



City Council
General Government
Meeting

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Justin Hurst (Chair)

~Final~

June 16, 2026

4:30 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

In Person:

Cladys Oyola, Election Commissioner
Chelsea Parmentier, Deputy Election Commissioner
Jaqueline Pleet, League of Women Voters
Councilor Hurst, Chair

Remote:

Erica Cruz
Councilor Davila *L

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Excused	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Remote *L	4:40 PM
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Excused	

Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Excused	

Call To Order

4:30 PM Meeting called to order on June 16, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. Continued discussion on the 2025 elections — mail in/absentee voting process.
2. Updates on previous concerns addressed.

Minutes:

On June 16, 2026, the General Government Committee of the Springfield City Council, chaired by Councilor Justin Hurst, met to review the 2025 election process, focusing on vote-by-mail procedures, voter outreach, and polling-place operations. Committee members included Councilors Gerry Martin and Victor Davila. Election Commissioner Gladys Oyola-Lopez and Deputy Election Commissioner Chelsea Parmentier provided updates.

The committee reviewed the distinction between absentee voting and vote-by-mail, noting that vote-by-mail is available to all registered voters while absentee voting requires a qualifying reason. Officials outlined ballot request options, including online, mail, email, phone, and in-person requests, and confirmed that applications must be submitted annually. Members discussed opportunities to increase municipal election participation through targeted outreach, expanded voter education, and additional information in census mailings.

Election officials reviewed procedures for addressing missing or delayed ballots, emphasized the importance of maintaining current voter registration information, and confirmed that local election ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Officials also outlined new verification steps with the Secretary of State's office following a 2025 issue that delayed processing of some online vote-by-mail requests.

The committee received updates on polling locations identified as concerns during the 2025 elections. Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services will close regular operations during the September and November elections to improve voter access. Coordination with Springfield Public Schools will continue to address parking and communication issues at school-based polling sites, including Rebecca Johnson School. A new contact has been established for Highland House, construction concerns at Mason Square Library have been resolved, and voter notifications regarding the Brookings School polling location change will continue.

Election officials reported ongoing efforts to increase voter participation through social media, community partnerships, public events, and poll worker recruitment. A future virtual meeting will be scheduled to review election warrants and polling locations. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]