

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a federal update including an update on relevant court cases. (CM25#251) [[text of report](#)]
2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$24,020 received from the Office of the Attorney General, Local Consumer Aid Fund, to the Grant Fund License Commission (Consumer's Council) Salaries and Wages account. The funds will be used to allow the Consumers' Council to continue the mediation of consumer complaints from individuals in Cambridge as well as in Somerville, Arlington, Belmont, Watertown and Waltham which do not have their own complaint mediation program. (CM25#252)
3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the reappointment of Charles J. Marquardt as an Election Commissioner for a four-year term, effective through March 31, 2029. (CM25#253)
4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$274,577.93 received from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, State 911 Department, to the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Department Salary and Wages account (\$172,691.93), the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$4,753) and the Grant Fund Emergency Communications Department Travel and Training account (\$97,133). This formula-based reimbursement grant will support training of Emergency Communications Center personnel, classroom fees, and training materials. (CM25#254)
5. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$48,000 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$40,398), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$5,064), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$2,538). The grant is provided through funds from the Herb and Maxine Jacobs Foundation, and will provide support for Bridge Program advising, coaching and mentoring; advising and outreach for the ESOL/Certified Nursing Assistant Program; and career advising for other CLC students. The funds partially support staff salaries and program supplies. (CM25#255)
6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$275,237 to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account. The funds are authorized by MHSA to provide emergency individual shelter services at the Cambridge Salvation Army. Funds will be used to support the operation of the Men's Shelter, which provides 35 shelter beds, and to

support the Salvation Army's Daytime Drop-in Center. (CM25#256)

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-53, regarding a request that the City Manager consult with relevant departments about the implications of deploying license plate readers and provide recommendations as to whether adjustments in plans for deployment should be made in light of changes since approval in February. (CM25#257) [[text of report](#)]
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appointment and reappointment of members to the Committee on Public Planting for terms of three years. (CM25#258) [[text of report](#)]
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-34 regarding curb cut disputes. (CM25#259) [[text of report](#)]

TAX RATE HEARING [6:30pm]

1. [Tax Rate Letter from City Manager](#)
2. [Tax Rate Orders](#)

Agenda Item Number 1A Oct 6, 2025

ORDERED: That the City Council classifies property within the City of Cambridge into five property classes allowed for the purpose of allocating the property tax levy. Additionally, that the City Council hereby adopts a minimum residential factor of 0.600298 for the purpose of distributing the property tax levy.

Agenda Item Number 1B Oct 6, 2025

ORDERED: That the City Council approves a thirty (30) percent residential exemption for owner-occupied homes.

3. [Tax Rate Executive Summary](#)
4. [Commercial Tax Rate Examples](#)

ORDERS

1. City Council support for Massachusetts' community colleges and state universities and urging the state Legislature to pass the DRIVE Act with an amendment to cover student supports and other cuts beyond research grants as a first step toward public higher education funding that adequately supports students, faculty and staff. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Siddiqui (PO25#144)
2. That the City Manager is requested to reach out to representatives from Eversource to coordinate at least four public open-house meetings in the coming weeks regarding heat and electricity costs. Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#145)
3. City Council support of H.811, An Act authorizing cities and towns to provide for citizen-funded election campaigns. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson (PO25#146)

4. City Council support of the unionization efforts of Massachusetts State House legislative staff and H.2093/S.1343, and urge the recognition of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Wilson, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#147)
5. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to report back to the City Council on current efforts towards poison ivy control in the Fresh Pond Master Plan as well as recommended improvements for signage and regular maintenance planning. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Toner, Vice Mayor McGovern, Councillor Zusy (PO25#148)
6. That the City Council supports House Bill H.3564, An Act Relative to Infrastructure Replacement Projects, and House Bill H.3446 /Senate Bill S.2248, An Act Relative to Municipal Voices in Gas Utility Work that are currently before the Massachusetts Legislature. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor McGovern (PO25#149)
7. City Council support of Bill Lifting Caps on Municipal Solar. Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Zusy (PO25#150)
8. City Council opposition to Harvard University's efforts to strip union protections from workers in the Harvard Graduate Students Union bargaining unit, and to all forms of union busting, and go on record urging the Harvard administration to engage in good faith with the demands of our residents organizing with HGSU, HAW, and the Harvard Undergraduate Workers Union (HUWU), including fair pay, healthcare, and workplace harassment and discrimination protections. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Azeem, Councillor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan (PO25#151)

CHARTER RIGHT

1. The **Health and Environment Committee** held a public hearing on Sept 16, 2025 to review and discuss solar impact analysis and zoning options to encourage the use of solar energy systems and protect solar access for Registered Solar Energy Systems. [Charter Right – Azeem, Sept 29, 2025]

ON THE TABLE

2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 25-22, regarding a request to work with the School Department, the Department of Public Works, and other relevant departments to open the publicly owned parking at the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper School Complex for either residential free parking or commercial parking opportunities during “off” hours. [Tabled – May 5, 2025] (CM25#113)
3. That the City Manager is requested to explore with the Government Operations Committee whether the functions of the Peace Commission may be improved and enhanced

by bringing them within another City Commission or Department, such as the Human Rights Commission, and report back in a timely manner. [Charter Right – Simmons, May 19, 2025; Tabled June 2, 2025] (PO25#76)

4. That the City Council go on record thanking SEIU 32BJ for their vigilance, partnership and advocacy on behalf of unionized workers. [Charter Right – Simmons, June 16, 2025; Tabled – June 23, 2025]

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. An Ordinance has been received from Interim City Clerk Paula M. Crane relative to Dangerous Dog Ordinance 6.08.010 Ordinance. [Passed to 2nd Reading – Oct 6, 2025; Eligible To Be Ordained on or after Oct 27, 2025] (ORD25#14)

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS

1. An application was received from Brian Albrecht, requesting permission for a curb cut at the premises numbered 239 Brookline Street; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Historical Commission and Public Works. Response has been received from the neighborhood association. (AP25#39)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Arti Pandey, re: Longfellow Music Program.
2. Beth Gamse, re: Please allow sufficient time for consideration of proposed City Council Property Tax Rate Classification.
3. Brendan Hickey, re: Mid-Cambridge NCD quorum and solar protections.
4. Carol Agate, re: Linear Park.
5. Catherine Ahearn, re: City Council Meeting Statement, Oct 6 2025.
6. Eppa Rixey, re: Public Comment on 10/6 PO#2 (PO25#142).
7. Erin Miller, re: potential commercial real estate tax increase, impact on small businesses.
8. Ethan Frank, re: Concern over solar panel protections.
9. Federico Muchnik, re: 2072 Mass Ave. - Letter to Jason Korb and Sean Hope, Capstone.
10. Ginna Hall, re: Remove ALPR Cameras.
11. Helen Walker, re: In Support of PO25#141 re: Institutional Use Regulations and New Exemption from Dover Amendment.
12. John Trever, re: No more higher taxes!
13. Julius Fister Flock, re: automatic license plate reader cameras.
14. Kiril Stefan Alexandrov, re: Outrageous--this proposed 22% tax hike on commercial properties!
15. Lisa Birk, re: In deep support of removing all ALPR Flock cameras.
16. Lori Leo and Troy's mom, re: Longfellow Music Program.
17. Marilee Meyer, re: please support regulations for institutional and religious expansion.
18. Robert Kinch, re: Letter to Denise.
19. Sharmil Modi, re: Charter Right #137 re: Setbacks for Future Solar Protection.
20. Susan E. Mintz, re: Green Jobs Specialist.

21. Suzanne Blier, re: The impacts continue and we need to be more responsive.
22. Young Kim, re: Escalation of Unanswered Requests — Transparency, Accountability, and the Need for a Timeline.
23. Marilee Meyer, re: Returned mail_ see transcript for details.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Condolences on the death of Margarida Santos. Councillor Toner
2. Condolences on the death of Ronald Mederios. Councillor Toner
3. City Council thanks to the Sufi Service Committee (Boston) and its volunteers for a decade of selfless service to our most vulnerable neighbors, and in recognizing and the Committee for their vital contributions to addressing food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty in Cambridge. Mayor Simmons
4. [Condolences on the death of Joseph J. McGuirk.](#) Councillor Toner, Mayor Simmons, Vice Mayor McGovern
5. Condolences on the death of Shirley Ann Towne. Councillor Toner
6. Gratitude to Cambridge’s Own Lewis “Doc” West, Musician and Mentor, and best wishes for his continued success. Councillor Zusy, Councillor Wilson, Mayor Simmons
7. Condolences on the death of Joan F. Grainger. Councillor Toner
8. Condolences on the death of William “Bill” Mangone. Councillor Toner
9. Condolences on the death of Jacqueline Richardson. Councillor Toner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The **Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts and Celebrations Committee** held a public hearing on Sept 25, 2025 to discuss whether the City should reinstate something similar to the exemption of the Dover Amendment to regulate the density and impact of institutional development within residential districts. The 1979 & 1980 exemption was eliminated Feb 10, 2025 with the passage of the Multifamily Housing Ordinance. [\[text of report\]](#)
 2. The **Ordinance Committee** held a public hearing on Oct 7, 2025 on a Zoning Petition by Martin Bakal, et al., to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Sections 4.30 and 4.40 with the intent to restrict increasing pavement in Open Space districts by establishing “Paved way greater than 10’ wide” as a principal use within the Table of Use Regulations that would be prohibited in Open Space districts and permitted in all other zoning districts, with a footnote providing further clarifications and restrictions on the establishment of “paved ways.” [\[text of report\]](#)
- A. An Ordinance has been received from City Clerk, relative to the Martin Bakal, et al. Zoning Petition. (ORD25#25)

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Paula Crane, Interim City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity. (COF25#131)

HEARING SCHEDULE

Mon, Oct 20

5:30pm City Council Meeting

6:30pm The Cambridge City Council will conduct a public meeting on: **PROPERTY TAX RATE CLASSIFICATION**

Tues, Oct 21

12:00pm The **Human Services and Veterans Committee** will hold a public hearing on Oct 21, 2025 to further discuss the Out of School Time (OST) Expansion Study Report which was presented to the City Council on May 19, 2025. (CM25#127)

Mon, Oct 27

11:00am The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss the launch of the update to the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) and hear a status report on the current plan including any adjustments that have been or might be made before any update.

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Wed, Oct 29

3:00pm The **Health and Environment Committee** will hold a public hearing to review and discuss energy planning in Cambridge including expanding electricity capacity, expanding renewable energy productions, BEUDO energy requirements, and thermal energy network planning and any other topics relevant to the city’s overall planning for ensuring city goals of electrification may be met.

Thurs, Oct 30

5:30pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing on two Zoning Petitions by the Cambridge City Council, Massachusetts Avenue Zoning Petition and Cambridge Street Zoning Petition. The Committee will recess and reconvene on Thurs, Nov 13, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Mon, Nov 3

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 10

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Thurs, Nov 13

5:30pm The **Ordinance Committee** will hold a public hearing to continue the discussion from the Oct 30, 2025 hearing on two Zoning Petitions by the Cambridge City Council, Massachusetts Avenue Zoning Petition and Cambridge Street Zoning Petition. There will be no public comment.

Mon, Nov 17

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Nov 24

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 1

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 8

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 15

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 22

5:30pm City Council Meeting

Mon, Dec 29

5:30pm City Council Meeting

TEXT OF ORDERS

O-1 Oct 20, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

WHEREAS: Community colleges and state universities play an integral role in fostering the public good in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: Public colleges and universities provide the education and career training to allow for social and economic mobility; and

WHEREAS: Public colleges and universities across the state are major employers, provide a highly trained and educated workforce for businesses and industries based in Massachusetts, and the students attending public colleges and universities generate significant economic activity; and

WHEREAS: Public colleges and universities in Massachusetts are conducting research and studies that benefit people all around the world and have a responsibility to ensure costs to students are not prohibitive or do not require going into debilitating debt; and

WHEREAS: Public colleges and universities are experiencing severe disruptions in funding as federal grants that pay for research that benefits society and supports academic pursuits are being paused and canceled; and

WHEREAS: The federal budget under consideration is proposing severe reductions in funding for Pell Grants that students can use to pay for college; and

WHEREAS: In 2022, Massachusetts voters approved the Fair Share surtax on annual income above \$1 million to generate revenue specifically for public education and transportation, which has [generated more than \\$2 billion](#) for the Commonwealth so far; and

WHEREAS: Governor Healey [recently introduced the Discovery, Research and Innovation for a Vibrant Economy \(DRIVE\) Initiative](#), with an [Act](#) to set aside \$200 million from revenue generated by the Fair Share surtax to stabilize public higher education funding; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record voicing its support for Massachusetts' community colleges and state universities; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the state Legislature to pass the DRIVE Act with an amendment to cover student supports and other cuts beyond research grants as a first step toward public higher education funding that adequately supports students, faculty and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the state legislature and governor to strategically increase funding for public colleges and universities to lessen their reliance on grants, privatization, and student tuition and fees; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of Massachusetts having public colleges and universities that students can attend without incurring debt and that provide the salaries and benefits necessary to retain and attract the faculty and staff needed to maintain the quality of education our state deserves; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this Policy Order to members of the Cambridge delegation to the General Court on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-2 Oct 20, 2025

MAYOR SIMMONS

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Cambridge residents are once again facing rising electricity and heating bills, with these increases coming just as colder winter months approach – months in which utility usage, and the financial burden it imposes, typically intensifies for individuals and families; and

WHEREAS: These increases are particularly difficult for seniors, low-income residents, and those on fixed incomes, many of whom already struggle to afford basic living expenses, and who may not be fully aware of what support options and assistance programs are available to them; and

WHEREAS: Eversource, as the region's primary utility provider, is in a position to offer clarity on the causes of these rate hikes and to help residents understand their bills, discuss payment plans, and connect with affordability and hardship programs; and

WHEREAS: The City has a responsibility to help facilitate direct engagement between impacted residents and utility providers, while also ensuring that municipal departments are proactively sharing information on heating assistance programs such as LIHEAP, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, and other local supports; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to reach out to representatives from Eversource to coordinate at least four public open-house meetings in the coming weeks: one at the Cambridge Senior Center, one at the North Cambridge Senior Center, and two others in strategically chosen locations that serve high-need populations; and be it further

ORDERED: That these meetings be designed to allow residents to raise concerns, better understand their energy usage and billing, and learn about options for assistance, payment plans, and financial relief programs; and be it further

ORDERED: That the appropriate City departments, such as the Department of Human Service Programs, the Multi-Service Center, and any others with direct involvement in heating assistance efforts, be on hand at these meetings to distribute materials, assist with applications, and provide personalized guidance; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in a timely manner.

O-3 Oct 20, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR WILSON

WHEREAS: [Nearly \\$15 billion](#) was spent on elections nationwide in 2024, marking it as one of the most expensive election cycles in recent decades, and highlighting the growing influence of money in politics; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts campaign finance laws cap individual donations for local elections at \$1,000 but do not provide public matches for small-dollar donations, giving large donors a

significantly greater impact on local elections than small-dollar donors; and

WHEREAS: [H.811](#), *An Act authorizing cities and towns to provide for citizen-funded election campaigns*, which is scheduled for a hearing before the Joint Committee on Election Laws at the State House on October 21, 2025, would allow municipalities to create public election financing programs that match small-dollar campaign donations; and

WHEREAS: Public campaign financing is a proven tool for strengthening democracy, with the federal government providing funds to presidential campaigns, and [several communities across the country](#), including New Haven, New York City, and Portland, Maine, having some form of public financing for local elections; and

WHEREAS: Particularly at the local level, these funds have been instrumental in allowing residents from underrepresented communities to run for office, empowering the voices of small-dollar donors, conducting voter outreach, and getting more people involved in local elections; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of H.811; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this Policy Order to the Cambridge delegation to the Massachusetts General Court on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-4 Oct 20, 2025
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR WILSON
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Legislative staff at the Massachusetts State House play a vital role in ensuring effective government, supporting constituents, and advancing public policy, and a workplace culture grounded in equity, transparency, and respect directly strengthens the Commonwealth’s ability to serve the people of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: Since 2019, State House legislative staff have organized to advance necessary workplace reforms, and in 2020, Black staffers formed Beacon BLOC (Building Leaders of Color) to address systemic racism, inequity, and lack of representation within the legislative environment; and

WHEREAS: On March 31, 2022, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2222 notified the President of the Massachusetts Senate that a majority of Senate legislative staff had signed authorization cards supporting the formation of a Massachusetts Senate staff union, with House staff preparing similar efforts; and

WHEREAS: Despite this support, Senate leadership has not formally recognized the Massachusetts Senate staff union, citing that state law does not explicitly grant legislative employees collective bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS: [H.2093/S.1343](#), An Act relative to collective bargaining rights for legislative employees, currently before the Massachusetts Legislature, would amend state law to provide collective bargaining rights for legislative employees, establishing a clear framework for formally recognizing a Massachusetts State House Employee Union; and

WHEREAS: If recognized, the Massachusetts State House Employee Union would become one of the first state legislative staff unions in the nation, following Oregon’s 2021 precedent; and

WHEREAS: Staff organizers have identified several goals of unionization, including:

- the creation of a workplace free from discrimination and sexual harassment;
- health insurance coverage beginning on the first day of employment;
- fair and consistent pay grades across offices;
- measures to recruit, support, and retain a diverse workforce;
- clearly defined job roles and responsibilities;
- comprehensive professional development opportunities; and
- the right to collective bargaining to provide staff a voice in matters concerning their workplace; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have long supported unions and organized labor, affirming that every worker deserves the right to a union and the ability to advocate for fair working conditions; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of the unionization efforts of Massachusetts State House legislative staff and urge the recognition of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record in support of H.2093/S.1343; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this Policy Order to the Massachusetts Senate President, the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and the Cambridge delegation to the General Court on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-5 Oct 20, 2025
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR TONER
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR ZUSY

WHEREAS: Poison ivy grows mostly unencumbered along much of the perimeter fence at Fresh Pond posing a public health threat to people that come into contact with the plant or with dogs that have brushed against it, and rashes from poison ivy can be transmitted through direct contact with the plant or through secondary contact through animal fur; and

WHEREAS: 2025 [MassTrails Grant](#) awards have been recently announced with several projects related to poison ivy control, including grants for removal of poison ivy along the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway in Watertown and the Minuteman Path in Arlington; and

WHEREAS: The [Fresh Pond Master Plan](#) (FPMP) describes known issues of current conditions, including “widespread presence of invasive species, notably... poison ivy,” and indicate “poison ivy dominate[s] stretches of the Reservoir shoreline;” and

WHEREAS: While there are small laminated poison ivy warnings posted on the fence around the pond, installed to warn the public after visitor concerns expressed several years ago, existing signs are insufficient; and clear, visible signs in English and in other commonly spoken foreign languages in Cambridge identifying the plant and the risks it poses will help to keep park users safely away from poison ivy; and

WHEREAS: A petition calling for yearly poison ivy remediation at Fresh Pond was signed by over 150 park visitors, demonstrating public support for a plan of action focused on an effective poison ivy mitigation strategy and improved signage around Fresh Pond; and

WHEREAS: Unchecked poison ivy growth extending onto the walking path around Fresh Pond in many places, without an ongoing remediation strategy and without adequate signage warning visitors of its dangers, presents a public health risk to users of the park; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant departments to report back to the City Council on current efforts towards poison ivy control in the FPMP as well as recommended improvements for signage and regular maintenance planning; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council in a timely manner.

O-6 Oct 20, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN

WHEREAS: Cambridge has a [Net Zero Action Plan](#) and is committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS: Under the current [Massachusetts Gas System Enhancement Plan](#) (GSEP), local gas companies are spending billions to replace existing methane gas pipelines with new pipelines, despite the mandate to retire gas infrastructure by 2050; and

WHEREAS: Under GSEP, Massachusetts gas ratepayers paid \$1.5 billion last year in added charges and will be paying off the costs of planned new replacement pipelines for 50 years, placing an unfair burden on ratepayers, especially those who struggle with heating costs and cannot opt for non-gas alternatives, and locking in decades of further reliance on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS: Eversource has filed plans for [54 GSEP projects](#) in Cambridge over the next four years, affecting major streets such as Columbia Street, Harvard Street, Massachusetts Avenue and Walden Street; and

WHEREAS: None of these projects has thus far been evaluated by Eversource as suitable for less disruptive and costly non-pipeline alternatives (NPA), such as advanced leak repair or retiring sections of gas infrastructure, despite binding orders from the Department of Public Utilities that they do so; and

WHEREAS: Under current state law, city and town officials have no authority to access and review gas company information about the state of gas infrastructure in their community and no right to be informed about conditions that might or might not warrant pipeline replacement; and

WHEREAS: Under current state law, city and town officials are not guaranteed full information about planned pipeline replacement work early enough and in enough detail such that municipal projects including street repairs, water system repair, and bicycle lane work can be planned and coordinated with gas company GSEP work in a cost-effective manner; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council supports House Bill [H.3564](#), An Act Relative to Infrastructure Replacement Projects, and House Bill [H.3446](#) /Senate Bill [S.2248](#), An Act Relative to

Municipal Voices in Gas Utility Work that are currently before the Massachusetts Legislature and require provision of more timely and full information to municipalities about planned GSEP work and in addition, expand the role of city and town officials in reviewing and offering feedback and alternatives to gas company GSEP plans, where appropriate and with oversight by the Department of Public Utilities; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Clerk be and hereby is requested to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Maura Healey, Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka, Massachusetts House Speaker Ronald Mariano, each member of the Cambridge delegation to the legislature: Senators William Brownsberger, Sal DiDomenico, and Patricia Jehlen, Representatives Michael Connolly, Marjorie Decker, Michael Moran, Steven Owens, David Rogers, and Daniel Ryan, Secretary Rebecca Tepper of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Department of Public Utilities Chair Jeremy McDiarmid.

O-7 Oct 20, 2025

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR ZUSY

WHEREAS: Cambridge has ambitious goals to decarbonize, outlined in the [Net Zero Action Plan](#), and is committed to making energy more affordable and building clean energy production; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge is a municipal leader in clean energy, having net metered over 7.3 megawatts of solar so far; and these projects reduce emissions, save money for taxpayers, and advance solar development across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS: Legal barriers like the 10 MW per-municipality net metering cap and the regional limit across each utility service territory are no longer aligned with today's needs and the regional allocation will be exhausted within a few years, resulting in shovel-ready solar projects limited due to metering caps; and

WHEREAS: With additional projects planned for schools and municipal buildings, Cambridge is quickly approaching the 10 MW cap, which will limit net new meter projects, resulting in a loss of taxpayer savings and stalled progress on our Net Zero Action Plan; and

WHEREAS: The regional cap is just as concerning, as Eversource territory has only about 133 MW of municipal allocation left, which will likely be used up in under three years at the current pace, severely limiting solar projects in the region; and

WHEREAS: It is critical that the municipal exemption in [S.2269](#) — which exempts municipal projects from the regional limit—be adopted, and that the 10 MW per-town cap be lifted, and folding these provisions into [H.4144](#) would ensure that municipalities across the Commonwealth can continue to scale solar quickly; and

WHEREAS: With these reforms, municipalities like Cambridge can keep delivering clean, affordable energy at scale, while supporting the Commonwealth's climate and resilience goals; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council supports adding municipal solar cap relief to [H.4144](#) by including the provisions from [S.2269](#), including exempting municipal solar from the regional limits and lifting the municipal cap; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Maura Healey, Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka, Massachusetts House Speaker Ronald Mariano, each member of the Cambridge delegation to the legislature: Senators William Brownsberger, Sal DiDomenico, and Patricia Jehlen, Representatives Michael Connolly, Marjorie Decker, Michael Moran, Steven Owens, David Rogers, and Daniel Ryan on behalf of the entire City Council.

O-8 Oct 20, 2025

COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

COUNCILLOR AZEEM

COUNCILLOR SIDDIQUI

COUNCILLOR NOLAN

WHEREAS: Education, research, and academic inquiry are values intimately connected to the lives, careers, and passions of Cantabrigians; and

WHEREAS: The Trump administration's attacks on education, research funding, and academic freedom threaten the integrity of higher education as well as the broader Cambridge community; and

WHEREAS: The Trump administration has taken actions targeting Harvard University, Cambridge's [largest employer](#) and a cornerstone of the city's academic and economic life; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge stands with Harvard University and its students, faculty, and staff, against all attacks on higher education, including those targeting international students; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge continually recognizes the importance of labor unions to workplace and economic justice; and

WHEREAS: The Harvard University administration is [attempting to strip union protections away](#) from over 1000 workers in the Harvard Graduate Students Union (HGSU) and Harvard Academic Workers (HAW) bargaining units, many of whom are in tenuous positions in science research, taking advantage of Trump's anti-worker National Labor Relations Board and leaving the union with little ability to seek recourse through unfair labor practice charges; and

WHEREAS: Additionally, the Harvard University administration is refusing to recognize a subset of HAW members based [on their funding sources](#); and

WHEREAS: The Harvard University administration has resisted other mechanisms of redress, namely HGSU's contractual grievance and arbitration process, through which they have denied recourse; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in strong opposition to Harvard University's efforts to strip union protections from workers in the Harvard Graduate Students Union bargaining unit, and to all forms of union busting; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the Harvard administration to engage in good faith with the demands of our residents organizing with HGSU, HAW, and the Harvard Undergraduate Workers Union (HUWU), including fair pay, healthcare, and workplace harassment and discrimination protections; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Harvard University administrators and President Alan Garber on behalf of the entire City Council.