

January 9, 2020
For immediate release

Contact: Jerry L. Ryan
978-979-4002
jerryryan@comcast.net

Atty. Mary-Ellen Manning
978-648-0658
memanning99@gmail.com

**Ryan drops appeal of election result but will continue to challenge
City's ID requirement for certain voters**

SALEM — Jerry L. Ryan, former city councilor and candidate for Ward 6 councilor in the 2019 Salem election, will not seek to overturn a judge's ruling that confirmed Megan Riccardi as the winner by one vote.

Ryan announced today that he will, however, seek guidance from the Massachusetts Appeals Court about whether the City's policy of requiring identification from certain "flagged" individuals meets election law standards.

"This appeal does not affect Megan Riccardi, whom I congratulate and wish good luck as the next councilor of Ward 6," Ryan said.

Ryan and the City have been embroiled in a legal battle in Lawrence Superior Court for weeks after a recount maintained Riccardi's one-vote margin of victory.

While disappointed in the court ruling, Ryan said he ultimately would like to see a resolution that benefits people in Salem, where he has lived all his life.

“I am very concerned about the obstacles being placed in the way of our poor, disabled and non-English speaking Salem neighbors when it comes to registering to vote and actually voting,” Ryan said. “I have been involved in political campaigns my whole life, and I learned so much listening to court testimony and reading election exhibits. I was shocked at how difficult voting is for so many people.”

Ryan said he will continue with an appeal in order to affect change in the way voting is conducted.

“Something needs to be done, and I think a court case is the best way to get it done,” he said. “That way it is about voting rights and not about who won or lost the ward race. My attorney, Mary-Ellen Manning, and I agree that this is an opportunity to turn this into a learning experience and improve access to voting.

“I am looking forward to seeing what the Appeals Court has to say about the approach used by Salem and many other cities and towns when it comes to the policy of flagging people for ID at the polls, especially considering it is happening to poor people and those with a language barrier more than others,” Ryan added.

As Riccardi is sworn in tonight as the Ward 6 councilor, Ryan said he hopes her supporters as well as his will support the effort to seek better access to voting in Salem and throughout Massachusetts.

Ryan said he encourages all neighborhood associations to contact him to work on solutions for disenfranchised voters.