

**MUNICIPAL MANUAL OF  
THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE,  
MASSACHUSETTS.  
PUBLISHED IN THE YEAR 1901**

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Various

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**VARIOUS**

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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## Acts of 1899, Chapter 240.

### AN ACT TO REVISE THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives,  
in General Court assembled, and by authority of the  
same, as follows :*

#### TITLE ONE.

##### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 1. The inhabitants of the city of Somerville shall continue to be a municipal corporation, under the name of the city of Somerville, and as such shall be subject to all general laws relating to such corporations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act. Corporate name and powers.

SECT. 2. The administration of the fiscal, prudential, and municipal affairs of said city shall be vested in an executive department, to consist of the mayor, and a legislative department, to consist of a single body, to be called the board of aldermen. The executive department shall never exercise any legislative power, and the legislative department shall never exercise any executive power. Government.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the city council in joint convention, as soon as may be after the acceptance of this act, to divide said city into seven wards, containing as nearly as possible and as may be consistent with well-defined limits to each ward an equal number of male voters. In order that the new wards may conform to the present Wards, precincts, and election officers.



representative districts the present ward one shall constitute one ward, and the present wards two, three and four shall each be divided into two wards. Immediately after such new division of the city into wards, the board of aldermen shall divide such new wards into voting precincts, none of which shall contain more than one thousand registered male voters, and the mayor shall thereupon appoint, with the approval of the board of aldermen, election officers to serve therein. Action under this section shall not apply to the state election to be held the present year.

## TITLE TWO.

### ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS.

Elections and nominations.

SECT. 4. Except as herein otherwise provided, all elections for national, state, county, district and municipal officers, and for any other municipal purposes, shall be called and conducted according to the provisions of the general laws of the Commonwealth; provided, however, that all nominations, other than by nomination papers, of candidates for aldermen to be voted for under this act, shall be made by caucuses held in the several wards in which such candidates respectively reside.

Date of election and beginning of municipal year.

SECT. 5. The annual municipal election shall take place on the second Tuesday of December, and the municipal year shall begin on the first Monday of January following.

Mayor, aldermen, and school committee, election of.

SECT. 6. At such municipal election the qualified voters shall give in their votes by ballot for a mayor and members of the board of aldermen and of the school committee, or for such of them as are to be elected. The person receiving the highest number of votes for any office shall be deemed and declared to be elected to such office; and whenever two or more persons are to be elected to the same office, the several persons, up to and including the number required to be chosen, receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed and declared to be elected.

CITY CHARTER.

SECT. 7. If there is no choice of mayor, or if the person elected mayor shall refuse to accept the office, or shall die before qualifying, or if a vacancy in said office shall occur within the first nine months of the municipal year, the board of aldermen shall forthwith order a special election, and the same proceedings shall be had in all respects as are hereinbefore provided for the election of a mayor, and shall be repeated until the election of a mayor is completed. But if such vacancy in the office of mayor shall occur within the last three months of the municipal year, it shall be filled by the board of aldermen by a majority vote of all its members. If the full number of members of the board of aldermen has not been elected, or if a vacancy in the office of alderman shall occur within the first six months of the municipal year, the vacant office shall be filled by an election by the voters of the city in the case of an alderman-at-large, or by an election by the voters of the ward entitled to such representative in the case of a ward alderman. But if such vacancy shall occur within the last six months of the municipal year, it shall be filled by the board of aldermen by a majority vote of all its members. The person elected to fill such vacancy shall be chosen from the ward in which the vacancy occurs.

SECT. 8. General meetings of the citizens qualified to vote may from time to time be held, according to the right secured by the constitution of the Commonwealth, and all such meetings may, and upon the request in writing of fifty qualified voters setting forth the purposes thereof shall, be called by the board of aldermen.

SECT. 9. When, in the opinion of the board of aldermen, no convenient room for holding a caucus of the voters of any ward can be had within the territorial limits of such ward, the board may provide for such caucus a convenient polling place within the limits of an adjacent ward; and for the purposes of such caucus the polling place so provided shall be deemed and taken to be a part of the ward for which the caucus is held.

## TITLE THREE.

## LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Board of aldermen,—composition of, and term of office of members.

SECT. 10. The board of aldermen shall be composed of twenty-one members, three members from each ward, to be elected as follows: Seven aldermen-at-large, one being selected from each ward, shall annually be elected by the qualified voters of the city at large, voting in their respective wards, and two aldermen shall at the same time be elected by and from the qualified voters of each ward. The members of the board of aldermen shall hold office for the municipal year next following their election, or, if elected after the first Monday in January, for the remainder of the municipal year and until a majority of the new board shall be elected and qualified in their stead.

Board of aldermen to be judge of election and qualification of members; rules; quorum.

SECT. 11. The board of aldermen shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members, and shall from time to time make rules for its proceedings. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may meet and adjourn from time to time.

Mayor and aldermen to be sworn, when and by whom.

SECT. 12. The mayor-elect and aldermen-elect shall annually on the first Monday of January, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, meet and be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties. The oath shall be administered by the city clerk, or by any justice of the peace, and shall be duly certified on the journal of the board of aldermen. At any time thereafter the oath may be administered to the mayor-elect or to any alderman-elect who was absent or was not then elected.

Board of aldermen, president, vice-president and clerk.

SECT. 13. After a majority of the aldermen-elect have been sworn, the mayor, or, in his absence, the oldest in age of the members present, shall call the board of aldermen together, and shall preside until a president is elected, who shall thereafter preside over the board. A vice-president shall be elected, who shall preside in the absence of the president. At any meeting of the board, in the absence of