

Clerk's Corner October 2016
Election Information AND MORE

Politics is essential to democracy. It can be confusing but it is as necessary to our way of life as melody is to music or what water is to swimming. Our right to vote shapes the politics of our democracy making it a right that should not be overlooked. In addition to the presidential election on November 8, 2017, there are five (5) other races and four (4) binding state wide questions. It is every voter's right to vote and it is hoped that all do so thoughtfully. Use the voters' guide from the Secretary of State to understand what your vote means; http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/IFV_2016.pdf.

There are several options for voting in the next election. On Election Day, November 8th from 7am to 8pm, Hamilton voters will cast their ballots at the Rec Center and Wenham at Town Hall.

Absentee voting is now available for all who will not be able to vote on Election Day because they will be out of town, are ill or have a religious obligation. Absentee voting ends at noon on Monday November 7th.

Early Voting will be allowed for the first time in Massachusetts between Monday October 24th and November 4th. Each municipality will schedule their own early voting times. In Hamilton, early voting will be available at Town Hall during those two weeks Mondays through Fridays from 8am-4:30pm. In Wenham, voters will be able to early vote those weeks during the following hours; Mondays and Wednesdays 9am-4:30pm, Tuesdays 9am-7pm, Thursdays 7:30am-4:30pm, Fridays 9am-1pm and Saturday October 29th from 9am-noon.

There are also many things happening at Town Hall that are not election related. The Citizen's Leadership Academy is off and running and getting great feedback from participants and presenters. Wenham leaf pick up has been scheduled. The Council on Aging, Library and Recreation Department are all offering wonderful fall programs. Flu vaccine clinics are scheduled for October 24th and November 14th. More details on all these are available on the Town's website, www.wenhamma.gov.

The Clerk's office is also busy with non-election related duties. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140 mandates that all dogs be licensed annually. Wenham dog licenses are valid from January to December and applications for 2017 will go out with the annual census. MGL Chapter 51 requires that all households complete a census annually. Please keep an eye out for this mailing to avoid late fees and / or being made an inactive voter or even being deleted from the voting list.

As the fiscal year 2018 budget process is now underway, preparations have begun for our local Town Meeting, the governing body of Wenham. It is scheduled for Saturday April 1, 2017 at The Buker School. Open ballot positions for the Town Election on Thursday April 6, 2017 will be posted in December.

For questions about voting, dog licenses, or census, contact the clerk at 978-468-5520 x1 or dbucco@wenhamma.gov.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Town Clerk of Wenham in April 2014. More information on the Wenham Town Clerk can be found at www.wenhamma.gov and by following the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.