

To	elections@somervillema.gov law@somervillema.gov camara@somervillema.gov nsalerno@somervillema.gov
Cc	publiccomments@somervillema.gov rsj@somervillema.gov citycouncil@somervillema.gov
Bcc	somervilleboycottforpalestine@gmail.com
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!

[Name]¹

¹ Note: Emails to city officials are considered public record.

