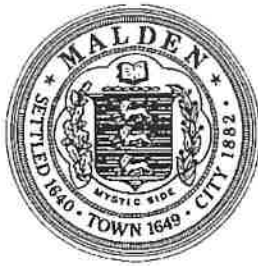


**CITY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Office of the City Council**  
**215 Pleasant Street, Suite 430**  
**Malden, MA 02148**

**Chris Simonelli**  
*Ward Seven Councillor*



**City Council**  
**Tel: 781.397.7000 x2130**  
**csimonelli@cityofmalden.org**

June 9, 2023

Jean Voltare, Chairman  
Board of Registrar of Voters  
City Hall, 215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Chairman Voltare and Board of Registrar of Voters Members,

During the 10-year redistricting process back in 2021, because of the population increase, the city's redistricting team was tasked with the difficulty of not only adding an additional precinct to all 8 wards, but also adding an additional sub-precinct in three wards 3,5 and 7. The sub-precincts were a requirement by the state legislature, that state representative districts could not be altered in any way from their previous district. The changes resulted in the city voting map increasing from 16 precincts to 27 precincts. This also meant the city needed to add another 11 polling locations to an already stretched availability of possible locations.

An additional challenge of getting the new precincts approved was the delay in the federal census numbers being released and the process being changed to the state legislature going first in the redistricting process followed by the city. This process was a change from previous redistricting where the city drew a map first and the state legislature followed. The delays caused the process to begin in the fall rather than the summer, causing a shortened deadline to get the maps approved by all parties.

With all wards increased to a minimum of 3 precincts and wards 3,5,7 having 4 precincts, the city redistricting team went to work on drawing precinct boundary lines and securing polling locations. Ward 3 made the Beebe School home to all 4 precincts, ward 5 having the luxury of two school buildings in the ward, were able keep the Salemwood School as 1 precinct and the Forestdale School had the capacity to host the three remaining precincts. Ward 7 did not have the same available options.

It was decided ward 7 would keep one precinct at the Ferryway School, have one precinct and a sub-precinct combined at one of the smaller polling locations, Suffolk Manor, leaving ward 7, precinct 2 in limbo. One of the requirements of a polling location, if not being held in the precinct that the residents reside, the precinct needs to touch the precinct where the polling location is being asked to take place.

Ward 7, precinct 2 does not touch the Ferryway School's boundary lines so the school was not be an option. With time running out for the maps to get state approval, the thought of exploring another option for an additional polling place in 7-2 was not realistic. Ward 7 precinct 2 voters were moved out of their ward, across Eastern Ave. into the Salemwood School, ward 5, precinct 1. This change, at the time, was the only realistic solution with 7-2 touching the 5-1 boundary.

I agreed and voted to approve this temporary solution for the state election in 2022 but vowed to find a more accommodating and accessible polling location for the 7-2 residents for future elections. Earlier this year, I approached the DAV on Willow Street, 2 blocks from the previous voting location (Suffolk Manor), in the heart of the 7-2 district, to see if they once again would consider to be a polling location. The DAV agreed to be the ward 7 precinct 2 voting location. The DAV has previously served as a

ward 7 polling location. The DAV is a handicapped accessible location with parking in the rear of the building. The building is on a main road and sits in the midst of the 7-2 residential neighborhood. I, at my own expense, lined 12 parking spots in the rear of the building that should satisfy all parking requirements.

It is my hope and request, the Board approve moving the polling location for 7-2 back into the ward and precinct where not just the majority but most of the voters reside. This would assure, what we always are looking for in voting locations, fair and voter access. It is the right thing to do for the voters and residents of ward 7, precinct 2.

I appreciate your consideration and am available if any further information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Simonelli".

Chris Simonelli  
Ward 7 Councillor

# POLLING PLACE AND REGISTRATION SITE ACCESS

LOCATION: D.A.V 85 Willow St. Malden DATE: June 22, 2023

WARD: 7 PRECINCT: 2

SURVEYOR: Carol Ann Desiderio SURVEYOR: Dinah Fajardo

TITLE: City Clerk TITLE: Elections Administrator

This checklist is based on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's regulations for polling place accessibility 950 CMR 51:00. To complete this survey, you will need a level and a tape measure. Please specify in the "Comments" section, below, any issues that need further clarification.

## 1. Site access (Path of Travel):

(a) The paths of travel to the polling place from the parking lot and from the street are clear, reasonably lit, and unobstructed.

(b) The paths have continuous common surfaces, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.

(c) The path of travel is the same or a substantially similar distance for all persons entering the polling place.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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**2. Parking:**

X (a) The required number of handicapped parking spaces is provided as follows:

<u>total no. of parking spaces</u>	<u>no. of handicapped spaces required</u>
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 75	3
76 - 100	4
101 - 150	5
151 - 200	6
201 - 300	7
301 - 400	8
401 - 500	9
501 -1,000	2% of total
1,001 and over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000

(b) **for parking lots striped prior to 9/1/96:**

N/A (1) The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 4 foot access aisle which is painted or striped yellow. The parking lot is reasonably lit.

N/A (2) The handicapped parking spaces are identified by a sign at each space or pair of spaces containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground.

(c) **for parking lots striped after 9/1/96:**

X (1) The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 5 foot access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonably lit.

X (2) Is there at least one "van accessible" space. (one in every eight accessible spaces must be van accessible, but no less than one) This space is 8 feet wide and has an adjacent 8-foot wide access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonable lit.

X (3) Each handicapped parking space is identified by a sign containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground. Van accessible spaces shall include the words "Van Accessible."

X (d) Any sidewalk provided at the handicapped parking spaces has a curb cut (sidewalk ramp), with a slope no greater than 1:12, at each space or pair of spaces.

N/A (e) If no parking lot is available, there is at least one on-street parking space which is at least temporarily designated as a handicapped parking space during the election in front of the polling place.

Comments (City/Town Representative): The D.A.V has two handicapped space for a parking lot that has nine spaces	Comments (Monitor):
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### 3. Entrance

X (a) At least one entrance to the building is accessible.

X (b) The approach to the accessible entrance is a paved walk or ramp with a non-slip surface uninterrupted by steps or changes in level greater than 1/2 inch. There is a level space 60 inches from the door on both the exterior and interior sides.

NO (c) Lever handles or other accessible hardware are provided on doors, so that they may be operated with a closed fist.

X (d) Doorways are at least 32 inches clear width. Door thresholds are no higher than 1/2 inch above the floor.

X (e) If the main entrance is not accessible, signs direct people to the accessible entrance.

X (f) If the accessible entrance is not the main entrance, it is unlocked and able to be used without assistance during the same hours as the main entrance.

<p>Comments (City/Town Representative): Signs directing people to ramp will be hung on front fence. We will prop door open and assign a poll worker to assist any residents entering and exiting the building.</p>	<p>Comments (Monitor):</p>
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#### 4. Ramps

X (a) If the entrance has stairs, there is either a permanent or portable ramp. If permanent, the ramp has a slope no steeper than 1:12.

X (b) The ramp is at least 48 inches wide.

X (c) The ramp has two pairs of handrails along both sides that are round or oval in shape and are set in pairs, one at a height between 34 and 38 inches and a lower one at a height between 18 and 20 inches.

N/A (d) If the ramp is portable, it is as close to 1:12 as possible, and either handrails or wheel guards at least two inches high on both sides are provided.

(e) Please describe the portable ramp (if applicable):

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Comments (City /Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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## 5. Building Interior

X (a) All interior doors, approaches, and ramps necessary to obtain access to the polling place comply with 3 and 4 above.

X (b) An accessible route which provides a continuous unobstructed path at least 36 inches wide is maintained inside the polling place and shall coincide with the route for the general public.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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**6. Voting Equipment**

X (a) All Polls - A sample ballot will be posted on the wall no higher than 48 inches above the floor.

X (b) Paper or Datavote ballots - At least one marking shelf (one for each party in a primary for Datavote) provides a clear space under it at least 30 inches wide, at least 27 inches clear to the underside, and no more than 32 inches high to the top. Any Datavote stylus handle is at least 1 ¼ inches thick and at least 3 inches long.

X (c) Voting machines - At least one machine has a sample ballot posted inside, not higher than 48 inches.

N/A Voting levers are no higher than 48 inches above the floor, or a "reacher" is available for the upper levels.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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**PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED SURVEY TO:**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
ATTN: Bridget Simmons Murphy  
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Elections Division  
1 Ashburton Place, 17<sup>th</sup> floor  
Boston, MA 02108**





This is the front fence will will hang signs, directing them to the side entrance with ramp.







