



Beverly Anthes, Chairwoman
Zoe Arthur
Joseph W. Mullen
Thomas F. O'Brien

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EJD*
FROM: Eda Jane Matchak, Director of Elections
DATE: January 17, 2019
RE: Deletion of Inactive Voters

On December 3, 2018, the City of Lowell Election and Census Commission was contacted by the Elections Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office regarding the need to delete inactive voters that have failed to answer the annual street listing since at least 2016, failed to respond to a confirmation notice and failed to vote or appear to vote from the period beginning on the date of the confirmation notice through November 6, 2018.

Accordingly, the 3,925 voters that have not participated in elections, returned census forms, signed nomination papers and/or petitions or updated their voter information will be removed for the voter list on Friday, January 25, 2019.

The process for both inactivating voters and removing voters for inactivity appears in both state and federal law. Since 2013 the Election and Census Commission has been working collaboratively with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office to ensure compliance with annual census regulations. Yearly, the City Census is mailed in February to each household in Lowell as well as post prepaid confirmation cards to all census non respondents in June. Therefore, it is the position of the Commission that those voters currently eligible for removal either no longer reside in the City of Lowell or Commonwealth of Massachusetts or have passed away.

Under state law, voters can only be removed for the following reasons:

- The Commission has received a death certificate from another city or town, vital statistics or a death notice from a local newspaper; the commission has received a duplicate copy of an affidavit of registration from the registrar of another community;
- The Commission has received a change of address notification from the registry of motor vehicles;
- The Commission has received a written request from the voter or the voter has confirmed in writing that he has moved to another city or town; or
- If a voter has not responded to the confirmation mailing and has not voted in two biennial state elections following the mailing of such notice and has not participated in any way.



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Below is a chart detailing the number of voters scheduled for removal and the year that they have last been active (i.e. voted, returned census forms, signed partitions and/or nomination papers, updated voter information) along with the number of elections held since each year of inactivation.

Last Year Active	Removals	Elections Since Inactivation Date
2015	1,708	9
2016	2,217	6

The Election and Census Commission will mail final notices of removal using forwarding mail services to all removed voters the week of January 28, 2019.

Sincerely,

Eda Jane Matchak
Director of Elections

cc: Christine P. O'Connor, City Solicitor
City of Lowell Election and Census Commission