



**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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