



# WINCHESTER'S ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION PROCESS

MARCH 31, 2020

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

# NOMINATION PROCESS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Incumbent Town Meeting  
Member

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

New Town Meeting Candidate

- Candidate pulls nomination paper needs 10 signatures to get on ballot

Caucus Town Meeting Candidate

- Candidate must pull nomination papers b/c they were not elected by voters. Need to get 10 signatures to get on ballot

Town Wide Candidate

- All candidates for public office regardless of being an incumbent or new or caucus must pull nomination papers and 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 31, 2020. 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](mailto:townclerk@Winchester.us) for list of vacancies for the 2020 Annual Town Election.
- Interested voters who would like to run for town meeting can stop by the Town Clerk's Office beginning January 2, 2020 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

- **⑩ Nomination 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 at the Town Clerk's Office.
- The candidate **MUST** sign the nomination paper in front of the staff prior to circulating their petitions.

# 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 - 2 - 3 yr. terms
- Planning Bd. – 2 - 3 yr. terms
- School Comm. – 1 – 3 yr. term
- Select Bd. – 1 – 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

\* Contact Town Clerk's Office to inquiry about any vacancies in town meeting for the 2020 Annual Town Election.

# CANDIDATE COMMITTEES – OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE

[WWW.OCPF.US](http://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 Friday February 28, 2020 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 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 2, 2020
- February 4, 2020
- February 7, 2020
- February 11, 2020
- February 7, 2020
- March 11, 2020

Nominations Open at Town Clerk's Office

Last day for incumbent TMM to sign off

- Free Pass Letter – Remember you don't need to get signatures

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

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

Last day to withdraw from candidacy

Last day to register to vote