACCESS TO VOTING.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF -- THE DIFFICULTY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL FACES WHEN ATTEMPTING TO VOTE IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THEM.

INDIVIDUALS IN OUR HIGHLY UNEQUAL CITY HAVE BUSY LIVES BETWEEN GOING TO WORK AND SCHOOL, CARING FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND LOVED ONES, COUNTING ERRANDS AND COUNTLESS OTHER TASKS.

WHEN VOTERS CAN ONLY CAST THEIR BALLOT OVER THE COURSE OF 11 HOURS ON ONE DAY, TO ON A SCHOOL AND WORKWEEK THE TRADE-OFFS CAN BE HIGH, PEOPLE HAVE LONG

COMMUTES, TAKE NIGHT CLASSES
AFTER WORK OR WORK MULTIPLE JOBS
AND CARING FOR CHILDREN AND
OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, THAT
WINDOW CAN BE PROHIBIT IF THE.
THE UNITED STATES -- AND
FORTUNATELY STATES ACROSS THE
COUNTRY HAVE BEEN MODERNIZING
THEIR ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
HERE IN MASSACHUSETTS, BACK IN
2014, LEGISLATURE PASSED AND
GOVERNOR DEVAL PATRICK SIGNED.
AS WELL AS OTHER -- EARLY
PREREGISTRATION THAT WE --
GROUPS MIKE THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN'S VOTERS AND OTHERS WERE A
PART OF THAT EFFORT.

EARLY VOTING -- VOTERS IN 2016
ON THE PRESIDENTIAL YEAR, ONE IN
EVERY SINCE VOTERS VOTED EARLY
AND LAST YEAR ABOUT ONE IN EVERY
EIGHT.

THERE ARE ONLY -- THESE ARE THE
ONLY ELECTIONS WHICH WERE
OFFERED, MOVING UP THE MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS AS WELL AS PRIMARIES,
IT HAS WORKED SMOOTHLY AND
SHOULD BE EXTENDED, THE BENEFITS
OF EARLY VOTE HAVING CLEAR AS
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE
NOTES, EARLY VOTING MEANS
REDUCED STRESS ON THE VOTING
SYSTEM ON ELECTION DAY, SHORTER
LINES ON ELECTION DAY, IMPROVED
POLL WORKER PERFORMANCE, EARLY
IDENTIFICATION AND CORRECTION OF
REGISTRATION ERRORS AND VOTER
SYSTEM GLIMPSE AND CREATES VOTER
SATISFACTION. I WILL NOTE ONE
OF THE POINTS -- NO FAULT
ABSENTEE VOTING CAME UP.

THAT IS COMMON PRACTICE IN THE
MAJORITY OF STATES, SO WE ARE IN
THE MINORITY IN NOT MAKING IT SO
THAT -- YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE
OUT OF STATE IN ORDER TO VOTE
ABSENTEE, WHEREAS I KNOW MANY IKNOW STATES NEARBY SUCH AS
VERMONT AND MAINE HAVE NO FAULT
ABSENTEE AND GOING A LITTLE
SOUTH TO NEW JERSEY AND
MARYLAND.

EVEN LIKE ALLOWING PEOPLE TO
VOTE BY MAIL IN GENERAL IS
SOMETHING THAT DOES INCREASE

TURNOUT ALTHOUGH CALIFORNIA DOES
TAKE A COUNT VOTE BUT THAT'S
ANOTHER ISSUE.

GIVEN THE OBSTACLES THAT
INDIVIDUALS FACE WHEN TRYING TO
VOTE THE EXPERIENCES THEY HAVE
WHEN VOTING PLAY A LARGE ROLE
SHAPING THEIR FUTURE VOTING
PATTERNS.

THOSE EXPERIENCES ARE POSITIVE
RUNS.

EARLY VOTING HELPS TO DO JUST
THAT.

TO EXPAND THE FORM CONCLUDES
MUNICIPAL ACTIONS WITH A SENSE
SUB NEXT STEP RETURNING VOTERS
POLL WORKERS AND EVERYBODY WHO
CARES ABOUT THE VIBRANCE OF OUR
DEMOCRACY.

>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR TESTIMONY.
APPRECIATE IT.

IAN, IF YOU COULD STATE YOUR
FULL NAME FOR THE RECORD, YOU
HAVE THE FLOOR.

>> YES.

I'M IAN, I'M THE PAUL SEE
DIRECTOR OVER AT MASS VOTE.
I APOLOGIZE, I WAS JUST NOTIFIED
LAST MINUTE BY SHARYL CRAWFORD
BEING HERE AND JONATHAN TOOK MY
QUOTE.

SO JONATHAN PRETTY MUCH SUMS IT
UP.

OBVIOUSLY MASSACHUSETTS IS BEING
LOOKED AT CONTINUALLY TIME AND
TIME AGAIN AS BEING THAT LEADER
IN MODERN DAY ELECTIONS.

WE ARE VERY MUCH BEHIND
UNFORTUNATELY BUT THE CITY DOES
HAVE A GOOD LEADERSHIP GOAL AND
WE ARE MOLDING IN THE STATE
HOUSE AT THAT LEVEL BUT IT'S
DEFINITELY UP TO THE CITY TO
PROMOTE THESE IDEALS SO THAT NOT
ONLY CAN WE BE HELPFUL AT THE
LOCAL LEVEL BUT ALSO GETTING
ATTENTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL
ESPECIALLY.

>> THANK YOU IAN FOR YOUR
TESTIMONY.

>> JUST TO BUILD OFF THAT ONE
THING.

ONE THING THAT WAS NOTED EARLIER
WAS ABOUT HOW THE PRESINGS OF

EARLY VOTE -- PRESINGS IN EARLY VOTING MOST POPULAR WERE OVERLY LARGE PRESINGS IN THE CITY. ONE THING MASS VOTE HAS WORKED ON IN THE CITY OF BUSTON WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT HAS ROUTINELY HIT THE BOX IN THE LEGISLATURE EVEN THOUGH DESIGNING WHERE YOU HAVE MORE SIZED PRECINCTS BUT EARLY VOTING IS UNTIL THAT HAPPENS EARLY VOTING CAN HELP MITIGATE THAT PROBLEM TO MAKE SURE PRETINTS WHERE I DON'T LIVE TOO FAR FROM WHICH IS CHINATOWN, DOWNTOWN, BAY VILLAGE AND THE SOUTH END, THE LARGEST ONE IN THE CITY HELP MAKING SURE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN SUCH PRETINTS IT'S OFTEN SOMETIMES EVEN FAR FOR THEM TO GET TO THEIR VOTING LOCATIONS BECAUSE OF HOW LARGE IT IS DUE TO BETTER OPPORTUNITY.

>> THANK YOU.

GREAT POINT, I APPRECIATE THAT. ANY QUESTIONS OF THIS PANEL FROM MY COLLEAGUES?

COUNCILOR ZAKIM?

KEEP OUR ORDER.

I'LL BE BRIEF.

I WANT TO THANK YOU BOTH FOR BEING HERE, FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION, SUPPORT AND JONATHAN I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOU ON A LOT OF THESE ISSUES OVER THE LAST COUPLE YEARS AND YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT RESOURCE SO I APPRECIATE THAT THANKS FOR MAKING THE TIME TO BE HERE. IT'S NICE AND SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL IF MY COLLEAGUES CAN AGREE TO HAVE EVERYONE UP HERE GENERALLY IN AWE GREANLTD WHAT WE WANT TO DO WITH A PIECE OF LEGISLATION. I GUESS MY QUESTIONS AND WE DID TOUCH ON THE PRECINCT BEING A PRACTICAL AND IMPORTANT ISSUE AND I KNOW SOME MEMBERS OF OUR BOSTON AREA ARE WORKING VERY HARD ON THAT AT THE STATE HOUSE. WHAT WE SEE AND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR POSITION WITH PROGRESSIVE MASS, A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION MASS VOTE STATEWIDE

ORGANIZATION, I MEAN HOW IMPORTANT DOES IT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO GO EITHER TO THE LEGISLATURE OR TO OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS AND SAY BOSTON IS DOING THIS OR IS TRYING TO DO THIS AS SORT OF A MOTIVATOR I GUESS FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD.

I THINK WE WANT TO DO IN FOR OURSELVES HERE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON BUT ALSO IF WE CAN HELP ENCOURAGE WHETHER IT'S THE COMMONWEALTH AS A WHOLE OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE.

WE FOUND IT TO BE USEFUL IN THE PAST, YOUR ACTIVIST MEMBERSHIP DOING THING LIKE THAT.

>> I WOULD SAY LIKE WHENEVER PEOPLE HAVE A PIE LEATHER U ANY TYPE -- PILOT, ANY TYPE OF NEW POLICY IDEA IT HAS THE BENEFITS OF ANY KINKS BEING WORKED OUT EARLY AND ANY PRACTICES THAT CAN BE SHARED WITH OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS.

THAT ALWAYS HELPS TO MITIGATE ANY POTENTIALLY WELL MEANING OR UNFOUNDED CONCERNS AHEAD OF TIME SO IT CAN BE SCALED UP BETTER.

>> ONE LAST THING I WILL SAY. SINCE WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT ON THIS AND I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING VERY HARD ON THIS COMMITTEE AND THIS BODY TO GET THIS LEGISLATION UP TO THE STATE HOUSE, I WOULD JUST ASK YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN IN THAT LOBBYING EFFORT.

I KNOW YOU HAVE EXTENSIVE LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS.

>> VOTING SPECIFIC OR SOME OTHER PROGRESSIVE ISSUES BUT AS WE ALL KNOW GETTING THINGS THROUGH THE STATE HOUSE EVEN WHEN SOMETHING NON-CONTROVERSIAL CAN BE TOPPED JUST LIKE YOU'RE HERE TODAY IT WILL BE HUGELY HELPFUL IN THAT EFFORT.

>> COUNCILOR ZAKIM YOU SAID THE POINT, THE PEOPLE LOOK TO BOSTON FOR THIS INFORMATION, PILOT AND STUFF LIKE THAT, ABSOLUTELY. REG LEGISLATION IS OOR ON

PRIORITY, LEGISLATION FOR THIS SESSION AND EVERY TIME I GO INTO THE SMALL TOWN OFFICES, MID SIZE TOWN REPS, THEY ALL ASK WHAT'S BOSTON DOING.

AND COMMISSIONER IRISH ACTUALLY SPOKE WITH US, GAVE US GREAT INFORMATION ON HIS PROPOSALS SO WE DO HAVE THAT DETAILED INFORMATION.

>> THAT IS VERY GOOD TO HEAR. THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

>> COUNCILOR JANEY.

>> YES, THANK YOU.

I FAILED TO MENTION IN MY OPENING THAT I'M A FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER OF MASS VOTE SO BIG FAN, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE IN SHARYL'S ABSENCE.

I APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK YOU'RE TO GO AT THE STATE LEVEL OR THAT WE'RE DOING AT THE STATE LEVEL AS WELL AS THE MUNICIPAL LEVELS. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE JONATHAN.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK, NOT JUST AT PROGRESSIVE MASS BUT YOU FAILED TO MENTION THAT YOUR CHAIR OF THE WARD OF THE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE AND YOU'RE DOING AMAZING WORK THERE TO REALLY ENGAGE RESIDENTS OF WARD FOUR IN THIS PROCESS AND SO THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT IF EITHER OF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS THAT WEREN'T ALREADY MENTIONED OR ONES THAT YOU KIND OF WANT TO JUST CO-SIGN ON IN TERMS OF HOW THE CITY CAN DO BETTER TO ENCOURAGE EARLY VOTING WHEN WE DO HAVE IT, WE CURRENTLY DON'T HAVE IT AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL YET BUT WHATEVER SUGGESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE WE'RE OPEN TO HEAR AND THEN I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH I'LL ASK RIGHT NOW.

IN TERMS OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS, TO WE SEE AN INCREASE IN A NUMBER OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS? WAS THERE A LARGER PROPORTION OF THE EARLY VOTING BALLOTS THAT

WERE COUNTED AS PROVISIONAL
BALLOTS OR WAS IT PRETTY JUST
STAYING THE SAME WITH WHAT WE
USUALLY SEE FOR PROVISIONAL
BALLOTS?

WAS THAT CLEAR, I'M SORRY.

>> YES.

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS ON EARLY
VOTING DAYS ARE VERY MINIMAL.
MOST OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE SEE
ON EARLY VOTING DAYS IS PEOPLE
THAT HAVE REQUESTED AN ABSENTEE
BALLOTS AND WE HAVE A PROCESS IN
PLACE TO TRY TO COVER OUR TRACKS
TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE ARE NOT
VOTING TWICE.

OUR ELECTRONIC POLL BOOTHS WILL
INDICATE TO THE POLL WORKERS
WHETHER SOMEONE REQUESTED IT,
RETURNED A BALLOT AND WHATEVER
THE CASE MAY BE AND WE HAVE A
PROCEDURE FOR THAT.

BUT ON ELECTION DAY, I DO NOT
THINK AND I DIDN'T LOOK AT THIS
IN MUCH DETAIL, PROVISIONAL
BALLOTS WAS HIGH BUT NOT AS HIGH
AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

>> MOST OF THOSE IS BECAUSE
PEOPLE WERE NOT REG STUSHED AT
THE CORRECT -- REGISTERED AT THE
CORRECT LOCATION.

>> THANK YOU.

IF THERE ARE ANY IDEAS YOU HAVE
FOR US OR THE ADMINISTRATION
JUST AROUND HOW WE CAN ENCOURAGE
MORE PARTICIPATION.

I'M SURE WE ALL WANT TO HEAR
THOSE IDEAS IF YOU HAVE ANY.
NO QUESTIONS.

THAT'S GREAT.

>> ONE THING I KNOW THERE WAS A
HEARING ORDER FOR LAST YEAR I
WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COUNCIL
TAKE OFF THIS IDEA TO HAVE
BETTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION
TO TENANTS, ANY I DON'T KNOW
CITY OTHER CITY THAT'S DONE THAT
RECENTLY.

IT'S PART OF A PACKAGE WHEN YOU
SIGN A LEASE, IT'S KIND OF A,
THAT EXTRA STEP IS FAIRLY LOW
AND SINCE IT PRODUCES ANOTHER
BARRIER TO BE SEEKING OUT THE

INFORMATION COULD HELP INCREASE
REGISTRATION.

>> EXCELLENT.

TALK.

>> TO THAT POINT, MR. CHAIRMAN,
THERE WAS A HEARING I FILED WITH
COUNCILORS EDWARDS AND NOW
FORMER COUNCILOR PRESSLEY, BUT
THANK YOU FOR THE REMINDER.

>> THANK YOU.

ANY QUESTIONS OF THIS PANEL?

>> NO, QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU BOTH.

[INDISCERNIBLE].

I DON'T NEED TO BE REDUNDANT AND
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE REALLY
OUGHT TO BE DOING.

WE ALL AGREE, I CANNOT FOR THE
LIFE OF ME THINK OF WHERE THE
OPPOSITION WOULD COME FROM OTHER
THAN PERHAPS PEOPLE ENTRENCHED
IN POWER TONIGHT WANT MORE
PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS
DUTY.

I THINK THE PLAN IS RIGHT TO DO
IT NOW.

THANK YOU ALL, WE'LL CERTAINLY
BE LOOKING TO CONTINUE TO WORK
WITH YOU AND PARTNER WITH YOU AT
THE STATE LEVEL.

IT SEEMS THAT MAY BE A LITTLE
MORE DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE THAN
PERHAPS THE CITY BUT I WANT TO
THANK THE MAKERS AND ALL FOUR OF
YOU GENTLEMEN FOR YOUR GREAT
WORK ON THIS, THANKS.

>> THROUGH THE CHAIR, IS THERE
ANY QUESTIONS THAT THE
COMMISSIONER OR REGISTRAR HAVE
OF OUR PANEL GUESTS OR OUR PANEL
GUESTS HAVE OF OUR COMMISSIONER
WHILE WE'RE HERE?

THANK YOU.

THAT WILL CONCLUDE -- ACTUALLY,
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THERE'S AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC
TESTIMONY.

I KNOW SARAH GIFFORD HAD SIGNED
IN DID NOT WANT TO TESTIFY BUT
ARE THERE ANY MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC THAT ARE HERE THAT WISH
TO OFFER PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT
THIS TIME MAY DO SO OR FOREVER
HOLD YOUR PEACE.

SEEING AND HEARING NO DESIRE FOR ANY ADDITION AL PUBLIC TESTIMONY THAT WILL CONCLUDE THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY PORTION.

BY WAY OF WRAP UP I GUESS THE GOAL HERE WOULD BE TO TRY TO GET SOME STUFF TURNED AROUND FOR THE COMMITTEE.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING BEFORE THE COUNCIL FOR A VOTE, GET SOMETHING OVER TO THE COMMISSIONER REGISTRAR TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR SIGNATURE.

GET IT UP TO BEACON HILL AND YOU GUYS CAN HELP MAYBE WORK THE PHONE AS WELL, TRY TO GET SOME EXTRADITED ACTION AS REQUESTED BY OUR COLLEAGUE AND COUNCILOR O'MALLEY AND IN THE SHORT TERM LOOK AT THE NO FAULT ABSENTEE IN THE SHORT TERM.

ANYTHING ELSE?

SO VERY GOOD.

THAT WILL CONCLUDE TODAY'S HEARING IN THE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO DOCKET 0130 PETITION FOR A SPECIAL ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO OFFER EARLY VOTING IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

I APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S TIME AND ATTENTION AND YOUR TESTIMONY AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

THANK YOU.