

From: [Mike Connolly](#)
To: [Elections](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [LAW](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Testimony to the Board of Election Commissioners re: Palestine Solidarity ballot question
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 9:57:17 AM
Attachments: [Somerville for Palestine ballot question.pdf](#)

Calling on the Somerville Board of Election Commissioners to reject the anti-democratic effort to throw the Palestine Solidarity question off the ballot

As State Representative, I have long stood for the principle that the freedom to criticize any and all governments must be protected, and that criticism of the Israeli government is not inherently antisemitic, and that all residents should be free to engage in various legitimate political actions that seek to change government policies, both at home and abroad.

In this moment where a broad array of human rights organizations and global leaders have concluded that Israel is committing genocide in Palestine, hundreds of Somerville residents took to the streets this summer to gather over 11,000 signatures to put a non-binding advisory question on the November 4, 2025 municipal ballot. In so doing, these activists have drawn inspiration from past efforts, such as the movement that worked to end apartheid in South Africa.

Now, a new group, “Somerville United Against Discrimination,” has emerged and is seeking to throw the Palestine Solidarity question off the ballot. None of the arguments in opposition to allowing the question to be placed on the ballot make sense. Somerville for Palestine collected more than enough signatures in accordance with the law, and while voters are free to consider various arguments in support or opposition to the ballot question — it is wrong to claim the ballot question itself is discriminatory. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Board of Election Commissioners to overrule these anti-democratic objections and to place the question on the ballot today.

Yours in service,

Rep. Mike Connolly



Calling on the Somerville Board of Election Commissioners to reject the anti-democratic effort to throw the Palestine Solidarity question off the ballot

As State Representative, I have long stood for the principle that the freedom to criticize any and all governments must be protected, and that criticism of the Israeli government is not inherently antisemitic, and that all residents should be free to engage in various legitimate political actions that seek to change government policies, both at home and abroad.

In this moment where a broad array of human rights organizations and global leaders have concluded that Israel is committing genocide in Palestine, hundreds of Somerville residents took to the streets this summer to gather over 11,000 signatures to put a non-binding advisory question on the November 4, 2025 municipal ballot. In so doing, these activists have drawn inspiration from past efforts, such as the movement that worked to end apartheid in South Africa.

Now, a new group, "Somerville United Against Discrimination," has emerged and is seeking to throw the Palestine Solidarity question off the ballot. None of the arguments in opposition to allowing the question to be placed on the ballot make sense. Somerville for Palestine collected more than enough signatures in accordance with the law, and while voters are free to consider various arguments in support or opposition to the ballot question — it is wrong to claim the ballot question itself is discriminatory. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Board of Election Commissioners to overrule these anti-democratic objections and to place the question on the ballot today.

From: [Willie Burnley, Jr.](#)
To: [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [LAW](#); [Elections](#)
Subject: Please Uphold the Divestment Ballot Question
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 9:35:43 AM

Dear Commissioner Solicitor Amara and Commissioner Salerno,

Today, I write to you as a Somerville voter and an At-Large City Councilor in regards to the challenge posed to the voter-led, non-binding ballot initiative. For the voices of the more than 11,000 signatories of this petition, as well as to safeguard the democratic process from undue influence, it is vital that the question posed by voters be present on the November ballot.

As one of the councilors present when this issue came before us earlier this year, it was my understanding that placing this item on file would allow for residents to immediately begin gathering signatures. I share the deep concern of my constituents that a relatively small number of wealthy individuals and institutions could disrupt Somerville's democratic process by silencing the voices of over 11,000 voters. Given the overwhelming amount of signatures gathered and the delay that the challenger has demonstrated in objecting to a portion of the signatures that, at this point, would not change whether this question would reach its necessary threshold, I believe it is appropriate to uphold the question's placement on our November ballot.

I will say, for the record, that I am a signatory of this petition. I strongly believe that all of our neighbors should have a say in where their taxes go and to determine whether our municipal funds will be invested in building schools in our community or blowing them up in Gaza. If voters are unable to even decide whether our City will remain complicit in genocidal acts, then our democracy itself will be degraded and more of my constituents will disengage from the democratic process altogether.

I appreciate your time in considering these matters and am available should you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Willie Burnley Jr
Somerville City Councilor-at-Large



City of Somerville Public Records Notice

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a

public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

From: [Naima Sait](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Fwd: Naima Sait_Ballot Initiative Statement
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 10:05:22 AM
Attachments: [Naima Sait_Ballot Initiative Comment.pdf](#)

Naima Sait
Somerville City Councilor, Ward 5
She/Her
Cell: [REDACTED]

Committee Assignments
Traffic and Parking (Chair)
Open Space, Environment and Energy (Vice Chair)
Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure Working Group
School Building Facilities and Maintenance
Equity, Gender, Senior, Families and Vulnerable Populations
Land Use

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

From: Naima Sait [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Oct 5, 2025 at 10:49 PM
Subject: Naima Sait Ballot Initiative Statement
To: <[REDACTED]>, Nicholas Salerno <[REDACTED]>

Dear Honorable Board of Elections Commissioner,

Attached is my public comment on the ballot initiative objection before you.

Respectfully,

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Naima Sait
Somerville City Councilor, Ward 5
She/Her
Cell: [REDACTED]

Committee Assignments
Traffic and Parking (Chair)
Open Space, Environment and Energy (Vice Chair)
Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure Working Group

School Building Facilities and Maintenance

Equity, Gender, Senior, Families and Vulnerable Populations

Land Use

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL
NAIMA SAIT
WARD 5 CITY COUNCILOR

Honorable Somerville Election Commissioners,

In my capacity as Ward 5 Councilor, I am writing to share my understanding of the action taken by the Somerville City Council regarding this ballot initiative and my constituents' concern regarding the objection before you.

On March 27th, The Council voted in favor of placing the petition on file which is considered a final action. It was my understanding from the Council discussion and after reading Solicitor Amara's legal opinion that after the Council takes action the petitioners can start collecting signatures immediately, so that Somerville voters could determine whether or not to place the ballot question.

Following the City Council's action to place the item on file, the petitioners were given signature sheets by the Elections Department along with a clear communication stating that signature gathering could begin.

The petitioners have followed the instructions shared by the Elections Department. I respectfully ask that you allow the ballot to proceed after the hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully,

Naima Sait

Madalyn Letellier

From: asya [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 10:23 AM
To: Elections; LAW; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: All City Council; Public Comments; RSJ
Subject: A Jewish Somerville voter's request to put the Palestine Solidarity on the Somerville ballot!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing to you as a Jewish Somerville voter to ask you to put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question on the ballot today.

I am so frustrated by the vocal minority — that is claiming to work in my name and for my safety — attempting to silence the voices of over 10% of the Somerville population. This group is subverting the democratic process by bringing forward their frivolous objection. Thousands of Somerville voters have made their desire to see this ballot question in this election clear. Do not bend the knee to this group!

If you allow their objection to hold, you are sending a clear message to the people of this city that money rules Somerville's elections. That a lawyer and funding from national groups like the ADL (a group that has levied their enormous resources against my Jewish friends in their campaign to squash criticism of Israel) counts for more than the will of the Somerville voters.

I ask you to put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question on the ballot today and let Somerville voters decide whether their city should invest in services and companies complicit in Israel's genocide of Palestinians.

Anastasia Aizman

Madalyn Letellier

From: Meg Bannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:01 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 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!

Meighan Bannon

Madalyn Letellier

From: Richard Solomon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:54 PM
To: Elections; Nicholas Salerno; Cindy Amara
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 an MIT student living in the area 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 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!

Sincerely,
Richard Solomon

From: [Jess Wygoda](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: A Jewish Somerville Voter's Letter in Support of Democracy: Put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot Question on the Somerville Ballot
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:58:44 AM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing to you as a Jewish Somerville voter to ask you to put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question on the ballot today.

I am very frustrated and disgusted by the utilization of my Jewish identity to attempt to silence over 10k Somerville voters who want the ballot question to be part of this election. Jewish safety can never and will never come at the expense of another group of people, and should never be an excuse to silence opposition to complicity to genocide. Furthermore, it is a travesty to undermine our democracy by refusing to allow the will of the people to be expressed. This group's objection to the ballot question represents a small minority of well-funded Somerville residents, funded in part by national organizations who are not local to Somerville at all, such as the ADL. This small minority should not be allowed to drown out the demand of the rest of our city to allow the ballot question to be posed to our voters. Somerville voters have made their stance clear: we want to be allowed a chance to decide whether our tax money should be utilized to invest in companies that are complicit in the Israeli genocide in Palestine.

I ask that you do not allow this subversion of our democratic process to take place, and that you stay true to the will of over ten thousand of Somerville's residents and voters who demand that you put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question on the ballot. I ask that you stand by our democratic process, and show our residents that being well-funded is not more influential than our own voices, and that democracy is still alive and well in Somerville.

Thank you,
Jessica Wygoda

From: [asya](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: A Jewish Somerville voter's request to put the Palestine Solidarity on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 10:24:08 AM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing to you as a Jewish Somerville voter to ask you to put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question on the ballot today.

I am so frustrated by the vocal minority — that is claiming to work in my name and for my safety — attempting to silence the voices of over 10% of the Somerville population. This group is subverting the democratic process by bringing forward their frivolous objection. Thousands of Somerville voters have made their desire to see this ballot question in this election clear. Do not bend the knee to this group!

If you allow their objection to hold, you are sending a clear message to the people of this city that money rules Somerville's elections. That a lawyer and funding from national groups like the ADL (a group that has levied their enormous resources against my Jewish friends in their campaign to squash criticism of Israel) counts for more than the will of the Somerville voters.

I ask you to put the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question on the ballot today and let Somerville voters decide whether their city should invest in services and companies complicit in Israel's genocide of Palestinians.

Anastasia Aizman

From: [Charlie Schön](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: From a Somerville Jew: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:56:21 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing to you as a Somerville voter and Jewish constituent in **STRONG** support of putting the Palestine solidarity question on the ballot. I want your assurance that the baseless challenges set forth in the past days will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. I have hope that in a city whose motto reads "Municipal Freedom Gives National Strength" **we WILL NOT let massive financially-motivated Super PACs disrupt the will of 11,000 of our constituents.**

I am deeply appalled that the ADL, a wildly wealthy special interest group with a proven track record of failing to represent Jews, has intervened in a grassroots campaign largely led by the Somerville Jewish community. I urge you to listen to your 11,000+ constituents (almost as many as TOTAL turnout-12,207 to vote for our mayor) and allow us to vote fairly and democratically on this pressing issue. 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.

As a Jew with Israeli friends and family I know it is my obligation to oppose genocide and investment in genocidal ideology wherever it appears, even within my own communities.

I am asking from the bottom of my heart that you overrule the objections and put the measure on the ballot today!

With hope in your commitment to our city's values,

Charlie Dov Schön Guterman
she/her



From: [Derrick Rice](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: In support of a ballot referendum despite challenges
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:46:18 PM

Commissioner Salerno, Solicitor Amara, and my elected officials:

I understand that the proposed "Palestine Solidarity" ballot question is being challenged in various ways. I think the arguments against the ballot question are tenuous. I worry that these challenges are being brought forward at a moment when there is limited time to make a determination. More specifically, I worry that the city will take a risk-avoidance posture and choose to NOT place the question on the ballot.

Removing the question from the ballot will be immensely harmful to the democratic processes this city has built. A ballot referendum mechanism was embraced by the charter review committee, and city council, and the mayor's office. It allows the residents of the city to democratically express their collective opinion on a specific matter, whether that opinion may or may not be binding.

I understand that municipal ballot questions are uncommon, and that this is the first one that Somerville has encountered in a long time. I assume that comes with some uncertainty about the procedure and limitations of municipal ballot questions. I also believe that all relevant authorities are acting in good faith and believe this ballot question to be legitimate (or we wouldn't be here). While I respect the right for the question to be challenged, that challenge should be carefully considered. There is not *time* for careful consideration before mail-in ballots must be printed, and I suspect the challengers are using that to their advantage.

In the face of uncertainty and under time pressure, I urge you to err on the side of protecting this democratic process. Please allow the residents of Somerville to voice their opinion on the matter. If the question is removed from the ballot in error, you will have disenfranchised the entirety of the Somerville voting population. Please do not risk that mistake.

- Derrick Rice (he/him)
Somerville resident, Ward 3

From: [Shana Berger](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: In support of the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:06:30 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am a Somerville voter, a Jew, and the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. I am writing in strong support of 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 attention to this matter.

Shana Berger
Ward 2

From: [Dylan Callahan](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: LET THE PEOPLE VOTE
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:36:05 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

Hello, my name is Dylan and 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 am one of these volunteers and I've personally spent many hours collecting signatures in public around our city. It would deeply upset me if all of my and my fellow volunteer's work was invalidated by some technicality.

I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. The people want a chance to vote on this measure. To block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a special interest group backed by a few large donors (some 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, the notion that this resolution is unfairly discriminatory is absurd. Somerville passed an [ordinance back in 2020](#) that prohibited contracts with entities who used prison labor. Clearly cities can look at more than cost alone when considering who to do business with. Much like that 2020 ordinance, this non-binding resolution would not endorse any discrimination based on immutable characteristics of the people running a company, but it would consider their business practices.

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

Thank you,
Dylan Callahan



From: [Elias Trout](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: Palestine Ballot Measure
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:25:13 PM

Dear Somerville Elections Commission,

I've recently learned about an effort to throw out a ballot question in support of Palestine which was signed by more than 11,000 Somerville voters over the past few months.

As a Jewish resident of Somerville, I've spoken to hundreds of neighbors over the past few months about the ballot measure and our city's tax dollars. While many of those conversations unsurprisingly centered around Israel, even those who disagreed with me shared a general sense of frustration over political decision-making in this country. Almost everyone I spoke to felt that our political system--in D.C. and right here in Somerville--has become disinterested in any kind of public policy. They feel taken advantage of, that their voice matters less than a few powerful special interest groups, that public interest matters less than wealth.

It has come to my attention that the committee recently formed to oppose the Palestinian solidarity measure has raised \$150,000 from just over 100 donors, while the measure itself collected over 11,000 signatures from Somerville voters. It pains me that, even in our own local elections, a few individuals can purchase political decisions in the name of a neutral proceduralism. It is the duty of the Elections Commission to ensure that each voter's voice is worth the same as the next. To do this, the Commission should set aside the new committee's objections and place the Palestinian solidarity measure on the ballot today.

Thank you for your time,
Elias

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Elias B. Trout

From: [Tameem Hasan](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Palestine Solidarity Ballot Question
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 2:07:27 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a concerned member of the Greater Boston community as well as local activist organization Boston South Asian Coalition, which opposes colonialism, genocide and human rights violations in all forms, regarding 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 (including myself) 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 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, and 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 that 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.

Tameem Hasan

From: [Veronica Cañas](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Palestine Solidarity Question on the Somerville Ballot
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 12:00:44 AM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing to you as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question and who has spent time this summer collecting signatures in support of putting the question on this November's ballot. During my time collecting signatures, I've met many Somerville voters from diverse backgrounds who support the question because of their commitment to human rights and moral objection to genocide, apartheid, and occupation. I've become aware of a committee formed to challenge the more than 11,000 signatures collected in support of putting the question on the ballot. I fear this challenge will disrupt the local democratic process and take away the voice of Somerville voters who want the chance to vote on this ballot question and who want to end Somerville's engagement with companies complicit in Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, illegal occupation of Palestine, and implementation of apartheid in Palestine and Israel. 11,000 signatures is a large percentage of Somerville voters.

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. The question is focused on companies engaged in violations of human rights, nowhere does the question state to cut ties with businesses based on national or religious affiliation. Other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same! Additionally, in 1988 Somerville passed a resolution boycotting South African apartheid. There is no reason to treat Israeli apartheid any differently. As a city that prides itself on its diversity and progressiveness, these words mean nothing if our compassion and empathy end at our city's borders.

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

Veronica Cañas

[REDACTED]

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Veronica Cañas (she/her)

From: [Aleph Altman-Mills](#)
To: [Elections](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Please put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:13:29 AM

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!

Have a good week!

Aleph Altman-Mills

From: [Meredith Porter](#)
To: [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Elections](#); [LAW](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Please put the Somerville for Palestine resolution on the ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 8:24:53 PM

Dear Elections Commissioners Chairman Salerno and City Solicitor Amara:

I'm writing you as a Somerville resident and homeowner since 1977 who is also an observant Jew.

I strongly urge you to ensure that the Somerville for Palestine resolution is placed on the ballot!

I'm dismayed by the opposition which is attempting to prevent the question from appearing on the ballot at all. I understand that there is an attempt to invalidate signatures gathered before August 7, but that the City Solicitor advised Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen and the Elections Commission that signature collection could begin immediately after the City Council took any action on the matter, and that based on that assurance, volunteers put a tremendous amount of effort into community outreach, collecting approximately 11,000 signatures.

I also understand that the opposition claims that the question is discriminatory, and I strongly reject that argument as well. Opposition to the policies of the current Israeli government is not discrimination against Jews or Israelis. I have seen a moving presentation by the backers of this measure, and it is clear to me that theirs is an effort to uphold human rights. Furthermore, communities including Medford and Northampton have recently passed divestment measures.

Somerville voters deserve the right to vote on this question, both those in favor and those opposed. Regardless of how powerful and well-funded the opposition may appear to be, you must reject their arguments and ensure that the question appears on the ballot. As I see it, a failure to do so would effectively disenfranchise the voters of Somerville.

Thank you for all your efforts in consideration of this difficult matter.

Respectfully,
Meredith J.A. Porter



From: [Hannah Grace](#)
To: [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: Please Respect the Democratic Process and the Will of your Constituents
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:43:47 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question, and is deeply concerned about our current state of democracy.

I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers over countless hours 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.

Whether or not you support the ballot initiative or oppose it, it's important to uphold the democratic process and allow Somerville residents to vote on the matter.

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 proud that Somerville has led the way in the past, and truly hope and believe we will overcome these challenges to the democratic process and create necessary and urgent change.

I am asking that you overrule the objections and allow Somerville voters to decide whether they want to oppose or pass the ballot question, not wealthy donors and PACs from outside our city.

Thank you,
Hannah Snell

From: [Alex Dorr](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:31:35 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter, and member of S4P, who has spent most of my free time over the last 6 months talking to thousands of my neighbors and collecting their signatures. I want your assurance that the baseless and insulting challenge that was just brought by people who have spent the summer not building community, but harassing and threatening their neighbors, 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.

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. Had any rules been broken, and signatures invalidated, we should have been notified and given the opportunity to recollect those signatures. But we asked repeatedly throughout the process, and were assured that we were following the rules. Any claim to the contrary is absurd and made in bad faith.

Furthermore, claims that the question is discriminatory are ridiculous. 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. The real discrimination and division comes from those challenging this ballot measure. They want to silence anyone who opposes the mass slaughter of Palestinians by the Israeli government. Real division is wanting to inhibit, by any means necessary, efforts to support our Palestinian and arab neighbors. Neighbors who are seeing their people, their families, their land, being destroyed. Real division is saying that their pain doesn't matter, and that we shouldn't take action to help them.

Additionally, to say that this is not the business of city government is purposefully naive. Deciding what our tax dollars get spent on is the core duty of local governance. If Somerville residents don't want their money going to horrors being committed overseas, it is our right to petition our elected officials to respond. 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!

Alex Dorr - Ward 7

From: [Rosalyn Aquila](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 11:29:39 AM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville resident and 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 (including myself!) from Somerville voters in support of the question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. I have talked to Somerville residents about the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question myself through an incredible community outreach effort that has lasted months — it is clear that voters want this question on the ballot. They want the opportunity to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine. This petition truly represents the will of the people of Somerville; to block it from the ballot 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. Thank you,

Rosalyn Aquila

--

Rosalyn Aquila

She/Her

Cell: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Amanda Mastrangelo](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 9:30:13 AM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I recently learned there is an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question. I have volunteered for this effort myself, and have seen the hard work all the volunteers put into collecting signatures, as well as their diligence and care in ensuring each signature is genuine.

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. 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!

Amanda Mastrangelo
[REDACTED], Somerville
[REDACTED]

From: [keira horowitz](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 9:07:26 AM

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!

Keira Horowitz of Ward Three

From: [Allie](#)
To: [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [LAW](#); [Elections](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:05:45 AM

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

I was out there collecting signatures. I have spoken to my neighbors early in the summer. At the farmers market people were overwhelmingly happy to see us, some people even stopped to say, oh I already signed but thank you so much or how can I get involved? Letting people who are well funded interfere with democracy is a threat to our city.

- Allison Fry, Ward 2, Somerville MA

From: [AMAL MARKS](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 12:31:13 AM

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!

Regards,
Amal Marks

From: [janine lotti](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:50:34 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am a life-long Somerville resident, and I have been a registered Somerville voter for 38 years. I support the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question.

I just learned about an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures from Somerville voters collected by dozens of local volunteers to support the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. I think efforts to block the question from appearing on the ballot would be undemocratic and unethical.

I signed the petition—just as I have signed candidate nomination papers and other petitions to bring issues to the voters so many times before. I have been involved in many signature-gathering efforts. I know from personal experience that it takes commitment, time, organization, and a lot of effort to obtain the signatures necessary to get a candidate or issue to appear on the ballot. Signature-gathering truly represents democracy in action. The Somerville for Palestine volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach. I respect these efforts, and believe these efforts deserve to be acknowledged.

It's wrong that a well funded special interest group is trying to undo Somerville for Palestine's work. 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.

I will acknowledge the argument from many that this is not a local issue, and that it does not relate directly to service provision for Somerville residents. Still, I believe it becomes a local issue if I, and enough other concerned Somerville voters, think that divestment actions can express our community's distaste for the actions of Israel. We should be able to ask for a statement from our government to that effect. 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,

Janine Weston Lotti, [REDACTED]

From: [Andy Cawley](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:06:29 PM

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, including myself, 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 the 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 from outside our community is trying to undo this hard work through highly 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. Multimillion dollar corporations are not a protected class, and their complicity in human rights abuses is not a protected activity. Nothing is more universal than upholding human rights and opposing genocide.

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. It is truly the least we can do.

Best,
Andy Cawley

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 10:20:43 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville 4 Palestine canvassing volunteer 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!

Best,
Kavya Crasta

From: Abbey Eisenhower
To: LAW; Elections; Cindy Amara; Nicholas Salerno
Cc: Public Comments; RSJ; All City Council
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 10:06:00 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am one of the many Somerville voters who support the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I am 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. And we want to have the chance to vote on this issue, by having the question on our ballot.

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 taking this seriously.

Best,
Abbey Eisenhower

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Abbey Eisenhower.

From: [Stephanie Geheran](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:26:49 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing as a Jewish resident of Ward 2 in Somerville who supports the right of my community to vote on the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. My neighbors and I deserve to determine whether or not our tax dollars will continue to fund what a U.N. Commission has deemed a genocide in Gaza.

It has come to my attention that there is an objection to the more than 11,000 signatures from Somerville residents who support this initiative. Volunteers worked tirelessly to document that support through community engagement. The results demonstrate that this issue is critical to my neighbors and I, and excluding it from the ballot would undermine both our voices and the democratic process.

I am appalled and dismayed that a special interest group is being allowed to interfere with the preference of our local community. 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.

And, as a Jewish constituent, reducing all members of my identity group to a single ideology is both harmful and false. We are not a monolith and should be allowed to represent our values and beliefs as individuals. The Palestine Solidarity Ballot questions will grant us that possibility.

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

Sincerely,

--

Stephanie "Sam" Geheran
They/Them



From: [Andrew DeBenedictis](#)
To: [Elections](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [LAW](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [RSJ](#); [Public Comments](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:21:33 PM

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!

Andrew DeBenedictis


From: [Roopa Chari](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [RSJ](#); [Public Comments](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:17:37 PM

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!

Sincerely,
Roopa Chari

, Somerville

From: [Leslie MacLean](#)
To: [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [LAW](#); [Elections](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:11:34 PM

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!

Sincerely,

Leslie MacLean

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 8:27:42 PM
Attachments: [statement.pdf](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

I signed the petition for the “Palestinian Solidarity Ballot Question” because I believe we have a moral obligation to speak out against human rights abuses, apartheid, and genocide. Our city’s ballot process gives residents a voice in shaping our collective values, and this opinion question deserves to be heard and voted on by the people of Somerville.

Democracy requires that we not silence those who seek accountability or justice. Placing this question on the ballot is about transparency and the right of residents to participate in the democratic process especially when it comes to matters of human rights and ethical governance.

From my own reading of the City Council’s rules, the term “placed on file” clearly means that the item was closed. I am frustrated that seemingly baseless legal claims are being used in an attempt to subvert the democratic process established by our city.

Regardless of the specific ballot question, legal maneuvers like this are abhorrent because they seek to disenfranchise the citizens of Somerville on a supposed technicality.

I respectfully ask that these objections be overruled.

Sincerely,
Jon Link

[REDACTED]

Candidate Somerville City Council At-Large

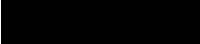
[REDACTED]

From: [Juliana Stoner](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 7:07:10 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

My name is Juliana Stoner. I am a Somerville resident who has spent hundreds of hours over the past several months canvassing Somerville voters for the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. We successfully collected over 11,000 signatures from Somerville voters - far more than the required amount to get the question on the November ballot. Throughout the countless conversations I have had with Somerville voters, it has been clear that the ballot question is very popular and, even more importantly, Somerville voters across political perspectives believe in democracy and want to have the opportunity to vote on the important issue of where their tax dollars go.

The requirements for getting a question on the ballot were followed precisely. Throwing out the ballot question at this point would be extremely undemocratic, unethical and unpopular among the vast majority of Somerville residents. Rather than the ballot question itself being discriminatory, throwing it out undemocratically despite it following the official requirements and purely based on the subject matter, would be. The legal challenges are absurd — other Massachusetts communities like Medford and Northampton have successfully passed divestment measures recently – Somerville can and should do the same

Juliana (Julie) Stoner
[she/they \(why pronouns are important\)](#)


From: [Benjamin Ross](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [\[REDACTED\]](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 6:56:30 PM

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!

Ben Ross
Somerville Resident

From: [Emily Doran](#)
To: [Cindy Amara](#); [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 6:29:18 PM

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!

Thanks for your consideration,
Emily Doran
Lincoln Pkwy

From: [Tim Santos-Heiman](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 6:16:05 PM

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!

Timothy Santos-Heiman

From: [Tara Suri](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:17:24 AM

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 and to block it from the ballot at this moment would be undemocratic and unethical.

I am appalled that a special interest group 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 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,

Tara Suri

 Somerville MA 02144

From: [Sam Heller](#)
To: [Elections](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [LAW](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 10:37:53 AM

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!

Sam Heller

From: [Aliza Arzt](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 9:32:52 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who is a religious Jew and a supporter of the ideal of the State of Israel (though not its current government). I'm concerned about the recent attempts to invalidate the signatures of people who signed the petition to place the Somerville for Palestine resolution on the ballot before August 7. Whether I would vote for or against this resolution is immaterial. What matters to me is that I see no reason to invalidate these signatures. This is what I have been told:

"The City Solicitor advised on the process in writing via Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen before the City Council voted, noting that signature collection could begin immediately after the council took any action on the matter that wasn't just approving it. They reiterated that process AGAIN to the elections commission over the summer."

Obviously I have no way to know if this is the case, since I have no access to Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen's private emails. I imagine that since there has been a new challenge to this effort to get the resolution on the ballot, the Elections Commission has the duty to review it. However, I would hope that they will consider it briefly and then discard it due to the information I cited above.

Given the information above about the City Solicitor's opinion, the time and effort invested in obtaining these signatures, the importance of ensuring a democratic process in Somerville (is it really fair to make the people who spent so much time and energy giving Somerville voters something to decide about to potentially have to contact 11,000 voters and get them to sign again?!), I want your assurance that this baseless challenge will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville. Many Somerville voters have made it very clear that they want the opportunity to vote to end Somerville's complicity in Israel's apartheid and genocidal approach to the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. 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. As I mentioned several times above, 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,

Aliza Arzt

[REDACTED]

Somerville

From: [Julia Bayer](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 7:34:12 PM

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!

Julia Rand
Somerville resident


From: [Jonah Coe-Scharff](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 5:56:34 PM

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--my own signature among them. 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!

Jonah Coe-Scharff

From: [Annika Schafer](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 3:01:02 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Jewish 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!

Annika Schafer
Somerville Jewish resident
Member of Somerville for Palestine Jewish Caucus

From: [Sasha Sabherwal](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 1:27:08 PM

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. Over 10,000 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,
Sasha Sabherwal, PhD

From: [Claudia Bennett](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 12:48:36 PM

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!

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From: [Josh McLinden](#)
To: [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [LAW](#); [Elections](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#); [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 11:59:50 AM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I recently became 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 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. 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 in written correspondence to Council President Ewen-Campen. 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,
Josh McLinden



From: [Sam Dolph](#)
To: [Elections](#); [\[REDACTED\]](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025 11:48:08 AM

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!

Best,
Sam Dolph

From: [Alana Sacks](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 4:50:44 PM

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!

Alana Sacks

From: [Kate Weathersbee](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:50:09 PM

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.

Sincerely,
Kate Weathersbee
Somerville Resident

From: [Abigail](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:37:36 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I've become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures, including mine, collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question, and 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 – an occupation that only this week resulted in the kidnapping in international waters of MA residents Adnaan and Torleif Stumo as they tried to breach Israel's illegal blockade of Gaza. Volunteers have engaged in a tremendous amount of community outreach regarding this ballot questions. 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 ensure the measure is put on the ballot.

Sincerely,
Abigail Zielinski

--

Abigail Zielinski
she/her/hers
BA Community Health
Tufts University 2022

From: [Selena Wallace](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:10:05 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question and has volunteered dozens of hours of my free time collecting signatures and talking to my neighbors about this question. I have become aware of an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by my fellow 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,
Selena Wallace

From: [Ben](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:48:29 PM

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.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Santaus

From: [Hill Saxton](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:22:00 PM

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!

Sincerely,

Adrien Saxton



From: [Mo Katz-Christy](#)
To: [Elections](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [LAW](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#); [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 12:45:01 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter + 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.

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

Best,
Mo (Molly) Katz-Christy



From: [Jack Gilles](#)
To: [Elections](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [LAW](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity Question on the Somerville Ballot
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 1:36:36 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm writing as a Somerville voter who supports the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question. I am aware of an objection challenging the over 11,000 signatures 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,
Jack Gilles

From: [Lexi Potter](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#); [Cindy Amara](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#); [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Put the Palestine Solidarity question on the Somerville ballot!
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 11:35:39 AM

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!

- Alexandra Potter

From: [Zivvy Epstein](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Request to put Palestine Solidarity on the ballot!
Date: Friday, October 3, 2025 3:48:58 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I am writing to you as a Somerville voter and Jewish constituent in support of putting the Palestine solidarity question on the ballot. I want your assurance that the challenges set forth in the past days will not disrupt the democratic process in Somerville.

I am appalled that the ADL, a wealthy special interest group with a proven track record of failing to represent Jews, has intervened in a grassroots campaign largely led by the Somerville Jewish community. I urge you to listen to your 11,000+ constituents (almost as many as TOTAL turnout-12,207 to vote for our mayor) and allow us to vote fairly and democratically on this pressing issue. 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.

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

Thanks for the consideration,

Ziv Epstein



From: [Rabbi Greg Hersh](#)
To: [Cindy Amara](#); [LAW](#); [Elections](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [All City Council](#); [RSJ](#); [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Stand with your Constituents tomorrow
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 7:55:16 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I'm Rabbi Greg Hersh, founder of V'ahavtah: A Judaism Beyond Zionism Synagogue in Cambridge. Many in this Jewish community are residents of Somerville and some were directly involved with this ballot campaign. I'm certain that tomorrow's hearing neither represents them nor the other 11,000 Somerville residents who petitioned to put this on the ballot.

If you seek to reduce antisemitism, you should cancel the hearing. How do you think it will look to the public if a group of well-connected, wealthy Jewish organizations swoops in at the last minute, after a months-long grassroots campaign, to quash your constituents' will? Will you stand up for those you represent or for outside Jewish groups? I urge you to side with your constituents who, in their non-binding ballot measure, simply want their local government to have the opportunity to represent their views.

Words like "discrimination" or "anti-semitism" should never be used to protect genocide and apartheid - The Jewish tradition staunchly opposes murder. Despite the pressures you face, you must stand up for democracy and let the people's voice be heard in November.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Greg Hersh
[V'ahavtah: A Judaism Beyond Zionism Synagogue](#)

From: [Ameen Asbahi](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: Support Democracy: Approve the Palestine Solidarity Ballot Question
Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:19:26 AM

Hi Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

Urgent request: Reject the baseless objections to the Palestine Solidarity ballot question. Over 11,000 local voters signed the petition, our community wants their voices heard on human rights.

The petition process followed all rules, confirmed by the City Solicitor and Elections Commission. Claims of discrimination don't hold up. Backing human rights and opposing genocide are universal values that unite us.

Let this measure go on the ballot, our democracy depends on it. It's time to listen to our community and stand for justice.

Thank you for prioritizing this critical issue.

Best regards,
Ameen Asbahi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Morgan Sammut](#)
To: [Elections](#); [LAW](#); [Cindy Amara](#); [Nicholas Salerno](#)
Cc: [Public Comments](#); [RSJ](#); [All City Council](#)
Subject: The Palestine Solidarity Question Must Be on the Somerville Ballot
Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025 12:29:35 PM

Dear Commissioner Salerno and Solicitor Amara,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing today as a Somerville voter in strong support of the Palestine Solidarity Ballot question.

I've been informed that there has been an objection challenging the more than 11,000 signatures collected by dozens of local volunteers from Somerville voters in support of the question, my signature among them. **I am writing to ask for 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 and I have personally seen and talked with many of them throughout Somerville. 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.

Morgan J. Sammut