

City of Pawtucket

CHAPTER #3298

APPROVED 7/11/2024

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 11 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PAWTUCKET, 1996, ENTITLED “BIPARTISAN BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION” (Alternate Board Members)

Be it ordained by the city of Pawtucket as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Pawtucket entitled, “Bipartisan Board of Canvassers and Registration,” shall be, as follows:

§ 11-1. Election; composition; qualifications of members; clerk.

- A. The City Council shall elect a Bipartisan Board of Canvassers and Registration for the city consisting of three qualified electors of the city, not more than two of whom shall belong to the same political party. The City Council shall also elect two qualified electors of the city to serve as alternate members, not more than one of whom shall belong to the same political party. At the same time, the City Council shall elect a clerk for the Bipartisan Board of Canvassers and Registration.
- B. At any meeting of the Bipartisan Board of Canvassers and Registration at which a member is absent, an alternate may replace him or her for that meeting; provided, that the alternate member must be of the same political party as the member being replaced.

§ 11-2. Election and terms of members, alternate members and clerk.

- A. At the time of holding the first election of members of the Board of Canvassers and Registration, one member shall be elected to hold office until the first Monday in January, 1955, or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified, one member to hold office until the first Monday in January, 1957, or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified, and one member to hold office until the first Monday in January, 1959, or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified. The clerk of the Board shall be elected at the first election for the term of two years or until the first Monday in January, 1955, and until his or her successor is chosen and qualified, and biennially thereafter.
- B. Biennially after the first election, beginning on the first Monday in January, 1955, one member shall be elected for the term of six years from the first Monday in January, or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified to succeed the member of the Board whose term will expire.
- C. At the time of holding the first election of alternate members of the Board of Canvassers and registration, one alternate member shall be elected to hold office until the first Monday in January 2027, or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified, and one alternate member shall be elected to hold office until the first Monday in January 2029, or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified.
- D. Following the expiration of the initial term of each alternate member, one alternate member shall be elected for a term of six years from the first Monday in January or until his or her successor is chosen and qualified to succeed the alternate member of the Board whose term will expire.

§ 11-3. Vacancies.

In case any person elected as a member of the Board of Canvassers and Registration, or the clerk of the Board, shall decline to serve or neglect to qualify, or a vacancy shall occur in the Board for any cause, such office or vacancy shall be filled by the City Council for the unexpired term of the member or the clerk.

§ 11-4. Presiding officer.

One member of the Board of Canvassers and Registration shall be elected by the City Council as presiding officer of the Board.

§ 11-5. Office in City Hall; hours.

The Board of Canvassers and Registration shall have an office in the City Hall, which shall be open at all times as required by law.

§ 11-6. Statutory authority; duties of Board.

The provisions of this article are adopted pursuant to the authority of Chapter 8 of Title 17 of the General Laws of the state. The Board of Canvassers and Registration shall carry out all the provisions that are set forth in such chapter and all other provisions of law pertaining to Boards of Canvassers and Registration.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage.

**ORDINANCE OF THE
CITY OF PAWTUCKET**

CHAPTER # 3298

**INTRODUCED AND
LAID ON THE TABLE**

/ /

Clerk

**LAID ON THE TABLE AND REFERRED TO THE
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF
CHAPTER 11 OF THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
PAWTUCKET, 1996, ENTITLED
"BIPARTISAN BOARD OF CANVASSERS
AND REGISTRATION" (Alternate Board
Members)

Richard Goldst ^{5/22/2024} **Clerk**

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

6 / 5 / 2024

Chair

READ AND GIVEN FIRST PASSAGE

AYES 9 NOES 0

Richard Goldst **Clerk**

READ AND GIVEN SECOND PASSAGE

AYES 6 NOES 0

Richard Goldst ^{7 / 10 / 2024} **Clerk**

APPROVED

7 / 11 / 2024

[Signature] **MAYOR**



DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR



May 16, 2024

Hon. Terrence E. Mercer
President, Pawtucket City Council
City Hall
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

RE: Bipartisan Board of Canvassers and Registration Ordinance Amendment

Dear Council President Mercer,

I am submitting to you a request to amend § 11-1 and 11-2 of the Code of Ordinances, relating to the Bipartisan Board of Canvassers and Registration ("BOC"). The proposed amendment adds two alternate members to the BOC as permitted by R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-8-1. Pursuant to State Law, the alternate members will not belong to the same political party and may only serve as an alternate for a member of the BOC of the same political party. Such a change would allow for greater participation in the BOC and the consideration of additional and diverse perspectives in the voting process and elections experience and will provide for more efficient operation of the BOC as, for example, it allows for obtaining and maintaining a quorum with greater ease.

Should you or any members of the City Council have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact me. We appreciate your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Holt
Chief of Staff

CC: Honorable Members of the Pawtucket City Council
Tracey Giron, Director of Administration
Pawtucket Board of Canvassers
Pawtucket Democratic City Committee
Pawtucket Republican City Committee

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2024 MAY 16 P 4:44