



# Haverhill

City Clerk's Office, Room 118  
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490  
cityclerk@cityofhaverhill.com

## **Change or Polling Locations: Adverse Impact Report**

In accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020, the City Clerk of Haverhill is requesting that 2 polling locations located in Haverhill Housing Authority Elderly Housing buildings be combined with 2 existing polling locations for the Fall 2020 Elections.

According to Section 11 of this Act, notwithstanding Section 24 of Chapter 54 of the M.G.L. or any other general or special law to the contrary, the City Council may, by a recorded and public vote, change any polling place to be used at the primary or general election at least 20 days prior to the date of the primary or general election if it is determined that the public convenience or public health would be better served.

In making a decision to change a polling place, the City Council shall evaluate and report on whether such change would have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age, and not later than 3 days prior to changing a polling location, shall make publicly available on its website and at the office of the City Clerk a report on its evaluation.

Furthermore, when the new polling places have been designated pursuant to the new legislation, the board of registrars shall post on the municipal website and at other such places as it may determine, a description of the polling places and shall notify voters by using an electronic means, to the extent possible, such as via email or reverse 911 call. The following polling location changes, for the primary and general elections of 2020, to be voted on by a roll call vote are as follows:

The City Clerk believes that the public health and public convenience would be better served during the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic by consolidating these 2 locations into 2 other polling locations based on the following:

### **There is no adverse impact on the basis of disability or age.**

- The Haverhill Citizen Center is a centrally located, modern building that can safely house all the necessary equipment needed to properly conduct in-person voting while also accommodating any person with disabilities or any other special considerations.
- The Bradford Elementary School is also a modern building that can safely house all the necessary equipment needed to properly conduct in-person voting while also accommodating any person with disabilities or any other special considerations. It is a short distance from the Greystone Housing building.



# Haverhill

City Clerk's Office, Room 118  
Phone: 978-374-2312 Fax: 978-373-8490  
cityclerk@cityofhaverhill.com

**There is no adverse impact on the basis of race or national origin.**

- The Haverhill Citizen Center has been a place of congregation for many years and has hosted many events and support services for the citizens of Haverhill regardless of race or national origin. The Citizen Center housing the Council on Aging, Veterans Services and Human services department. This is an existing polling location and no voter should feel unwelcome or uncomfortable entering and voting within the Citizen Center
- The Bradford Elementary School is also an existing poll location. It is a public school building serving the children of Haverhill who come from diverse backgrounds. Again, no voter should feel unwelcome or uncomfortable entering and voting at the School.

**There is no adverse impact on the basis of income.**

- As the Haverhill Citizen Center is located centrally and an 8 minute walk from the Washington Square polling location (.3 mi). There is also ample parking available (not so in Washington Sq) and is close to public bus routes. This distance should not adversely impact the majority of voters.
- The Bradford Elementary School is 1 mile from the Greystone Ave poll location. There is no public transit in this area. We are working with the MVRTA to provide a shuttle bus for residents on election day for both location changes.
- If transportation issues are irresolvable for certain voters, there will be early voting at City Hall prior to the elections and mail in early voting with all postage costs prepaid.

Based on the information above and the information I hope that the City Council will find that these proposed changes in polling places are in accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 and will have no adverse impact on the voters in these locations.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda L Koutoulas**  
**Haverhill City Clerk**