

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, to receive an update from the Board of Elections.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, and via Zoom.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Frankie S. Fritz, Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Mayor Pro Tem Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Bonita Anderson (virtual), City Clerk; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

OTHERS PRESENT WERE: Board of Elections Members: Chair Steve Gilbert, Edith Beauchamp, Michael Hartman, Nicole Shyong, Elizabeth Terry (virtual); and others.

The Council held a work session with the Greenbelt Board of Elections to discuss the recent election and plan for future elections. Mr. Gilbert reported a significant increase in voter participation, with 3,344 ballots cast, representing a 21% increase over the previous election. The Board addressed several issues, including a candidate's use of a nickname on the ballot, access restrictions to multifamily buildings, and technical challenges with provisional ballots and ePoll books. Ms. Shyong noted concerns about data mismatches, particularly with birthdates, which the Board plans to address with its vendor for future elections.

Ms. Terry discussed improvements to election processes, including exploring technological changes with their vendor, Clear Ballot, to prevent issues with provisional ballots. The Board and Council addressed the need for better training, particularly for election judges who oversee precincts. Ms. Shyong suggested holding training a couple of weeks before the election and a refresher training the night before the election. The discussion also covered the screening process for selecting experienced poll workers and judges, with recommendations to consider factors such as past election experience and comfort with new equipment when selecting personnel.

The Council discussed election processes and voting methods, focusing on early voting compression and potential mail-in ballot options. While some Councilmembers supported mailing ballots directly to voters to increase turnout and allow more time for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), Ms. Terry and Councilmember Pope raised concerns about address accuracy and potential voter fraud risks with the current voter registration list from the County. The Board agreed to review the mail-in ballot process at a future meeting, and Mr. Hartman emphasized the need for better training of poll workers on equipment for voters with disabilities for the next election cycle.

The Council and the Board discussed non-citizen residents and ePoll book systems, with Ms. Terry advising the Board to consider incorporating non-citizen voters into the ePoll system rather than reporting them on the spreadsheet submitted to the County. In

response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Ms. Terry suggested improvements to candidate training, including interactive elements, and Mr. Gilbert suggested adding separate training for treasurers. Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, raised questions about voter turnout numbers, discrepancies in ballot counts, and the fee candidates must pay to post election signs. Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Shyong explained the issues experienced with the election vendor, Fort Orange Press, during the 2025 election, which contrasted with their successful 2023 experience and led to a decision to pivot to a new vendor. The Board explored the possibility of using print-on-demand options for in-person ballots while maintaining mail-in ballots, though concerns were raised about tracking and security measures.

The Council discussed RCV implementation. Mr. Gilbert reported that the Board is finalizing draft legislation based on simple rules, similar to those used in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with an election threshold of 12.5% rather than the current 40% requirement. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver and Councilmember Fritz explained the voting process and threshold requirements. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver outlined a timeline for implementation, including developing educational materials and working with Clear Ballot on voting equipment, with recommendations suggesting late 2026 for RCV information development and early 2027 for voter outreach. Councilmember Fritz noted that Washington, D.C.'s experience with RCV might provide valuable lessons, particularly regarding the timing of second-round vote tabulation.

Information Items:

The Council discussed upcoming events and ceremonies, including the Pride flag-raising ceremony. After discussion regarding the program's run-of-show format, Council agreed to maintain the original proposal while allowing Mr. Salmerón to make remarks on behalf of the City administration. The Council also addressed parking instructions for an upcoming safety walk in Greenbelt Station, and Mayor Pro Tem Weaver coordinated attendance at multiple concurrent events scheduled for the same evening. The Council agreed to provide Mr. Salmerón with finalized attendee information for an upcoming meeting with the County Executive by Friday.

The meeting ended at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Deputy City Clerk