



## Northampton Board of Registrars

### Meeting Agenda Date: September 12, 2023 Time: 5:30 pm **Teleconference Via Zoom**

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1. Meeting Called To Order
2. Review Meeting Minutes From The Previous Meeting
  - 2.1. Approve Minutes  
Jan 17, Feb 21, Jul 25 & Aug 8

Documents:

[2023-01-17 MINUTES, BOARD OF REGISTRARS.PDF](#)  
[2023-02-21 MINUTES, BOARD OF REGISTRARS.PDF](#)  
[2023-07-25 MINUTES BOARD OF REGISTRARS.PDF](#)  
[2023-08-08 MINUTES BOARD OF REGISTRARS.PDF](#)

3. ROV Statistics
4. Change Of Date On Election Calendar For Drawing Of Names Appearing On November Ballot  
The order in which names appear on the municipal ballot for each race is determined by drawing by lot. Because there is no preliminary in Northampton, the date of the drawing

even has been changed 9/26/2023 pursuant to City's charter, Article 8, Section 4. The time of the drawing is 5 pm.

5. New Business

6. Adjourn

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**Northampton Board of Registrars Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: 1/17/2023 @ Time: 5:30 pm**  
**Teleconference Meeting via Zoom**

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 5:37 pm City Clerk Pam Powers called the meeting to order. Present at the meeting were Registrars Joseph Tarantino, Mary Lou Stuart, and Robert Boulrice along with Clerk Powers.
  
2. **Review Meeting Minutes From The Previous Meeting (December 13, 2022):** Registrar Boulrice stated that he did not receive a full set of meeting minutes, just one page that appeared to be statistics, and the other registrars agreed they had received the same. As a result, the committee did not review meeting minutes. The committee will review at the next Board of Registrars meeting in February (rescheduled from Feb. 14 to Feb. 21).
  
3. **ROV Statistics:** The City Clerk reviewed data for the previous 12 years to determine if there had been an increase in administrative handling of voter records due to the recently enacted Votes Act. From 2010 – 2022 there has been an increase in the number of people who have registered to vote. In 2010, 351 voters were registered for the entire year. In 2022, 1,828 voters were registered to vote. In the years where there are state elections, there is a noticeable uptick in registration activity. In addition, we also see voters looking to update their voter registration profile, including updating name, address, or political party designation. As of January 1, 2023, every person who transacts business at the Registry of Motor Vehicles will have name, address, and voter information transferred to our office, even if there is a voter record already on file. The staff need to confirm the accuracy of our file by comparing the existing personal data with the information forwarded from the RMV. Any discrepancies need to be researched and resolved. A resident will need to request that their name be removed from the voter rolls before any action is taken to do so. The three-year rolling average of voter activity proves that the workload has shifted upward in the Clerk's Office. In addition, the Votes Act has encouraged voters to continue voting activity, even if they now must vote by mail. The Registrars voiced support in seeking alternative measures to overtime to address the 20% increase in the registration workload.
  
4. **Vote Regarding Recommendation For Early Voting In Person For 2023 Municipal Election(s):** Pursuant to MGL Chapter 54 Section 25B(c)(1), in order to hold in-person early voting, not less than 50% of the BOR must request that this take place. The BOR agreed that there is value in being consistent. At the 2021 municipal election, there were 625 in-person voters, which is not much different than what was observed in the 2022 state election. The BOR discussed the pros and cons of allowing in-person early voting:
  - i. Pro: if held, consistency in voting options for all elections;
  - ii. Con: cost, workload.

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Registrar Boulrice moved to allow early in person voting for the 2023 municipal elections; Registrar Stuart seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

Boulrice - Yes	Powers - Yes	Stuart - Yes	Tarantino - Yes
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5. **2023 Election Calendar:**

Documents shared with the BOR as follows were working papers sent to the Clerk's Office before the 2022 elections. They included a summary of all of the election law changes due to the Votes Act signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker on June 22, 2022.

1. [PLANNING FOR TOWN ELECTIONS REVISED 12.2022.PDF](#)
2. [ELECTION ADVISORY 22-01 ELECTION LAW CHANGES.PDF](#)

Documents also shared with the BOR are pertinent sections of the city charter pertaining to municipal elections and the 2023 Election Calendar drafted for Northampton. For other election requirements not addressed by the city's charter, election provisions outlined in Mass Gen. Law apply.

1. [COMPUTATION OF TIME CITY CHARTER, SECTION 10-10.PDF](#)
2. [ELECTIONS CITY CHARTER, SECTION 8.PDF](#)
3. [ELECTION CALENDAR 2023.PDF](#)

The BOR discussed the computation of time related to nomination papers. Under the charter provisions, a particular date for a related event falls on a Saturday. Clerk Powers wondered if the BOR was interested in weighing in on whether the event deadline would move forward or backward based on how the charter read. Registrar Boulrice suggested that moving forward to a Monday would give candidates two additional days to collect signatures. Registrar Tarantino suggested that the interpretation should be in the candidate's favor. Clerk Powers was convinced that the deadline should move forward to Monday. She will make the necessary changes to the election calendar before publishing.

6. **2023 Annual Street List Mailing-Inserts:** A newly hired vendor for the street listing print project structures its invoice by separating out the costs associated with insets. Attorney Seewald opined that the city couldn't assume the cost for agencies using taxpayer dollars. The Mayor does not have a problem with NEF and Dollars for Scholars using this avenue to ask for donations. A general poll of the Registrars showed that this committee is in favor of allowing this activity to continue in the future, as long as the agencies pay for the service.

7. **New Business:** None

8. **Adjourn:** At 6:55 pm Registrar Tarantino moved to adjourn the meeting; Registrar Boulrice seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

Boulrice - Yes	Powers - Yes	Stuart - Yes	Tarantino - Yes
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## Northampton Board of Registrars Meeting Minutes

Date: Feb. 21, 2023 @ Time: 5:30 pm

Teleconference Meeting Via Zoom

1. Meeting Called To Order: At 5:37 pm City Clerk Pam Powers called the meeting to order. Present at the meeting were Registrars Joseph Tarantino and Robert Boulrice along with Clerk Powers. Registrar Mary Lou Stuart was absent.
2. Review Meeting Minutes From The Previous Meeting: Registrar Boulrice moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2022; Registrar Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.

Boulrice - Yes	Powers - Yes	Stuart - Absent	Tarantino - Yes
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3. ROV Statistics: The staff in the BOR office added 197 voters, changed 549 voter records (including name and address updates and amended party choices), and deleted 72 voter records since January 17, 2023. There are currently 22,085 registered voters in Northampton.
4. Update On Annual Street List Project: The Street List questionnaire is not yet out; once again we are waiting on envelopes for this project. Once the printer receives them, it will be a few additional days before our mailing is out to residents. Two envelopes approved for insert are Dollars for Scholars and NEF. For the BOR's own needs, the printer will add a mail-back envelope and the questionnaire. There will be approx.16,000 pieces mailed out and the postage cost is just over \$8,000 for them. Residents need to pay the postage to mail back a response; however, they can drop it off just outside our office if they prefer not to pay for the postage.
5. Update On Ranked Choice Voting: It does not appear that RCV legislation has moved forward at the state house. Registrar Boulrice has spoken with both Senator Comerford and Rep. Sabadosa who reported that over 4,000 pieces of legislation are on file this year. Arlington, Amherst and Northampton are all waiting for granting of home rule petitions, so perhaps there is strength in the number of voters who want this to move forward in their community. Clerk Powers states that voting for incarcerated voters as well as a new platform for disabled voters are new in Elections this year and these might be getting priority by the Elections Division.
6. New Business:
  - Clerk Powers has presented to Mayor Sciarra a request to add staff in the Clerk's Office. The proposal is to add 5 additional hours to each of the existing three staff in our office (i.e. work 40 hours per week instead of 35 hours per week). This will help to reduce overtime during voting and have staff readily available when the work is here. The Mayor will make a decision during budgeting season; she expressed interest in reducing the overtime hours during the election period.
  - Registrar Boulrice is interested in publishing something to the voting population, and suggested publishing election statistics in the newspaper after each election.
  - April 24<sup>th</sup> is the date set for making nomination papers available.
7. Adjourn: At 6:01 pm Registrar Boulrice moved to adjourn the meeting; Registrar Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent).

Boulrice - Yes	Powers - Yes	Stuart - Absent	Tarantino - Yes
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Northampton Board of Registrars  
Meeting Minutes  
Date:~~7/11/2023~~ July 25, 2023 @ Time:5:30 pm  
Teleconference Meeting via Zoom

1. Meeting Called to Order: At 5:37 pm, the Board of Registrars was called to order. Present at the meeting were Registrars Robert Boulrice, Mary Lou Stuart, and City Clerk Pamela L. Powers. Registrar Joseph Tarantino was absent.
2. Meeting Minutes: No meeting minutes were reviewed.
3. ROV Statistics from May 10 – July 23:
  - a. Added Voters: 308
  - b. Deleted: 203
  - c. Changed: 1302

Any voter who visits to RMV in Massachusetts will have their information forwarded to the city or town clerk to register them to vote. Eligible individuals can no longer opt out of registering, except if they visit the Board of Registrars and request that their status as a voter be changed.
4. The Board of Registrars has completed scanning of all Street Lists received for the annual Census campaign. The office still receives responses and those are still processed as the scanning of the individual gives them an updated census year in VRIS and keeps them as an active voter.
5. The City Clerk continues to update the city's website with all of the election information. As we get nearer and nearer a milestone connected to an election, the information will change so it is helpful to keep an eye on the website for the most up to date information. Currently the website reflects candidates who have turned their nomination papers. The staff have certified the signatures on the ballot and now the candidate will need to return to pick them up and deliver them to the City Clerk's Office before August 7, 2023. Three people who took out nomination papers indicated that they would not continue to run. One person turned in more than enough signatures; however many could not be certified because the signer did not live in the community or some other disqualifying matter. In the end, they did not have enough certified signatures to be placed on the ballot. There will not be a preliminary in Northampton.
6. Registrar Boulrice asked about the feedback as a result of not qualifying to be on the ballot; Clerk Powers indicated that she did not hear any negative comments or complaints. Candidates were giving a list of voters to confirm that they had obtained a qualifying signature. If the staff cannot read a signature, it is compared to the signature on file in the office, either electronically or on paper. There will be 15 uncontested races this election. Drawing names will take place on ~~September 29~~ September 26 (per Charter) to determine the order in which names will appear on the ballot.
7. Adjourn: at 6:01 pm, Registrar Stuart motioned to adjourn the meeting; Registrar Boulrice seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote: Robert Boulrice (Yes), Mary Lou Stuart (Yes), Pamela L. Powers (Yes), 1 Absent.

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## Northampton Board of Registrars

### Meeting Minutes

Date:8/8/2023 Time:5:30 pm

Teleconference Via Zoom

1. Meeting Called To Order: The meeting was not convened due to a lack of a quorum. No votes were taken.
  
2. Update On 2023 Election Cycle-Five races are contested during this upcoming election:
  - City Council At-Large
  - School Committee At-Large
  - Ward 4 School Committee
  - Trustees Under the Will of Charles E. Forbes
  - Elector Under the Oliver Smith Will

Twenty-seven positions are up for election and there are thirty one people on the ballot. Two addition people have indicated their desire to run a write-in campaign. The Community Preservation race has one position that will begin immediately upon the certification of the November results. This is pursuant to the city's charter because the previous elected CPC member vacated the seat during their term.



