




City of Medford

*Election Commission
85 George P. Hassett Drive, Room 102
Medford, Massachusetts 02155
781-393-2491*

From: Nina Nazarian 

To: Elections Commission
Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Cc: City Council

Re: Notable Issues Relative to the March 5th Presidential Primary

Date: March 13, 2024

The following is a report regarding various notable issues, in my opinion, that came up on and after Super Tuesday. This is not intended to be a complete report of irregularities or issues that arose during this Presidential Primary.

Signage at the Roberts School

In my view, the most notable issue that arose on Super Tuesday was signage at the Roberts School. One of the biggest challenges in preparing, leading up to the election, was the fact that no one could reconcile what signage was available for each polling location. This was due to signage being dispersed throughout the City. Signs were stored at each polling location, at City Hall and the DPW. That means signs were dispersed in sixteen locations. Further complicating the situation was the fact that school was in session, meaning the typical entrance a voter would use to access their polling location, may have moved.

Prior to election day, we attempted to reconcile all the signage to the best of our ability, create additional signage and be prepared in the event additional signage needed to be created. On the morning of March 5, 2024 we received a number of complaints about signage at the Roberts School. That morning, I went out to the Roberts reworked the signs, and placed additional signs to navigate voters to the entrance. We continued to review the signage and lighting throughout the day at this site, including Commissioner Milorin visiting the site twice. We did not receive further complaints relating to signage after noon at the Roberts School.

One action we took to remedy this type of situation from recurring in the future is we instructed the DPW to pick up ALL signage from the polling locations and bring them to City Hall. We believe this will greatly aid the Elections Office in preparing signage in advance of the day of elections, even if school is in session. In the event school is in session during a future election, we plan to have more signs in use at the Roberts and other schools where additional signage was needed (i.e. Brooks School).

Election Results Subsequent to the Closure of Polls

The Elections Commission received a complaint from a candidate on the ballot, Patricia Brady Doherty, regarding the availability of results from Central Tabulation. The candidate was adamant that results should be available just after 8 PM at Central Tabulation, much like results are posted at



City of Medford

*Election Commission
85 George P. Hassett Drive, Room 102
Medford, Massachusetts 02155
781-393-2491*

each polling location. The file being downloaded from the system was moving very slowly, and based on feedback from another community, it is possible that the purchase of an external hard drive could help speed up the download. Further review of this matter with the candidate may be warranted to ensure that the Elections Office has a complete understanding of their complaint.

Post-Election Tabulation

On Wednesday, March 7, 2024 the Elections Office published the attached Notice of Post-Election Tabulation. On the same day, I transmitted that notice to the Secretary of State's Office, as I believed I was required to send that notification to them as well. I received an email from Director and Legal Counsel Michelle K. Tassinari which read:

Good Afternoon Nina-

Kelly forwarded your email to me for response. Please note that all ballots from the Presidential Primary were to be counted on election night. The provisions referenced in your notice apply only to a biennial state election. Information about the counting process and requirements were sent to local election officials, see attached, multiple times before the election, which specifically state that all ballots must be counted on election night.

Please provide this Office with an accounting of how many ballots were received before 8pm last night but not counted, listed by ward, precinct and party. We will need this information to evaluate how to proceed as the law does not authorize a post-election tabulation as proposed.

Michelle K. Tassinari
Director and Legal Counsel

I responded that same day with the following:

Hi Michelle,

I apologize, I was not aware. I was trying to keep up with the advisories, reading laws, etc., but I was also taking in a lot of volume/learning at once the best I could.

We have a total of 77 ballots that arrived after 5:30 PM and before 8 PM yesterday. Per your email, we have outlined ballots by ward, precinct and by party. Please see attached.

We had posted notice to the City's website and bulletin boards. We will await your reply before making any changes to those postings. We are also planning to perform the election certification on Friday and/or Saturday.



City of Medford

*Election Commission
85 George P. Hassett Drive, Room 102
Medford, Massachusetts 02155
781-393-2491*

We respectfully await your reply.

Sincerely,

Nina

The following day, the attached Order “to complete the count of votes in the Presidential Primaries in accordance with the Notice published on March 6th” was received. I made arrangements to have a police officer present, and the Elections Office proceeded with the tabulation and certification on Friday, March 8, 2024. The count occurred in the Elections Office, Room 102, City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA 02155. In attendance during the count were Election Commissioner and Chairperson Henry Milorin, Elections Consultant Danielle Pietrantonio, Captain Barry Clemente and me. Elections Consultant Sergio Cornelio joined the group just as the count was completed and assisted with the certification process.

Next Steps

The Elections Office is going to be collecting feedback from election workers regarding this past election and will use their input for a post-election audit to help us make adjustments and corrections, where needed.



City of Medford

*Election Commission
85 George P. Hassett Drive, Room 102
Medford, Massachusetts 02155
781-393-2491*

TO: Residents of the City of Medford
FROM: Medford Elections Commission
DATE: March 6, 2024
RE: Notice of Post-Election Tabulation for March 5, 2024, Presidential Preference, State Committee Man, State Committee Woman, Ward Committee Election

In accordance with Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022, known as the VOTES Act, please be advised that the City of Medford will perform a post-election tabulation session for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Preference for Election Day ballots that arrived after 5:30 PM but no later than 8:00 PM on March 5, 2024, that were not able to be sent and processed at their respective polling locations.

This session will take place in the Elections Office, City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, Massachusetts, beginning on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 1:15 PM and will be open to the public.

The process will be open for public observation. If you would like to observe the Post-Election Tabulation, we ask that you contact the Medford Election Office by calling (781)-393-2491.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Elections Division

March 7, 2024

Medford Election Commission
Election Commission
85 George P. Hassett Drive, Room 102
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in response the Notice of Post-Election Tabulation received on March 6, 2024, in which you indicate that vote by mail ballots for the March 5th Presidential received after 5:30 p.m. and before 8:00 p.m. on election day were not tabulated. The City has explained that seventy-seven (77) ballots were validly received, but there was insufficient time to distribute to the appropriate precincts to be counted. The City has a statutory responsibility to count the ballots cast, and therefore, you must complete the count of votes cast in the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian Presidential Primaries before the results can be certified.

In accordance with the authority set forth section 60 of chapter 56 of the General Laws, the City of Medford is therefore ordered to complete the count of votes in the Presidential Primaries in accordance with the Notice published on March 6th. A record of the proceedings must be kept, including the place, time, and people in attendance and a police officer or constable must be present during this continuation of the count. After the counting is complete and the votes recorded, the ballots must be sealed.

Once this process is complete, the Election Commission must certify the election results, complete the Return of Votes and transmit them to the Elections Division no later than March 9, 2024.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michelle K. Tassinari".

Michelle K. Tassinari
Director/Legal Counsel