

**MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Kathleen Born, Chair  
Kaleb Abebe  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo  
Mosammat Faria Afreen  
Nikolas Bowie  
Kevin Chen  
Max Clermont  
Jennifer Gilbert  
Kai Long  
Patrick Magee  
Mina Makarious  
Lisa Peterson  
Ellen Shachter  
Susan Shell  
Jim Stockard

The Cambridge Charter Review Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30p.m. by the Chair of the Committee, Kathleen Born. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, this meeting was remote via Zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, Clerk of Committee Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Present  
Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Present  
Mosammat Faria Afreen – Present  
Nikolas Bowie – Absent\*  
Kevin Chen – Present  
Max Clermont – Present  
Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
Kai Long – Present  
Patrick Magee – Absent  
Mina Makarious – Present  
Lisa Peterson – Present  
Ellen Shachter – Present  
Susan Shell – Absent\*  
Jim Stockard – Present  
Kathleen Born – Present

**Present – 11, Absent – 4. Quorum established.**

\*Member Nikolas Bowie was present at 5:43p.m.

\*Member Susan Shell was present at 6:02p.m.

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from October 10, 2023.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes

Nikolas Bowie – Absent

Kevin Chen – Present

Max Clermont – Yes

Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Absent

Mina Makarios – Yes

Lisa Peterson – Yes

Ellen Shachter – Yes

Susan Shell – Absent

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 10, No – 0, Present – 1, Absent – 4. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born opened Public Comment.**

Stephen C. spoke in support of measures that would give Cambridge the powers to determine who can vote and with that power expand the franchise to include 16-year-olds and non-citizens and for elections falling on even years. They also spoke about democratic elections for the Police Review Advisory Board.

Anna Corning, Project Manager shared with the Committee that she would like to continue the discussion on the draft language on Resident Assembly. Anna Corning recognized Committee members for comments and concerns relative to the proposed language.

**Anna Corning requested Committee members conduct a straw poll on what language they would like to include regarding the selection process for Resident Assembly, Representative or Simple Random. Ten members voted in favor of Representative, three members voted in favor of Simple Random, and two members were recorded as absent.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion on whether the Committee wishes to specify a minimum number of participants for a Resident Assembly.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes

Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes

Mosammat Faria Afreen – Present

Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Yes

Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 12, No – 0, Present – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

Anna Corning recognized Committee members to offer suggestions on what they believe is a good minimum to be required for a resident assembly.

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Lisa Peterson who made a motion for 30 to be the minimum number of participants to be required in a Resident Assembly.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion for the Committee to approve the Discretionary Specifications section of the proposed draft language of Resident Assembly.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent

Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

Anna Corning shared that she would like to change the focus of the conversation to review and discuss the proposed draft language relative to Elections. Committee members were recognized for comments, suggestions, and concerns. Michael Ward and Patricia Lloyd from the Collins Center were available to provide feedback.

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion for the Committee to maintain a Proportional Representation system in Cambridge elections. Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion to enshrine 16- and 17-year-olds eligibility to vote in municipal elections.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes

Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – No  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 12, No – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to enshrine non-citizen eligibility to vote in municipal elections.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Jim Stockard who made a motion to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to run for municipal elections.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – No  
 Jessican DeJesus Acevedo – No  
 Mosammart Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – No  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – No  
 Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 9, No – 4, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion to allow non-citizens to run for municipal elections. Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – No  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – No  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 11, No – 2, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion to move municipal elections to even numbered years. Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Susan Shell who made a motion to enshrine that the City Council or an appropriate body of the City have the ability to allow Campaign Finance reforms.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – No  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 12, No – 1, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion for the Committee to establish a Campaign Finance Study Committee in the Transition Provisions. Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**Member Max Clermont shared concerns about a previous vote. The Chair, Kathleen Born made a motion for reconsideration on enshrining the City Council or appropriate body of the City the ability to all Campaign Finance Reforms.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes

Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – No  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – No  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – No

**Yes – 10, No – 3, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion to adopt the draft text of the Transition Provisions language as amended in Committee.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarious – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Kaleb Abebe who made a motion to recommend election procedure language be changed to authorize the City to use any tabulation methods.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent



Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**The Chair, Kathleen Born recognized member Ellen Shachter who made a motion that the Committee recommend that the election procedure language be changed to authorize the City to use any voting method of Proportional Representation.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes  
 Jim Stockard – Yes  
 Kathleen Born – Yes  
**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

**That the Committee recommend the remaining election procedures and relevant laws be compiled, updated, and drafted by the City, Election Commission, and Law Department consistent with all Charter Review Committee recommendations.**

**Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

Kaleb Abebe – Yes  
 Jessica DeJesus Acevedo – Yes  
 Mosammat Faria Afreen – Yes  
 Nikolas Bowie – Yes  
 Kevin Chen – Yes  
 Max Clermont – Yes  
 Jennifer Gilbert – Absent  
 Kai Long – Yes  
 Patrick Magee – Absent  
 Mina Makarios – Yes  
 Lisa Peterson – Yes  
 Ellen Shachter – Yes  
 Susan Shell – Yes

Jim Stockard – Yes

Kathleen Born – Yes

**Yes – 13, No – 0, Absent – 2. Motion passed.**

Anna Corning thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and reviewed what the plan is for future meeting discussions.

**The Charter Review Committee adjourned at approximately 8:00p.m.**

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Clean version of Resident Assembly draft language.

Attachment B – Clean version of Election draft language.

Attachment C - Draft text of the Transition Provisions language as amended in Committee.

Clerk’s Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed:

[https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/604?view\\_id=1&redirect=true&h=b91160d71cfb0394c602b5c235469faa](https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/604?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=b91160d71cfb0394c602b5c235469faa)