

The City of Revere Massachusetts



City Hall

281 BROADWAY
REVERE, MA 02151
781-286-8200
Fax 781-286-8206

Diane R. Colella
Election Commissioner
Email: dcolella@revere.org

July 15, 2020

Honorable Mayor Brian M. Arrigo
Honorable Revere City Council Members
Honorable Revere School Committee Members
Revere City Hall
281 Broadway
Revere, MA 02151

Dear Mayor Arrigo, Revere City Council Members, Revere School Committee Members,

As per Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020, An Act relative to voting options in response to Covid-19, wherein it states "at least three days before moving a polling place, the city council must evaluate and report on whether the change would have a disparate, adverse impact on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age. The report must be posted on the city's website and in the clerk's office."

Since it is the responsibility of this office to move the polling locations when needed and when in the interest of Public safety it is only fitting that the report be prepared and posted by the Election Department.

In the interest of Public safety and in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Election Department moved a total of sixteen polling locations. Instead of having twenty-one precincts in sixteen locations we now have twenty-one precincts at eight locations. With the exception of two of the locations in Ward 5 and Ward 3 being moved to St. Anthony's Church Bingo Hall, the remainder of the polling locations being in Ward 1, 2 4 and 6 will all be moved to the gymnasiums at the schools.

Under the direction of Mayor Brian M. Arrigo, Dr. Dianne Kelly, Superintendent of Schools, and Robert A. Marra, Jr. Chief of Staff to Mayor Brian M. Arrigo, the locations were thoughtfully considered and evaluated. Site visits were done to be sure that social distancing could take place, two exists were available at most locations so that voters could enter and exit from separate entrances, and that all the locations were handicap accessible. Given that all those conditions were met the plan was put into place. Fewer locations reduce the number of poll workers needed and in view of the concerns about

vulnerable poll workers, fewer locations are preferred. Also, fewer locations will facilitate efforts to sanitize the areas and will accommodate important social distancing.

Schools will be closed on Election Days, Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The polling locations will be sanitized the day before and the day after each Election.

Consolidating the precincts allows for an easier set up the day before the Election and is faster for breaking down the polling locations the day after the Election. The moves were done to keep the voters and the poll workers safe from the Covid-19 virus. Consolidating the polling locations at the schools and the Church will allow us the opportunity to have the poll workers work together on Election Day so that all the positions are covered.

Additionally, sneeze guards, gloves, face masks, face shields, disinfectant wipes and spray will be provided for Early voting and on Election Days.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic three of the Department of Public works employees contracted the virus and are no longer able to work. Additionally, the City of Revere always depended on the help of the inmates provided by the Suffolk County Sheriff's department. This is no longer an option. In short, there is a shortage of workers to set up the polling locations. There is also a shortage of poll workers to man the polling locations however, the Election Department is working toward closing this gap.

As per the new regulations Vote by Mail ballot applications will be sent to every newly registered voter and any voter that has changed their address from July 1, 2020 through October 24, 2020. This office processes at least two hundred acknowledgement notices per day. As of this writing 271 absentee ballot applications have been received along with 30 Vote by Mail applications and 45 applications for military and overseas voters.

Additionally, the Office of Innovation and Data Management created an online Vote by Mail ballot application system where the voter completes the application and then sends it to the Election Department by way of electronic mail. The online application is in the testing phase and will be ready for roll out within a few days. The Office of Data Management has had substantive conversations with the Secretary of State's Office, the Mass Municipal Association and the MAPC. Once the final touches on the application are complete, the last step would be to get final approval from the Secretary of State's legal office.

That same department has also updated the Election Departments website along with Jacqueline McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant/Communications, Mayor's Office so that the information is presented to the resident in compartments or blocks. This makes it easier for the resident to find the information they are seeking.

I hope you find this information helpful and allow it to prove that the Election Department strives to promote the Electoral process and keep the Public safe.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane R. Colella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane R. Colella
Election Commissioner
City of Revere