



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • MAY 18, 2026

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber

5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

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I. ROLL CALL

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING SCHEDULE

Hearing Schedule

III. SUBMISSION OF THE RECORD

1. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on December 8, 2025.
2. Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on December 15, 2025.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a federal update including an update on relevant court cases.
CMA 2026-153
2. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a cross statutory transfer of \$322,825.00 within the School Department General Fund.
CMA 2026-154

3. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$38,905.18 from the State Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services.
CMA 2026-147
4. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$30,000.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Land Conservation Assistance Grant
CMA 2026-148
5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$450,000.00 to support the purchase of four parcels of land located within the town of Lincoln, MA.
CMA 2026-156
6. A communication transmitter from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$350,000.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant.
CMA 2026-149
7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appropriation of \$251,320.90 from the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Community Connections Grant.
CMA 2026-150
8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appropriation of \$15,000.00 from the Cambridge Food Pantry Grant.
CMA 2026-146
9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$5,993.40 from the Project Bread Summer Eats Grant.
CMA 2026-151
10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a report on Social Housing.
CMA 2026-141
11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to appointments to the Social Housing Task Force.
CMA 2026-152

VI. POLICY ORDERS

1. City Council support of H.968, H.886/S.647, H.1023, and S.570 and S.571 to enact extended producer responsibility and product stewardship in recognition that these laws will relieve municipalities of rising costs, and incentivize producers to sell products that are less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle, by requiring such producers to bear the costs for the proper recycling and responsible disposal of their products.
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI

POR 2026-103

2. That the appointment of Interim City Clerk Paula M. Crane be extended for an additional period not to exceed six months.

MAYOR SIDDIQUI
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR ZUSY
POR 2026-105

VII. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to confer with the relevant departments to immediately request Empower to resign from the Massachusetts High Technology Council and consider options for transitioning the City of Cambridge out of Empower and transferring its retirement accounts into one of the City's other retirement programs should Empower continue to be a member of the MHTC. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER IN COUNCIL MAY 11, 2026
POR 2026-97
2. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments including the Law Department to ensure that there is no new data collected by ShotSpotter devices and all existing data shall be kept, used, or deleted only as required by law under our Welcoming Community Ordinance and Surveillance Technology Ordinance. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY VICE MAYOR AZEEM IN COUNCIL MAY 11, 2026
POR 2026-98
3. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the Mayor's Office, Law Department, Election Commission, and other relevant City Departments to engage the Collins Center in assisting the City in reviewing policy options for allowing Cambridge voters to directly elect the City's Mayor. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS IN COUNCIL MAY 11, 2026
POR 2026-99
4. That the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on the projected fiscal impact of maintaining the current exemption for seniors, along with any administrative steps necessary to do so. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER IN COUNCIL MAY 11, 2026
POR 2026-94
5. That a special Committee of the City Council be formed to conduct a full and complete analysis of each of the proposed changes to the Rules of the City Council, with the goal of a transparent understanding of each of the proposed changes and the implications. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER IN COUNCIL MAY 11, 2026
POR 2026-102
6. A communication from City Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler transmitting the proposed 2026-2027 Rules of the Cambridge City Council. CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY IN COUNCIL MAY 11, 2026
COF 2026-73

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$10,000,000.00 to provide funds for the design and construction of improvements along Massachusetts Avenue and vicinity between Bigelow Street and Sindey Street. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-95

8. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$13,000,000 to provide funds for the reconstruction of various City streets and sidewalks.
PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-96

9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$12,000,000 to provide funds to replace and modernize the City's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-98

10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$14,000,000 to provide funds for remediation and improvements at Gold Star Mothers Park. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-99

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$28,500,000 to provide funds for the Municipal Facilities Improvement Plan. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-100

12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$12,795,000 to provide funds for financing school building

upgrades. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-101

13. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$8,375,000 to provide funds for the design and construction of surface enhancements and sewer and drainage infrastructure improvements in the Baldwin neighborhood. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-102

14. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$500,000 to provide funds for the City's Climate Change Program to improve protection against flooding and extreme heat. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-103

15. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$7,500,000 to provide funds for the sewer Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-104

16. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,000,000 to provide funds for design and construction of the Harvard Square sewer separation and stormwater management program. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-105

17. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$310,000 to provide funds for the replacement of Ozone generators at the Water Department. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-106

18. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 to provide funds for water works construction projects for repairs and replacement of water distribution infrastructure. **PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026**
REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ADOPTED MAY 18, 2026

CMA 2026-107

19. Chapter 2.127 Community Benefits Advisory Committee Ordinance.
PASSED TO A SECOND READING IN COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2026
ELIGIBLE TO BE ORDAINED MAY 18, 2026

ORD 2026-04

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Communications for the May 18, 2026 Regular City Council meeting.
COM 2026-25

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution recognizing National Telecommunicators Week (April 12-18).
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
RES 2026-81
2. That the City Council go on record urging all residents to honor the service and sacrifice by commemorating Memorial Day on May 25, 2026
COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR AL-ZUBI
RES 2026-82
3. Resolution on the death of Vinton Turner.
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
RES 2026-84
4. Congratulations to owner Daniel Roughan on the opening of his new restaurant Alice & Monarch.
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
RES 2026-85
5. Congratulations to the 2026 Inspire Awards Honorees.
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
RES 2026-86
6. Condolences to the family of Michael J. Sheehan.
COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY
RES 2026-87
7. Condolences to the family of Fernando M. Mendonca

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Health and Environment Committee held a public hearing on March 25, 2026 to review and discuss CMA 2026-21, related to Cambridge Municipal Code Ch. 8.28, "Regulation on Youth Access and Sale of Tobacco Products and on Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places," in order to (1) update the current ordinance to conform to widely adopted municipal policies, new state laws, and court decisions, as well as (2) to discuss the recent regulatory landscape in Massachusetts regarding tobacco products.
CC 2026-51

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Interim City Clerk Paula Crane, regarding an update regarding legislative activity.
COF 2026-76
2. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a memorandum regarding the search process for a permanent City Clerk.
COF 2026-77
3. A communication from Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a memorandum regarding information from the School Committee.
COF 2026-78

XII. LATE AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING SUSPENSION OF THE RULES PER RULE 36A

1. S&S Restaurant "Thank You" Celebration
POR 2026-107

XIII. APPENDED INFORMATION

1. Awaiting Report Status Update 5.18.26

AWAITING REPORT LIST

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the School Department, the Department of Public Works, and other relevant departments to ensure that all city owned parking lots, with a focus on school complexes, including the still under construction parking at Tobin/Darby Vassal school complex, could be made available for after-hours use by residents. Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-29
Councillor Nolan
AR 2026-02
2. The City Manager is requested to work with all relevant departments to seek input from the community as well as direct outreach to condo owners and short-term rental operators and

develop additional recommendations based on the discussion in the Ordinance Committee.

Original Awaiting Report Item AR-25-51

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui

AR 2026-04

3. Review the previous home rule petition and prepare a new petition that would allow Cambridge to enact a Real Estate Transfer Fee to be sent to the state legislature. Original Awaiting Report AR-25-69
Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern
AR 2026-06
4. Restricting Eligibility for On-Street Resident Parking Permits in New Transit-Oriented Developments. Original Awaiting Report 31839
Councillor Zusy, Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor Nolan
AR 2026-07
5. That the City Manager conduct a comprehensive review of existing safety and security measures at Cambridge City Hall, including an assessment of physical access controls, visitor screening practices, on-site security staffing and training, emergency response and evacuation protocols, and the use of security technologies such as surveillance systems and alarm monitoring.
Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Simmons
AR 2026-14
6. The City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department (CDD) to examine the feasibility, legal considerations, and administrative requirements of permitting qualified third-party guarantors or co-signers for applicants to Inclusionary Housing units and provide recommendations as to whether such a policy could responsibly expand access to these units.
Vice Mayor Azeem, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Simmons
AR 2026-16
7. The City Manager is requested to direct the appropriate departments to review the city's digital equity work to date, including the study's recommendations and all steps taken since the study conclusion in order to update the evaluation of existing internet access programs, assessing whether residents' digital needs are or could be better provided for and to propose how we can better meet their needs and to report back to the Council by June 2026 on internet access programs.
Councillor Zusy, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Vice Mayor Azeem
AR 2026-18
8. That the City Manager is requested to assess opportunities to improve the consistency of how meeting information is posted and accessed on the City's website.
Councillor Simmons, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler
AR 2026-19
9. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments as well as the Election Commissioners to review guidance from the IRS and consult with other municipalities in order to simplify our processes for paying election workers.
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy
AR 2026-22
10. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct all City departments, boards,

commissions, and offices to discontinue all official posting and engagement on X within 60 days; and to include an explanation of why the City will no longer use X.

Councillor Al-Zubi, Councillor Nolan

AR 2026-25

11. That the City Manager is requested to direct the Community Development Department and the Transportation Department to meet with Harvard's Office of Community Relations and the Longwood Collective (MASCO) to harmonize institutional bus protocols with public-facing commitments.

Councillor Al-Zubi, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor Nolan

AR 2026-26

12. That the City Manager is requested to direct relevant City departments and staff to examine and report back on whether the city can require single-stall public bathrooms to be gender-neutral.

Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor Al-Zubi, Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Nolan, Vice Mayor Azeem

AR 2026-27

13. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant departments to review the current legal landscape and provide recommendations for how to regulate construction of large data centers in Cambridge.

Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern, Councillor Zusy

AR 2026-28

14. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to raise the fee of the parking permit program for all residents to \$75, consider how to include a self-identified check off option so as not to increase administrative costs for a subsidized fee of \$25 for residents who live in affordable housing, are enrolled in a program such as SNAP or are low income, remove the senior exemption for the residential parking permit program and lower the number of cars that individual residents are allowed to get a residential parking permit for from four to two.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zusy, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern

AR 2026-29

15. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested work with relevant City departments to provide a report on how the decision to install artificial turf was made, the rationale for artificial turf, and what process was taken to ensure community concerns and public health considerations were fully addressed, and to ensure that construction will not move forward until a report is delivered.

Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor McGovern

AR 2026-30

16. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with relevant City staff to review City ordinances regulating the operation of food vendors in City parks.

Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, Councillor McGovern, Vice Mayor Azeem, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Nolan, Councillor Al-Zubi

AR 2026-32

17. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant staff to explore options for commissioning a comparable housing needs study through a qualified research institution.

Councillor Zusy, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Flaherty

AR 2026-33

18. That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City departments to do extensive outreach to residents, businesses, and property owners to communicate the current water level status and take all measures to reduce nonessential water use citywide, and provide a report on citywide water usage and water supply.
Councillor Nolan, Councillor Flaherty, Councillor Zusy, Mayor Siddiqui
AR 2026-34

XIV. ADJOURNMENT
