

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
YEAR 1915**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649057450

Annual Report of the Board of Election Commissioners for the Year 1915 by Various

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VARIOUS

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COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
YEAR 1915**

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OF THE

^{Boston}
BOARD OF ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE

YEAR 1915



CITY OF BOSTON
PRINTING DEPARTMENT
1916

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Listed Male Residents, First List.....	2
Listed Male Residents, Supplementary.....	3
Listed Male Residents, Including Supplementary.....	4
Registered Male Voters on First Printed List.....	5
Registered Male Voters, State Primary.....	6
Total Ballots Cast, State Primary.....	7
Democratic Ballots Cast, State Primary.....	8
Progressive Party Ballots Cast, State Primary.....	9
Republican Ballots Cast, State Primary.....	10
Number of Void Ballots Cast, State Primary.....	11
Democratic Votes Cast at State Primary, 1915.	
For Governor.....	14-18
For Lieutenant Governor.....	19
For Secretary.....	19
For Treasurer.....	20
For Auditor.....	20
For Attorney-General.....	20
For Councilors.....	21, 22
For Senators.....	23
For Representatives in General Court.....	24-27
For Sheriff.....	28
For Commissioners to Redistrict Suffolk County.....	29
For State Committee.....	30
For Delegates to State Convention.....	31-34
For Ward Committees.....	35-39
Progressive Party Votes Cast at State Primary, 1915.	
For Governor.....	42-46
For Lieutenant Governor.....	47
For Secretary.....	47
For Treasurer.....	48
For Auditor.....	48
For Attorney-General.....	48
For Councilors.....	48
For Senators.....	48
For Representatives in General Court.....	49, 50
For Sheriff.....	51
For Commissioners to Redistrict Suffolk County.....	51
For State Committee.....	52
For Delegates to State Convention.....	53-55
For Ward Committees.....	56-58
Republican Votes Cast at State Primary, 1915.	
For Governor.....	60-64
For Lieutenant Governor.....	65
For Secretary.....	65
For Treasurer.....	66
For Auditor.....	66
For Attorney-General.....	66
For Councilors.....	67, 68
For Senators.....	69
For Representatives in General Court.....	70-72

	PAGE
For Sheriff.....	73
For Commissioners to Redistrict Suffolk County.....	74
For State Committee.....	75
For Delegates to State Convention.....	76-79
For Ward Committees.....	80-84

Votes Cast at State Election, 1915.

Number of Registered Male Voters.....	86
Number of Men Registered Who Voted, State Election, 1915....	87
For Governor.....	88-97
For Lieutenant Governor.....	98-107
For Secretary.....	108
For Treasurer.....	108
For Auditor.....	108
For Attorney-General.....	109
For Councilors.....	110, 111
For Senators.....	112-122
For Representatives in General Court.....	122-136
For Sheriff.....	137
For Commissioners to Redistrict Suffolk County.....	138, 139
On Acceptance of Acts of General Court.....	140-143

Votes Cast at City Election, December 14, 1915.

Registered Male Voters, City Election, December 14, 1915.....	146
Registered Female Voters on First Printed List, June 1, 1915....	147
Registered Female Voters, City Election, December 14, 1915....	148
Number of Men Registered Who Voted at City Election, Decem- ber 14, 1915.....	149
Number of Women Registered Who Voted for School Committee at City Election, December 14, 1915.....	150
For City Council (For Three Years).....	151-163
For City Council (For One Year).....	164-170
For School Committee.....	171-177
On the Questions of taking a portion of Boston Common for widen- ing Boylston, Park and Tremont streets.....	178-180
On Liquor License Question.....	181-187
Schedule of Property Belonging to the Election Department.....	188

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ELECTION DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1915.

BOSTON, February 23, 1916.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of the City of Boston:

SIR,— In compliance with section 24 of chapter 3 of the Revised Ordinances, the Board of Election Commissioners respectfully submits its annual report.

NUMBER OF VOTERS.

At the city election held December 15, 1914, the number of male voters on the list was 111,533. The number of such voters on the first list published by the Board, August 1, 1915, was 101,178. From that time to the close of registration for the city election there were added the names of 13,391 male voters. The number of male voters on the final list sent to the polls on the day of the city election held December 14, 1915, was 114,569, an increase of 3,036 over the number on the list at the preceding city election.

There were 9,413 female voters registered for the city election held December 15, 1914. There were 11,043 female voters registered for the city election held December 14, 1915, an increase of 1,630.

WARD REDIVISION.

In accordance with the provisions of chapter 676 of the Acts of 1914 the City Council redivided the city into twenty-six wards, each of which contains the following population, number of legal voters* and number of registered voters:

WARD.	Population Census of 1915.	Number of Legal Voters.	Number of Registered Voters.
1.....	23,776	5,303	3,948
2.....	41,904	5,835	4,052
3.....	21,016	4,864	3,449
4.....	18,585	5,387	3,451
5.....	77,573	7,946	5,509
6.....	37,250	8,618	4,537
7.....	35,084	10,714	4,722
8.....	38,317	7,788	4,588
9.....	33,995	8,151	4,698
10.....	25,741	6,056	4,821
11.....	26,234	5,967	4,395
12.....	29,416	6,371	4,648
13.....	30,533	7,286	4,508
14.....	27,779	6,012	4,470
15.....	26,225	5,991	4,497
16.....	25,404	6,182	4,600
17.....	25,853	6,105	4,423
18.....	25,877	6,034	4,466
19.....	22,748	5,878	4,322
20.....	22,958	5,832	4,359
21.....	20,499	5,893	4,123
22.....	23,812	5,668	4,416
23.....	21,442	5,506	4,333
24.....	22,615	4,842	3,789
25.....	15,401	4,232	3,026
26.....	18,381	3,913	3,016
	745,430	160,342	111,166

*A legal voter is a citizen who has all the qualifications of a voter, whether registered or not.

NEW PRECINCTS.

In accordance with an order of the City Council "That the Board of Election Commissioners be hereby requested to prepare and submit to the City Council a

NEW MAPS.

In accordance with an order of the City Council the City Auditor was authorized to transfer from the Reserve Fund the sum of \$5,000 as a special appropriation to be expended by the Election Commissioners for the preparing, printing and posting of precinct and ward maps and for the purchase of 250 wall maps showing the new ward lines. The contract for the furnishing of the wall maps was awarded to the lowest bidder at the price of \$900.

The Election Commissioners also had prepared 200 copies of maps of each of the new precincts and 1,000 copies of ward maps in the form of atlases. After a conference with the Mayor it was determined to have this work done by the city agencies. The preparation of the copy for such precinct and ward maps was made by the Street Laying-Out Department and the printing of the same was performed by the Printing Department. By this method the City of Boston secured accurate maps which are exclusively the property of the city and not dependent in any way upon the copyright of private persons or corporations. By this way of doing the work a substantial saving was accomplished.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The law which allows the submitting to voters questions of public policy provides that the signers of applications shall append to their signatures their residence, with street and number, if any, and such applications shall be submitted to the Election Commissioners and the signers shall be certified as registered voters, but it does not provide when such applications shall be submitted. We recommend that such application shall be submitted on or before five o'clock in the afternoon of the Wednesday preceding the day on which it must be filed.

Section 199 of chapter 835 of the Acts of 1913 provides that "independent" nomination papers shall, before being filed, be seasonably submitted to the Election Commissioners for certification. The word "seasonably" is capable of an elastic construction, and as a matter of practice nomination papers are frequently submitted for certification a few hours only before the time of being filed. It would be better, in our opinion, to have a time fixed for submitting such papers, and we