



## 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: March 31, 2025**

The Committee convened on Monday March 31, 2025 at 5:00pm 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 an interview for the Board of Election Commissioners.

#### Margie Apfelbaum

This would be Ms. Apfelbaum's first time serving on the Board of Election Commissioners. Ms. Apfelbaum stated her interest in elections started from a young age when she would go with her father to vote and the moment she turned 18 years old she registered. She has been active in elections ever since. Ms. Apfelbaum has recently brought this passion to her workplace at the New England Conservatory where she is looked to as a leader. The Dean of Students asked her to assist in getting out the vote (GOTV) and encouraging students and faculty to participate in elections. She discussed her efforts in GOTV and talked passionately about registering not only students who are Massachusetts residents but also urging students registered in other states and countries to participate in their elections as well. She described voting as the great equalizer. This is her fourth time applying for this role, she has had a long standing interest in serving on this board.

To prepare for this role she has looked at online meeting minutes from past Election Commission Meetings. Ms. Apfelbaum discussed how she has always had positive election experiences in Watertown, she mostly votes in person but has voted by mail and participated in early voting. She acknowledged the concerns around inactive voters and emphasized the importance of communicating with residents when it comes to completing their census. She also believes communication is the best way to get more participation in elections. Ms. Apfelbaum also explained how she is interested in learning more about ranked choice voting as an option for voters.

⇒ **Action Item** Councilor Palomba made a motion, seconded by Councilor Izzo, to recommend that the City Council confirm Margie Apfelbaum for appointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2029. Voted 3-0.