

Statement from Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

Jan. 14, 2025

Dave Power, CEO of the Perkins School for the Blind and a longstanding Newtonian and Republican will be an excellent member of the Newton Election Commission. I know him to be a thoughtful, caring member of our community. He has sound judgement. He has the proven ability to work effectively with the public and public officials, professional organizations and civic groups. He has a deep knowledge of administration. He is committed to fair, objective, and unbiased administration of elections.

Massachusetts State Law is very clear. In Cities, the Mayor appoints members of the Election Commission, and the City Council votes on the approval of the Mayor's selection. By state law, City political committees do not have a role in recommending Election Commissioners. (Our research indicates that one Mayor, one time, chose one person that one political party recommended.) Neither the Mayor nor the City Council should cede their power or judgement to a city political party.

The makeup of the Election Commission - with two members from each of the leading political parties - is partisan.

The work Commissioners do is non-partisan. Their responsibility includes, among others, the certifying of voters' signatures on candidate nomination papers and state and local petitions, overseeing primary, preliminary and general elections, and certifying election results.

While affiliated with a specific party, my criteria for selecting an Election Commissioners are that they will be objective, unbiased and committed to holding free, fair and transparent elections according to Massachusetts Election Laws and Regulations. Dave Power meets all these criteria and will be an excellent member of the Election Commission.