

Madalyn Letellier

From: Maia Lee-Chin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 11:37 PM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have lived in Somerville for five years, and what has always impressed me the most is its citizens' commitment to social justice and community building. I first started as a teacher in the Boston area, and the Somerville Facebook group set me up with all the necessary supplies before I began. I then released my first book and, with the help of my neighbors, launched it at Porter Square Books in 2024, becoming a bestselling author. I am proud to live in a community that supports the humanity of *all* its citizens.

I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear that we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide, and illegal occupation of Palestine. I have been approached by hard-working volunteers in the community with impressive amounts of community outreach that I have not experienced from City Hall itself. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville; to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well-funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is attempting to undermine this work through the use of high-paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to place a question on the ballot was followed precisely, as clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear that we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities, such as Medford and Northampton, have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same.

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Best,
Maia Lee-Chin

Madalyn Letellier

From: Heather Redding <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:17 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Nicholas Salerno; Cindy Amara
Cc: All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: Palestine Solidarity question belongs on the Somerville ballot!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures - including mine - collected by dozens of local volunteers over the course of several months from Somerville voters in support of the question. Somerville voters have made it clear: we want an opportunity to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide, and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition represents the will of 11,000+ people of Somerville; to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical and robs voters of the opportunity to make their voices heard.

I am appalled to learn that a former city councilor, backed by a well funded special interest group (read: the ADL) with unclear connections to Somerville, is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are parroting the false narrative that any criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza and the West Bank constitute antisemitism. Nothing is more universal and anti-discriminatory than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear: we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same. At a minimum, give voters the right to choose.

I am respectfully asking that you overrule the objections and put the Palestine Solidarity measure on the ballot.

Best regards,

Heather Redding
[REDACTED] Somerville

Madalyn Letellier

From: Alexi Khechfe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:09 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Uphold the Palestine Solidarity Question

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,
I'm a Somerville resident and voter who supports and has canvassed for the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I and my neighbors have spent weekend after weekend tirelessly collecting over 11,000 signatures from our community members for this ballot question. Each signature represents a conversation about Palestine with a Somerville voter who wants to see our tax dollars used more ethically. The voters of Somerville have spoken - they want the chance to vote on this ballot question in November.

I have become aware of an objection challenging signatures we have collected. I am disturbed that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. We have followed the process for submitting signatures exactly as we were told by the City Solicitor and Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. The idea that some outside group can come challenge a community-led movement to change how our tax dollars are used is a gross violation of democratic principles.

Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today. I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to the democratic process in our city.

Best,

Alexander Khechfe
Ward 2 Resident

Madalyn Letellier

From: Laura Jean <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:08 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Palestine Solidarity question

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures, collected by myself and dozens of other local volunteers from Somerville voters, in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Where governments fail to respond, the people must act. We should have a say on where our tax dollars are spent. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Laura Curiel
Ward 4 Resident

Madalyn Letellier

From: asya <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:16 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: All City Council; Public Comments; RSJ
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Anastasia Aizman

Madalyn Letellier

From: Stephanie Fletcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Nicholas Salerno; Cindy Amara; Elections; LAW
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,
Stephanie Fletcher
Ward 3 Resident

Madalyn Letellier

From: Adam Fraust-Wylie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: I'm Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Adam Fraust-Wylie
Ward 2

Madalyn Letellier

From: Fiona Imami [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Massachusetts voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, they want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, they want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Fiona Imami
[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: Will Capriola [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. It wouldn't surprise me if you're receiving many emails starting the same way, so let me write mine as a personal story:

For the past 6 months, I have been collecting signatures from my neighbors in support of placing this question on the ballot. I did this every week, almost without fail for 6 months, often 2, 3, 4 days a week. I stood in a public location for hours asking other Somerville voters if they'd like to submit their signature. I did it all as a volunteer for a campaign that hadn't raised a penny until its first fundraising call just a couple weeks ago.

I stood under an umbrella on cold rainy days collecting signatures. I got sunburned in the height of summer collecting signatures. I spent countless hours of my precious free time-- weekends and weeknights-- outside in my community because I believe in my community and this ballot question. I believe in following democracy and upholding our democratic practices. I believe that we can and must act when there is unfathomable violence funded by our tax dollars.

The challenge to this ballot question comes from a group with nebulous ties to Somerville and eyebrow-raising financial backing that certainly comes from well beyond our community. They are trying to override and negate the democratic process that you, I, and over ten thousand other city residents have participated in together. What all of us in Somerville share is a respect for democracy. Please do your part to defend democracy, prevent a few powerful individuals from silencing the community voice, and ensure that the city can vote.

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Will Capriola

Madalyn Letellier

From: Gabrielle Robertson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:20 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Palestine Solidarity question: Overrule the objection

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a community member and employee at MIT who supports the **advisory, non-binding public opinion question on solidarity with Palestine and managing our budget in line with our Somerville values**. I have become aware of an objection challenging a **valid petition to put this question on the ballot, signed by more than 11,000 Somerville voters**. I am asking that you **overrule the objections** and put the measure on the ballot today, to uphold the democratic process in Somerville and respect months of community outreach and intentional, constructive conversations. Somerville voters have made it very clear that we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine.

I am appalled that a well-funded special interest group with **unclear connections to Somerville** is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The ballot question was submitted following the exact process put forward and clarified by your bodies of government, the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. The question is not discriminatory but upholds human rights, and **our democratic right to oppose genocide, and democratically oversee our budget**. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear: **we want to vote on the Palestine Solidarity question**.

Thank you,
Gabrielle Robertson

Madalyn Letellier

From: Martha [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:08 AM
To: Nicholas Salerno; Cindy Amara; LAW; Elections
Cc: RSJ; All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter and as an American Jew who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today.

Sincerely,

Martha Schnee

Madalyn Letellier

From: Bonnie Lipton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Fwd: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Forwarding email I sent to Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara, as I inadvertently left all of you off the CC. Apologies.

Best,
Bonnie Lipton
Somerville Resident (Ward 6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bonnie Lipton [REDACTED] >
Date: Fri, Oct 3, 2025 at 11:04 AM
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

As a Jewish woman, I do not believe that a ballot question about Israel is anti-semitic or prejudicial. Many Jewish people, including myself, are unhappy with Israel's actions, and feel compelled to stand up for the Palestinian people who are dying. Claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Best,
Bonnie Lipton
Somerville resident (Ward 6)

Madalyn Letellier

From: Sophie Cash [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter, Jew, and deeply concerned community member. I support the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question, and I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear: we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville; to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well-funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear: we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same! At the very least, Somerville voters have the right to a fair democratic process to vote on a ballot measure.

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Thank you,
Sophie

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Sophie Cash
[REDACTED], Somerville MA 02144

Madalyn Letellier

From: Ri Dresser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:01 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Maria Dresser

Madalyn Letellier

From: Juliette Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Nicholas Salerno; Cindy Amara; LAW; Elections
Cc: All City Council; RSJ; Public Comments
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

As a volunteer canvasser who spoke to many Somerville taxpayers about this question myself, I know there is overwhelming support for putting this question on the ballot. I know our community wants to divest our tax dollars from Israel's apartheid, genocide, and occupation of Palestine — and we deserve the right to vote on that!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Thank you,
Juliette Williams
Ward 2 resident and voter

Madalyn Letellier

From: Michael Saad [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Michael Saad, Somerville Resident

Madalyn Letellier

From: erich ludwig [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:44 AM
To: Nicholas Salerno; Cindy Amara; LAW; Elections
Cc: All City Council; RSJ; Public Comments
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter (& a Jew) who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question.

I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undermine democracy and the opportunity for voters to have their voice heard at the ballot box through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments.

The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission.

Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide.

Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

-erich ludwig

--

Erich Ludwig
[REDACTED] mobile / WhatsApp
he/him/his
[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: JG Peters [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:03 PM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a former resident of Somerville Ward 7 and current resident of Cambridge who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Free Palestine,

Julia Gray Peters

Madalyn Letellier

From: Lauren Colodny [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:04 PM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; All City Council; RSJ
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the November ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a 5 year Somerville resident who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers, myself included, from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. We have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach and the people have made their demands clear. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, we want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

All the best,

Lauren Rebel Colodny

they/them/theirs

MLIS, B.A. in Peace and Justice Studies

[REDACTED]

Madalyn Letellier

From: Molly Fraust- Wylie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:17 PM
Cc: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno; Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

Another option for the letter draft -- mentioning more the advisory/non-binding public opinion part and democratic rights

I'm writing as a resident & voter in Somerville who supports the advisory, non-binding public opinion question on solidarity with Palestine and managing our budget in line with our Somerville values. I have become aware of an objection challenging a valid petition to put this question on the ballot, signed by more than 11,000 Somerville voters. I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today, to uphold the democratic process in Somerville and respect months of community outreach and intentional, constructive conversations. Somerville voters have made it very clear that we want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine.

I am appalled that a well-funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The ballot question was submitted following the exact process put forward and clarified by your bodies of government, the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. The question is not discriminatory but upholds human rights, and our democratic right to oppose genocide and oversee our city budget. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear: we want to vote on the Palestine Solidarity question. Do not let outside special interest groups and private funding interfere our election process- the people have spoken- let us vote on the ballot measure!

Thank you,

Molly Fraust-Wylie
ward 2

Madalyn Letellier

From: Liz Roemer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:55 AM
To: Cindy Amara; LAW; Elections; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing as a Jewish citizen and voter in Somerville to express my alarm at the efforts being made to undermine the democratic process of citizens of Somerville by invalidating legitimate signatures from citizens of Somerville to put the Palestine Solidarity question on our ballot. These signatures represent the democratic will of our community and the effort to suppress them is unethical and undemocratic. Further, as a Jewish American, I vehemently oppose the suggestion that opposition to genocide, occupation, and apartheid by an ethnonational state is discriminatory against Jewish people. As many legal, genocide, and Jewish studies scholars have pointed out repeatedly, it is, in fact, antisemitic to equate the nation state of Israel with Judiasm and Jewish identity. It erases the Jewish identity of non-, anti-, and post-Zionist Jews who have always existed and are currently growing in number. I humbly request that my city government not engage in this type of discrimination and erasure of my identity as a Jewish person who support Palestinian dignity and liberation as part of my enactment of the Jewish values I was raised with.

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Sincerely,
Liz Roemer
[REDACTED] St#2

Madalyn Letellier

From: Azadeh Tajpour [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as someone who has canvassed for the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Somerville voters have made it very clear, they want to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville, to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a well funded special interest group with unclear connections to Somerville is trying to undo this work through high paid lawyers and misused legal arguments. The process for submitting signatures to put a question on the ballot was followed exactly, as it was clarified by both the City Solicitor and the Elections Commission. Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are absurd. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide. Thousands of Somerville residents have made it very clear, they want to vote for the Palestine Solidarity question. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same!

I am asking that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

Regards,
Azadeh Tajpour

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Azadeh Tajpour
Multidisciplinary Artist and Archivist
[REDACTED]