

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT  
FOR DOCKET ITEM #93-07

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chair), Ald. Hess-Mahan, Parker, Merrill, Lipof, Baker

Absent: Ald. Coletti, Sangiolo

Others Present: Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), Susan Burstein (Chief Budget Officer), Peter Koutoujian (Acting Elections Secretary), Dede Forgione (Deputy Elections Secretary), David Olson (City Clerk).

#93-07      INTERIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ELECTION COMMISSION  
requesting Board of Aldermen approval on the following: [3-14-07 @4:19 PM]

- Tuesday, July 31, 2007, 5:00 PM, last day and hour for submitting nomination papers and statement of candidacy with Election Commission
- Tuesday, September 18, 2007, City Preliminary Election Day. Polls open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, November 6, 2007, Municipal Election Day. Polls open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. [03-14-07 @ 4:40PM]

**ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Johnson not voting)**

**NOTE:** The Committee was joined by Acting Elections Secretary Peter Koutoujian and Deputy Elections Secretary Dede Forgione for the discussion. Mr. Koutoujian stated that the election calendar is developed to take into account what surrounding towns are doing, the time needed to undertake each step, and to avoid holidays.

Alderman Hess-Mahan asked about the date for submitting nomination papers and wondered if there was a state law that required a specific amount of time that they are available? Mr. Koutoujian stated that there was and that the timeframe was tight. He consulted with the Law Department who consulted with the Secretary of State's Office about the dates. The calendar gives a lot of time for candidates to get their papers in, but not much time for withdrawal, setting position on ballot, and a week to get the ballot printed and absentee ballots into the mail. The calendar is pretty much cut and dried. There is not much discretion.

Ald. Parker asked by what date the Elections Department would need to know if the Board decides to put an advisory question on the November ballot. Mr. Koutoujian stated that Elections would need to know by September, but the sooner the better.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia T. Johnson, Chair