

CLERK'S CORNER 11/2018

Post-election Thoughts

The Midterm Elections of 2018 are over although the official results will not be certified in Massachusetts until November 21st. I'd like to thank the Elections Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth for their guidance on behalf of all 351 Massachusetts City and Town Clerks who ran the election days seamlessly and with utmost security. The candidates, as well as the proponents for each side of the questions, deserve our gratitude for their efforts. I cannot forget the voters; the voter turnout including early voting, absentee voting and the fifteen-hour election day was wonderful (75% in the Town of Wenham). It was truly a democratic process for the ages.

Now, however, I urge all who were so involved, engaged and engrossed in these elections not to lose that enthusiasm. There is more to be done, and your support is essential on all sides of all issues. Although much of our concerns are controlled from the top (National to State to Local), there are just as many matters that call for your support at the municipal level. Within all our communities, there are issues that will benefit from your input.

It does not matter whether you have lived in your community forever or are new to it; much of your daily life is controlled by those who step up to lead at the local level as mayor, councilman or member of the board of selectmen. These elected officials directly control the issues that most affect you – education, environment, streets, trash and safety. Whatever inspires you, or is of the most pressing concern to you, needs your participation.

This recent uptick in awareness and interest is awe-inspiring. Let's not lose it. This election is over, and your person or side won or lost, do not sit down and gloat or mope. It's not over. Stay involved. Stay positive. Push for what you feel is important!

Locally, most communities are planning their 2019 town meetings and annual elections. Budget meetings have begun. In the Town of Wenham, the Finance and Advisory Committee is starting to hear from all departments, so they can put together a budget to present to the residents; The Board of Selectmen is starting to talk about what items will be brought to Town Meeting 2019; Nomination papers for all elected positions will be available in early January. All meetings and other information can be found at www.wenhamma.gov. Check your community's website for the specifics on your municipality.

Now is the perfect time to make yourself aware of how your local government works so you can have a bigger say in your community, your state and your world.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and has achieved the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk in 2017. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to www.wenhamma.gov or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.