

## CLERKS' CORNER MARCH 2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Our government is "of the people, by the people, for the people" as quoted by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. However, as we watch, discuss and participate in the 2016 Presidential Race, it is hard to see this concept in action. In many ways, it is at local events such as Town Meetings and Town Elections where the premise of our government is most clearly evident.

The March 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Primary was a busy day at Wenham Town Hall. Fifty eight percent of Wenham voters came out to vote! Residents were excited as they went through the polling place and the poll workers were diligent at keeping track of everything. And now, spring is in the air. What could be better? Oh I know, having another great voter turnout at our Annual Town Meeting and Election in April.

Town Meeting is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Buker School. It is here where voters will discuss and vote on the twenty-two articles listed in the Warrant. The warrant, or outline, was opened on January 5<sup>th</sup>, discussed at Selectmen's meetings and closed on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. It contains articles relating to town finances, bylaw changes, liquor license and CPA expenditures. This warrant will be delivered by the local boy scouts to all homes later this month. A review of the articles will be discussed on Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Buker School.

Compared to the Presidential Primary, there is less controversy in our local election, but we do have two contested races, in the Board of Assessors and the Regional School Committee. Wenham will also be voting in a new Town Moderator, which has not occurred in almost thirty years. Also on the ballot are two questions that need voter response. The questions ask whether the voters want to change two elected positions, the Tree Warden and Cemetery Commission, to become positions that the Board of Selectmen appoint.

And lastly, for those who have taken out nomination papers and have voluntarily stepped up to serve the town, their efforts should be recognized by a strong voter turnout. Please remember to vote on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 7am to 8pm at Town Hall.

"Candidates Night" hosted by the Hamilton Wenham League of Women Voters is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Buker School. Candidates will be asked to introduce themselves and speak to why they are running for office. Please try to attend or watch on HWCam to inform yourself as well as to support your neighbors in their pursuit to serve.

*Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov) or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.*