

## Mayor's Update



The vote for the Ward 6 City Councilor-at-Large seat is being recounted.

The recount is requested by Greg Schwartz. He requested a hand recount of each ballot cast for the Ward 6 at-large seat.

On election night, the results showed that Schwartz received 6,712 votes, 30 short of Alicia Bowman who received 6,742. Schwartz is a sitting councilor, one of the two at-large councilors from Ward 6. The other, Vicki Danberg, presumably retained her seat with 7,460 votes.

As usual, after election night, a number of additional ballots were counted. These additional ballots include overseas ballots that can arrive up to ten days after the election and the ballots of people who voted provisionally on election day (i.e., their registration had

to be double checked). Coincidentally, the updated vote count still is exactly a difference of 30 votes: Schwartz received 6,748 votes, 30 short of Bowman who received 6,778. Vicki Danberg's vote count grew to 7,495.

State law allows any candidate to initiate a recount.

To initiate the recount, the candidate must file a petition with Newton's City Clerk, David Olson, indicating what results are to be recounted. The candidate also needs to include the signatures of 10 registered voters from each ward to be recounted. (Newton has eight wards and Schwartz has requested a recount in all eight.)

A candidate has 10 calendar days from the date of the election to file for the recount (i.e., by today, November 15).

The Election Commission met at 5:30 pm today, Friday, November 15, to certify the signatures from the eight wards filed with Schwartz' recount petition.

The Commission also decided at the meeting to hold the recount on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> in the cafeteria of Cabot Elementary School (229 Cabot Street). At 8:00 am the ballots will be piled into "blocks" of 50 to prepare for the count. The actual count will start at approximately 10:00 am. The public is welcome to observe all parts of the recount process.

On the day of the recount, 20 teams of two poll workers each will count every one of the approximately 15,500 ballots cast. The poll workers will sit facing each other across a table, one reading the ballot and the other marking a tally sheet. Each of the three candidates will also be allowed to have one observer for each poll worker to monitor the count.

The candidates' representatives can challenge the poll workers' reading of the vote on each ballot. If a vote is challenged, 10 poll workers will be in attendance to act as "runners," shepherding the disputed ballot in question to the Election Commissioners who will make the final determination.

Only the votes for the at-large seat from Ward 6 will be recounted. The results of the other 23 seats on the City Council and the eight School Committee seats are not being challenged. Election results can be found [here](#).

Results of the recount are expected to be available at the end of the recount on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be posted at [newtonma.gov](http://newtonma.gov).

Warmly,

Ruthanne

