



WINCHESTER'S ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION PROCESS

MARCH 30, 2021

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

NOMINATION PROCESS

FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

— NOTE: SEC. OF STATE REQUIRES NOMINATION PAPERS HAVE ORIGINAL SIGNATURES – NO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR TOWN ELECTIONS

Incumbent Town Meeting Member

- Emails sent and online sign off required – No nomination papers needed per Home Rule Charter.

New Town Meeting Candidate

- Candidate pulls nomination paper by requesting via email townclerk@winchester.us 10 signatures to get on ballot

Caucus Town Meeting Candidate

- Candidate pull nomination papers by requesting via email townclerk@winchester.us b/c they were not elected by voters. Need to get 10 signatures to get on ballot

Town Wide Candidate

- All town wide candidates for public office regardless of being an incumbent, new or caucus must request via email townclerk@winchester.us nomination papers and will need 50 signatures to get on ballot.

HOW CAN I BE A TOWN MEETING MEMBER?

- Winchester is governed by a Home Rule Charter and a General Code of Bylaw along with MGL in reference to conduct of elections.
- There are 8 Precincts in Winchester with 24 Town Meeting Members elected from each precinct for a total of 192 Town Meeting Members. Town Meetings are held each Spring and Fall. At times Special Town Meetings are called for various reasons.
- Each spring there is an Annual Town Election the last Tuesday in March. This year TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021. 64 of the 192 Town Meeting Members will be on the ballot for a 3 year term. At times there are vacancies that occur and voters can pull nominations for those vacancies as well. Contact the Town Clerk's Office townclerk@winchester.us for the list of vacancies (if any) for the 2021 Annual Town Election.
- Interested voters who would like to run for town meeting can email townclerk@winchester.us beginning January 4, 2021 to register for the election.

REFERENCE TO GOVERNING LAWS

Caucus = Next Town Election

- Home Rule Charter - Article 2 Section 2.5(d)
- **Filling of Vacancies** - Any vacancy in the full number of town meeting members from any precinct shall be filled until the next annual town election by the remaining town meeting members from the precinct, from among the voters thereof. The balance of the unexpired term, if any, shall be filled at such annual town election.

Incumbents = Free Pass

- **⑩Nomination Procedures** - Nomination of candidates for town meeting member shall be made by nomination papers signed by not less than ten voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides and from which he seeks election. Any elected town meeting member may become a candidate for re-election by filing written notice thereof with the town clerk.

▪Town Wide Candidates

- Any candidate for town wide elective office **MUST** pull nomination papers with the Town Clerk's Office.
- The candidate **MUST** sign the nomination paper in front of the staff prior to circulating their petitions. **NOTE*** COVID-Town Clerk will provide process for candidates signatures.

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT

Town Wide Offices:

- Moderator – 1 - 1 yr. term
- Bd. Assessor – 1- 3 yr. term
- Bd. Health – 1 - 3 yr. term
- Bd. Library Trust - 1 - 3 yr. term
- Planning Bd. – 2 - 3 yr. terms
- School Comm. – 2 – 3 yr. term
- Select Bd. – 2 – 3 yr. term
- Housing Authority – 1 – 5 yr. term

Town Meeting Offices:

- Precinct 1 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 2 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 3 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 4 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 5 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 6 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 7 – 8 – 3 yr. terms
- Precinct 8 – 8 – 3 yr. terms

* email townclerk@winchester.us to inquiry if there are any vacancies in town meeting for the 2021 Annual Town Election.

CANDIDATE COMMITTEES – OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE

WWW.OCPF.US

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires candidates who are running for public office to file campaign paperwork with the Town Clerk's Office.
- If you are running for a town wide office the town clerk will send you the necessary information via email once you return your nomination paperwork and have been certified to appear on the ballot.
- Not all town wide candidates need to form a campaign committee. If you are going to fundraise and spend others donated funds on your campaign you **MUST** file a Candidate Committee.
- Town Meeting Members are exempt from Campaign Finance. It is not required.

BALLOT LAYOUT PROCESS

- The Town Clerk's Office will hold a ballot drawing on Thursday February 25, 2021 at 4pm to determine by lottery the appearance of names on the ballot.
- Candidates who are currently holding office will receive the benefit of "Candidate of Re-Election" next to their name on the ballot.
- Town Meeting Members who were voted by caucus to fill vacancies in town meeting do not receive the benefit of being considered "Candidate for Re-Election" although they have held the office.

CALENDAR – IMPORTANT DATES

- January 4, 2021

Nominations available via email request townclerk@Winchester.us

- February 2 2021

Last day for incumbent TMM to sign off online

- Free Pass – Remember you don't need to get signatures just fill out the online form that was emailed to you by the Town Clerk

- February 5, 2021

Last day to obtain nomination papers from
Town Clerk's Office

- February 9, 2021

Last day to submit nomination papers to
Town Clerk's Office

- February 23, 2021

Last day to withdraw from candidacy

- March 10, 2021

Last day to register to vote

NOMINATION PAPERS – COVID-19 SUGGESTION

- The Secretary of State, administrator of all elections has kept the previous requirement that nomination papers for local office must be submitted to the Town Clerk with original signatures. No electronic signatures allowed for Town Elections state wide.

Suggestions to secure original signature.

- Once you receive your packet of Nomination papers from the Town Clerk please sign your legal signature at the top right of the page.
- Make an email and send to all your friends, family and neighbors asking them to sign your nomination papers
- You can leave the nomination papers on a clip board outside your front door and ask them to drive by socially distancing to sign the paper.
- You could ask local business's that are open to the public to host your nomination papers on their public counter to gather signatures.
- You could stand outside the Transfer Station on a given Saturday with signs asking folks to safely drive up and sign your nomination papers.