
To accompany the petition of The Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, by Conrad Hamond and Daniel A. Martin, that non-partisan preliminary municipal elections be established in the city of Holyoke. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Seven.

An Act to establish Non-Partisan Preliminary Municipal Elections in the City of Holyoke.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. On the third Tuesday preceding
2 every regular and special election at which the
3 offices of mayor, city clerk, city treasurer, mem-
4 ber of the board of aldermen, and member of the
5 school committee, or any of them, is to be filled
6 in the city of Holyoke, there shall be held,
7 except as otherwise provided in section seven,
8 a preliminary election for the purpose of nom-
9 inating candidates therefor, and section sixteen
10 of chapter forty-three of the General Laws
11 shall not apply thereto. At every regular, pre-
12 liminary and special election, the ballots used
13 shall be governed by the provisions of section
14 forty-nine of said chapter forty-three, and the
15 polls shall be open during such hours, in accord-
16 ance with general law, as the city council may

17 prescribe. No vote of the city council chang-
18 ing such hours shall take effect unless accepted
19 by a majority of the voters of the city voting
20 thereon at a biennial state election, and the
21 state secretary, upon the receipt at least thirty
22 days before such an election of a copy of the
23 vote of the city council proposing such a change,
24 certified by the city clerk, shall cause the ques-
25 tion of its acceptance to be placed upon the
26 ballot to be used in said city at such election.

1 SECTION 2. Except as otherwise provided in
2 section seven, there shall not be printed on the
3 official ballot to be used at any regular or spe-
4 cial election the name of any person as a can-
5 didate for any office unless such person has been
6 nominated as such at a preliminary election for
7 nomination, held as provided in this act. There
8 shall not be printed on the official ballot for use
9 at such preliminary election the name of any
10 candidate for nomination at such election,
11 unless he shall have filed, within the time
12 limited by section seven, the statement and
13 petition therein described.

1 SECTION 3. Any person who is qualified to
2 vote for a candidate for any elective municipal
3 office and who is a candidate for nomination
4 thereto, shall be entitled to have his name as
5 such candidate printed on the official ballot to
6 be used at a preliminary election; provided,

7 that at least ten days prior to such preliminary
8 election he shall file with the city clerk a state-
9 ment in writing of his candidacy, and with it
10 the petition of at least fifty voters, qualified to
11 vote for a candidate for the said office. Said
12 statement and petition shall be in substantially
13 the following form: —

14 STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE.

15 I (), on oath declare that I re-
16 side at (number if any) on (name of street) in
17 the city of Holyoke; that I am a voter therein,
18 qualified to vote for a candidate for the herein-
19 after mentioned office; that I am a candidate
20 for the office of (name of office) for (state the
21 term) to be voted for at the preliminary election
22 to be held on Tuesday, the day of
23 , nineteen hundred and , and
24 I request that my name be printed as such can-
25 didate on the official ballot for use at said pre-
26 liminary election.

27 (Signed)

28 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hampden, ss.

29 Subscribed and sworn to on this
30 day of , nineteen hundred and
31 before me,

32 (Signed)

33 Justice of the Peace,
34 or (Notary Public).

35 PETITION ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT OF CAN-
36 DIDATE.

37 Whereas (name of candidate) is a candidate
38 for nomination for the office of (state the office)
39 for (state the term), we, the undersigned, voters
40 of the city of Holyoke, duly qualified to vote for
41 a candidate for said office, do hereby request
42 that the name of said (name of candidate) as
43 a candidate for nomination for said office be
44 printed on the official ballot to be used at the
45 preliminary election to be held on the
46 Tuesday of _____, nineteen hundred
47 and _____.

48 We further state that we believe him to be
49 of good moral character and qualified to per-
50 form the duties of the office.

51 No acceptance by the candidate for nomina-
52 tion named in the said petition shall be neces-
53 sary to its validity or its filing, and the petition,
54 which may be on one or more papers, need not
55 be sworn to.

1 SECTION 4. On the first day, other than Sun-
2 day or a legal holiday, following the expiration
3 of the time for filing the above described state-
4 ment and petition, the city clerk shall post in a
5 conspicuous place in the city hall the names
6 and residences of the candidates for nomina-
7 tion who have duly qualified as candidates for
8 nomination, as they are to appear on the
9 official ballots to be used at the preliminary

10 election, except as to the order of the names,
11 and shall cause the ballots which shall contain
12 said names, in their order as drawn by the clerk,
13 and no others, with a designation of residence,
14 and of the office and term of service, to be
15 printed, and the ballots so printed shall be
16 official and no others shall be used at the pre-
17 liminary election. In drawings for position on
18 the ballot the candidates shall have an oppor-
19 tunity to be present in person or by one repre-
20 sentative each. Blank spaces shall be left at
21 the end of each list of candidates for nomina-
22 tion for the different offices equal to the num-
23 ber to be nominated therefor, in which the
24 voter may insert the name of any person not
25 printed on the ballot for whom he desires to
26 vote for nomination for such office. There shall
27 be printed on such ballots such directions as
28 will aid the voter, as, for example: " vote for
29 one ", " vote for two ", and the like, and the
30 ballots shall be headed as follows: —

31 OFFICIAL PRELIMINARY BALLOT.

32 Candidates for nomination for the offices of
33 () in the city of Holyoke at a pre-
34 liminary election to be held on the day
35 of in the year nineteen hundred and
36 . (The heading shall be varied in
37 accordance with the offices for which nomina-
38 tions are to be made.)

1 SECTION 5. The election officers shall, im-
2 mediately upon the closing of the polls at pre-
3 liminary elections, count the ballots and ascer-

tain the number of votes cast in the several voting places for each candidate, and forthwith make return thereof upon blanks to be furnished, as in regular elections, to the city clerk, who shall canvass said returns and shall forthwith determine the result thereof, insert the same in one or more newspapers published in the city, and post the same in a conspicuous place in the city hall.

SECTION 6. At a preliminary election the two persons receiving the highest number of votes for nomination for any office except that of alderman or school committeeman, and, in either of such offices, the persons, to a total of twice the number of ward aldermen, aldermen at large, ward school committeemen or school committeemen at large, as the case may be, to be filled at such election, receiving the highest number of votes for nomination for their respective offices, shall, except as provided by section seven, be the sole candidates for that office whose names may be printed on the official ballot to be used at the regular or special election at which such office is to be filled, and no acceptance of a nomination at a preliminary election shall be necessary to its validity.

If two or more persons are to be elected to the same office at such regular or special election the several persons in number equal to twice the number so to be elected receiving at such preliminary election the highest number

23 of votes for nomination for that office shall,
24 except as provided by section seven, be the sole
25 candidates for that office whose names may be
26 printed on the official ballot.

27 If the preliminary election results in a tie
28 vote among candidates for nomination receiv-
29 ing the lowest number of votes, which, but for
30 said tie vote, would entitle a person receiving
31 the same to have his name printed upon the
32 official ballot for the election, all candidates
33 participating in said tie vote shall have their
34 names printed upon the official ballot, although
35 in consequence there be printed thereon candi-
36 dates to a number exceeding twice the number
37 to be elected.

1 SECTION 7. If at the expiration of the time
2 for filing statements of candidates to be voted
3 for at any preliminary election not more than
4 twice as many such statements have been filed
5 with the city clerk for an office as are to be
6 elected to such office, the candidates whose
7 statements have thus been filed shall be deemed
8 to have been nominated to said office, and their
9 names shall be voted on for such office at the
10 succeeding regular or special election, as the
11 case may be, and the city clerk shall not print
12 said names upon the ballot to be used at said
13 preliminary election and no other nomination
14 to said office shall be made. If in consequence
15 it shall appear that no names are to be printed
16 upon the official ballot to be used at any pre-

17 liminary election in any ward or wards of the
18 city, no preliminary election shall be held in
19 any such ward or wards.

1 SECTION 8. Chapter six hundred and eight
2 of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirteen is
3 hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall be submitted for
2 acceptance to the qualified voters of the city of
3 Holyoke at the city election to be held in the
4 current year, in the form of the following ques-
5 tion which shall be printed on the official ballot
6 to be used at said election:— “ Shall an act
7 passed by the general court in the year nineteen
8 hundred and twenty-seven, entitled ‘ An Act
9 relative to Non-partisan Preliminary Elections
10 in the City of Holyoke,’ be accepted? ” If this
11 act shall be so accepted by a majority of the
12 qualified voters voting thereon, it shall take
13 effect for the purposes of the city election in
14 the year nineteen hundred and twenty-eight,
15 and thereafter.