

**ARTICLE 8.  
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 8-1. ~~Nonpartisan General Provisions for All Elections.~~**

~~All (a) e~~ Elections of ~~C~~city officers shall be nonpartisan, and election ballots or ballot labels for such officers shall be printed without any party mark, emblem, or designation ~~whatsoever.~~

(b) Signature Requirements—The number of signatures of voters in the city required to place the name of a candidate on the official ballot to be used at an preliminary election, or any special election for an office other than mayor, shall be ~~as follows:~~

~~(1) for the office of mayor; four hundred 400 signatures; and  
(2) for councilor-by-ward, councilor-at-large or school committee member; one hundred fifty 150 signatures;~~

~~(3) for ward alderman councilor, fifty 50 signatures from the ward district in which the election is to be held; for school committee member, one hundred fifty signatures.~~

(c) Ballot Position— The election commission shall randomly draw lots to determine the order in which names of candidates shall appear on the ballot for each office.

(d) Information to Voters— The name and address of each candidate and the candidate's address, but not any other information regarding the candidate, shall appear on the ballot at any city election; provided, however, that, -if the candidate in a regular city election is an incumbent of the office to which the candidate seeks election, against the candidate's name shall appear the phrase "Candidate for Re-election".

**SECTION 8-2. Regular City Elections**

~~(a) Date—The regular city election shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year.~~

~~(b) Ballot Position—The order in which names of candidates appear on the ballot for each office in a regular city election shall be determined by a drawing by lot conducted by the election commission.~~

~~(c) Information to Voters—If the candidate in a regular city election is an incumbent of the office to which the candidate seeks election, against the candidate's name shall appear the phrase "Candidate for Re-election".~~

**SECTION 8-3. Preliminary Elections: Special Elections**

(a) Date—For each regular city election and any special election called to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor, there shall be held a preliminary election for the purpose of nominating candidates. The city council shall set the date for each preliminary election.

~~(c) Ballot Position—The order in which names of candidates appear on the ballot for each office shall be determined by a drawing by lot conducted by the election commission.~~

~~(d) Information to Voters—Every petition requesting the placement of the name of a candidate for nomination on the official ballot for use at a preliminary election, or for use at any special election for an office other than mayor, may state in not more than eight words the elected public offices which the candidate for nomination holds or has held. Against the name of any such candidate there shall be printed on the official ballot for a preliminary election, or any special election for an office other than mayor, the statement contained in the petition.~~

~~(be) Provised Conditions Making Preliminary Election Unnecessary—If at the expiration of the time for filing petitions for nomination of candidates to be voted for any preliminary election, not more than twice as many such petitions have been filed for an office as are to be elected to such office, the candidates whose petitions have thus been filed shall be deemed to have been considered nominated to said office, and their names shall be voted on for such office at the succeeding regular or special election, as the case may be, and the Election Commission shall not print said names upon the ballot to be used at said preliminary election and no other nomination to said office shall be made. If in consequence it shall appear that no names are to be printed upon the official ballot to be used at any preliminary election in any ward or wards of the city, no preliminary election shall be held in any such ward or wards.~~

#### **SECTION 8-4. Special Elections**

~~The city council shall set the date for a s~~Special elections to fill the office of councilor, councilor at large, mayor or school committee member as provided in sections 2-5, 3-10 and 4-6 ; provided that the date shall be held within 120 days following after the date on which the election is called. A Ppersons elected at the a special elections shall immediately be sworn and assume thateir office.

#### **SECTION 8-5. Wards**

The territory of the city shall be divided into eight 8 wards.

#### **SECTION 8-6. Application of State Laws**

Except as expressly provided in the charter and authorized by state law, ~~all~~ city elections shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth relating to the composition, powers, and duties of the election commission, the right to vote, the registration of voters, the nomination of candidates, the conduct of preliminary, regular, and special elections, the submission of charter amendments and other propositions, the counting of votes and the declaration of results.

#### **SECTION 8-7. Certificate of Election and Appointment**

Every person who is elected, including those elected by the city council, or appointed by the mayor, city council or school committee to an office shall receive a certificate of the election or appointment from the city clerk. Except as otherwise provided by law, before performing any act under the election or appointment, the person shall take and subscribe to an oath to qualify

the person to enter upon the duties of the office. A record of the taking of the oath shall be made by the city clerk. Any oath required by this section may be administered by the mayor or any officer authorized by law to administer oaths. Records of transactions of all officers and boards shall be properly kept and shall, subject to such reasonable restrictions as the city council may prescribe, be open to the inspection of the public.