



Often people question why they should bother voting in the smaller local elections. The truth of the matter is that local governments have a far greater impact on people's lives than the federal government. Important matters such as school budgets, day to day policies, land use and street maintenance, to name a few, are not decided by Washington authorities, but by your local officials. These officials not only keep your community running; their primary responsibility is the protection of their citizens.

Here in Wenham, sixteen residents took out nomination papers for twelve open seats on the Thursday, April 6th Annual Town Election ballot. Each of these residents collected at least twenty signatures of registered voters in support of putting his or her name on the ballot. (Those running for school committee actually needed to collect forty). There are three contested races with more candidates than seats available demonstrating the high level of interest our residents have in holding elective office. To learn about who is running and why, Candidates Night is scheduled for Tuesday March 28th at 7pm at The Buker School and is open to the public.

Running for office is time consuming and requires some work, but its advantages far outweigh these factors. Meeting people, understanding how our community works and helping it do so are just some of the benefits. It is also a wonderful way to give back to our community. We hope that residents will support these candidates by coming out to vote for them on Thursday April 6, 2017 anytime between 7am and 8pm at Town Hall.

If you have an interest in getting involved, please check out each department on the Town website, www.wenhamma.gov. The Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters Guide to Running for Office explains what each elective position entails and is available at the Clerk's offices and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional Library. It is not too late to run because one can win a seat with a write-in campaign by garnering one more vote than anyone else in that race. If you find the thought of running for office overwhelming, volunteers are also needed to serve on many other committees and boards. These openings, and the process to fill them, are posted on the website under job/volunteer opportunities.

As the seasons start to change so do the duties here in the Clerk's office. As the season for census and dog licenses wanes, the Annual Town Meeting and Town Election preparations are in full swing. Registration is starting for the Hamilton-Wenham recreation spring/summer programs and Pleasant Pond Passes will be available for purchase shortly. Think Spring!

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and is up for re-election on April 6, 2017. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to www.wenhamma.gov or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.