

Union Square Neighborhood Council

2017 Elections Packet

Thank you for your interest in being a candidate for the Interim Founding Board of the Union Square Neighborhood Council! Inside this packet you will find:

- Vision, goals and boundary of the USNC—pg. 2
- Eligibility Requirements for candidates and nomination guidelines —pg. 3
- Breakdown of Board Seats —pg. 3
- Instructions for submission of candidate materials. —pg. 3
 - **DEADLINE to declare candidacy is November 9, 2017 at 5pm.**
- Candidate Materials Templates
 - Candidate Information —pg.4
 - Candidate Statement —pg. 5
 - Copies of Nominating Petitions —pg. 6-7
- The USNC Elections will be held at the Somerville Public Safety Building
 - Candidate Forum —Saturday, Nov 18th @ 3pm
 - Voting — Saturday, Dec 2, 10am-5pm & Wednesday, Dec 6, 7am-8pm
 - Election Results announced — Wednesday, Dec 6

Please direct all questions to the Neighborhood Council Elections Committee:

UnionSquareNeighborhoodCouncil@gmail.com

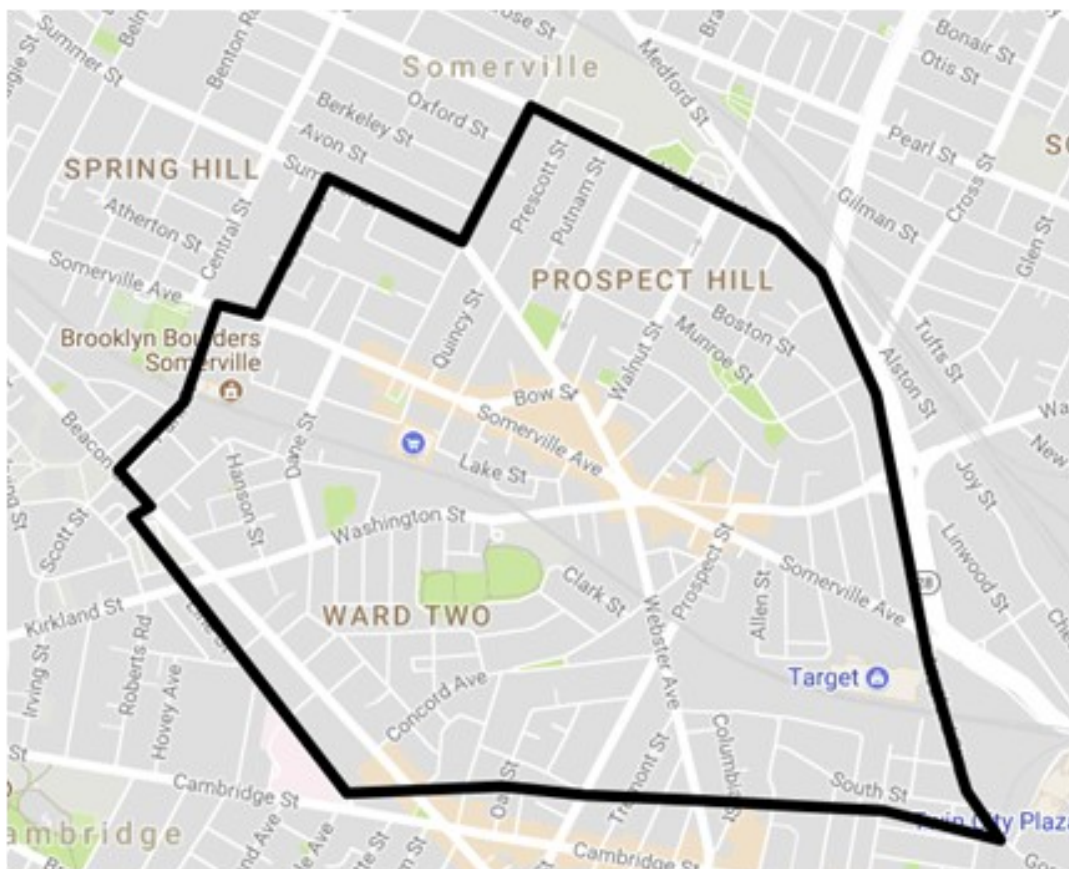
Full bylaws can be found here: <http://unionsquareneighborhoodcouncil.org/bylaws>

Union Square Neighborhood Council

Vision, Goals and Boundaries

The Union Square Neighborhood Council is a broad based community organization in Union Square. **Our Vision** for Union Square is a thriving, engaged, enjoyable, inclusive, sustainable, diverse urban neighborhood and vibrant commercial center. **Our Mission** is to shape the future of Union Square as an increasingly inclusive and vibrant neighborhood and commercial center built around the aspirations of the people who live and work here. **Our Values** are interdependence, inclusion, wellness, participation, equity, enjoyment, stewardship, transparency and civic engagement. **Our Goals** are to build community, empower members of the community, minimize displacement and promote affordability, increase economic opportunity, and steward the public realm and built environment.

The Union Square Neighborhood Council aspires to be representational of the demographics of the community in Union Square. At this time, this is an aspirational goal, but we ask that all candidates for the board be committed to this goal and think creatively about how to achieve it for the USNC.



Consistent with the Union Square Neighborhood Plan adopted by the Planning Board of the City of Somerville on May 5, 2016, the Union Square neighborhood shall be defined as the geographic area of Somerville, Massachusetts within the following boundaries: McGrath Highway, Medford Street, the Somerville/Cambridge city line, Park Street, Somerville Avenue, Laurel Street, Summer Street, School Street, and Highland Avenue. The boundary line shall be drawn down the middle of the boundary streets.

Union Square Neighborhood Council

Election Details & Candidate Eligibility

Description of USNC Board:

There shall be established a Founding Board comprised of fifteen (15) members that shall serve and execute the responsibilities of the Neighborhood Council in its first year. All Neighborhood Council Board members must be over 16 years of age and live or work in Union Square. If a Board member is displaced from Union Square, he or she may serve out the duration of his or her term. The Founding Board members shall be elected by eligible members. The master developer shall not have an employee, representative, or consultant on the board of the Neighborhood Council. If a board member becomes an employee, representative, or paid consultant of an active Union Square developer during their term, they will be replaced through an election.

Description:	# of Seats:
Union Sq. Home Owner <i>*owns primary residence in Union Square</i>	2
Union Sq. Renter <i>*rents primary residence in Union Square</i>	2
Union Sq. Business Owner or Worker	2
Charitable/Religious/Educational/Advocacy/Group or Org. <i>*Open to all formal and informal groups. A group may only run one candidate for this seat.</i>	2
Immigrant <i>*born outside the United States.</i>	2
Open Seat <i>*anyone who lives or works in Union Sq.</i>	5

To be on the ballot, candidates must:

- Prove eligibility for membership (see below).
- Self-identify the seats for which they are eligible and want to run, including open seats.
- Collect at least five (5) signatures on a nominating petition from eligible Neighborhood Council voters.
- Provide a candidate statement with a recent photograph.
- Submit materials to the USNC Elections Committee by 5pm on Thursday, November 9, 2017.

All voters will be asked to provide one of the following as proof of eligibility:

Age: government-issued ID, birth certificate, or official school documents stating age

Residency: Rent receipt, mortgage bill, or payment confirmation; utility bill, mail with name and address; lease; cross-listing on City Census (elections committee will have census lists)

Employment/Business: Pay stub, business card with address, signed letter from employer, or permit from City showing address

Property owner: deed or tax bill

Anyone who wishes to vote but whose place of residence or employment in the Union Square area cannot be verified may cast a provisional ballot to be verified later.

Union Square Neighborhood Council

Candidate Information Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

*Check all that apply!

_____ **I am over 16 years of age.**

_____ **I live in Union Square.**

_____ **I work in Union Square** (If yes, complete the following information).

Employer Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Please indicate which Neighborhood Council Board Seats you are eligible for:

Select all that apply	Description:	# of Seats:
	Union Sq. Home Owner <i>*owns primary residence in Union Square</i>	2
	Union Sq. Renter <i>*rents primary residence in Union Square</i>	2
	Union Sq. Business Owner or Worker	2
	Charitable/Religious/Educational/Advocacy/Group or Org. <i>*Organizations may only run one candidate for this seat.</i>	2
	Immigrant <i>*born outside the United States.</i>	2
	Open Seat	5

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Candidate Statement: In 100 words or less describe why you are running for Union Square Neighborhood Council and why you believe you are a good candidate for the board. *NOTE: If your statement is too long, it may be edited for brevity to ensure it can fit inside the candidate informational packet that will be provided to voters. (This may be submitted electronically to UnionSquareNeighborhoodCouncil@gmail.com or sent to P.O. Box 48, Somerville MA 02143).

[photo]

Union Square Neighborhood Council

Nominating Petitions Form

**All candidates must collect a minimum of five (5) signatures by 5pm on Thurs November 9, 2017.*

Candidate Name: _____

We the undersigned certify that we either live and/or work in Union Square and nominate _____ as a candidate for a seat on the Union Square Neighborhood Council Board.

NAME: Print/Sign		ADDRESS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

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