

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING SECOND MAILING OF BALLOTS

An error was brought to the attention of the City Clerk's Office regarding the manner in which the Commonwealth printed the ballots. In order to correct this error, the City Clerk's Office immediately contacted the Secretary of State's Office, who supplied corrected ballots and instructions to the City to resend the corrected ballots to anyone who had received the first one.

The Secretary of State's Office has also provided the following message:

- The vote by mail ballot sent you last week contained a minor printing error.
  - We don't believe the error is substantive and should not affect the ability of any voter to vote for the candidate of their choice.
- To correct this, and ensure your vote is counted correctly, we sent new corrected ballots to any voter who was sent the original ballot with the error.
- The corrected ballot kit contains a new secrecy envelope, which is color coded for us to easily recognize the corrected ballot when returned.
- We ask that you vote and return the corrected ballot.
  - If you opt to return the original ballot you received rather than the corrected ballot, your votes will still be counted.
  - If you have already returned the original ballot, and return the corrected ballot later, the original ballot will be rejected and the corrected ballot will be counted.
- If you are returning your ballot by mail, the USPS recommends mailing the ballot by October 27th. To be eligible to be counted, the ballot must be postmarked on or before November 3rd and received no later than November 6th.
- You can also deposit your ballot envelope into the drop box located at 166 Boulder Drive.
  - If using the drop box, the ballot envelope must be placed into the drop box no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.
- If you prefer to vote in person, you can do so during early voting or on Election Day, as long as you have not returned the new ballot.

The City would like to thank the Secretary of State's office for their prompt response and support. Other than this, the City will refrain on commenting on any race to avoid inadvertently affecting the outcome. The City of Fitchburg Clerk's Office wants to assure the public that during the next few weeks it is their utmost priority to maintain the integrity of the voting process in the City of Fitchburg.