



## Watertown City Council

Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-972-6470

### ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,  
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,  
Vice President &  
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,  
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,  
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,  
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,  
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,  
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,  
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,  
District D Councilor

### Report of the Committee on State, Federal and Regional Government Meeting Date: October 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

The Committee convened on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30pm in the City Council Office. Present were Nicole Gardner, Chair; Anthony Palomba, Vice Chair; and Emily Izzo, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct reappointment interviews for the Board of Election Commissioners.

#### Christopher Dunn

Mr. Dunn has been an election commissioner for twelve years. He explained the committee has a good working relationship. He described how the citizens of Watertown believe in the integrity of the election results. Mr. Dunn grew up in Watertown, and remembers when multiple candidates would run in both parties there would be both Republican and Democratic candidates running for state office making for more competitive races. Mr. Dunn recently took a class at UMASS on polling and one topic was how polarizing politics can be. An observation he had was the challenge of introducing and assembling new technology if everything is not clearly marked, especially for older volunteers. He finds it refreshing working with Watertown's City Clerk Noelle Gilligan, and he feels like he can call her any time and she will respond. He also discussed how Noelle has done a great job with recruiting poll workers and many of the volunteers are getting younger and are willing to take a day off work to volunteer. He admires how she has advanced in the position since she began working in Watertown several years ago.

⇒ **Action Item** Councilor Palomba made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Christopher Dunn for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2028. Voted 3-0.

#### Adam Brewster

Mr. Brewster has been an election commissioner for about six years. He believes the four members work well together. He feels prepared for Election Day, they put in many hours on the day of the election and try and prepare as much as possible and anticipate any issues that could arise. Having a fantastic and communicative clerk in Noelle Gilligan has been extremely helpful. Hiring new

staff that has experience in other municipalities has been a great way to see how they can serve the voters better, and how we can make improvements. He discussed how the amount of ballot questions does not necessarily make an election more complex and does not mean there is a higher chance we will be audited which has not happened since he has been a commissioner. He noticed how the average age of the poll workers has become younger, and there are roles for all ages when it comes to being a volunteer. He keeps serving as a commissioner because it's an important job, it's vital to have people not working in City Hall being part of the process and aware of the process.

⇒ **Action Item** Councilor Palomba made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Adam Brewster for reappointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2027. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Report prepared by Emily Izzo.