



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

The Public Recorder

Volume 58, No. 8

SEPTEMBER 2014

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From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

Congratulations to everyone on running a successful election. I hope it was a quiet day for everyone with no problems. Let's hope the November election has no problems as well.

I know many of you received a fax, an e-mail, or a phone call (or perhaps all three) from Reuters asking for the results of the Primary. I want to give you some background on this. About a year ago, someone from Reuters contacted me about setting up an agreement with the MTCA similar to the arrangement we have with AP. I said I would have to bring it to the E-Board for discussion and approval. I told them when our meeting was and they said they would call back after that. I heard nothing from them until I received a fax asking me to call or fax the results to them and saying that they would be making a donation to the MTCA for each call. That started a flurry of activity to get this figured out. We had information from Dick Fleming that back in 1992, AP had been chosen by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to be the Central Tabulation Facility. We also found a decision from the Ethics Commission regarding receipt of payment for making these calls. The decision stated that because the SOC told us to call AP with the results, the MTCA could accept the donation that they make as long as it goes to help offset the cost of education. If the SOC did not make this requirement, we could not accept payment. I have been in contact with Michelle Tassinari and they are working on sorting this out as they have not found anything in writing regarding

this. Michelle said they probably would not get to this until after the election, but she will get back to me when they have. The results we call in to AP on primary night are what the SOC uses to begin getting ballots ready to be printed for the November election.

Election results are public and as such, we cannot refuse to give them to anyone. The question we are trying to get answered is if, as an association, we can accept payment from other groups for making this call. As soon as we get answers, I will share them with all of you. As for getting the results to Reuters, some clerks added them to the e-mail list they use to send out results, some called, some faxed, and others posted the results on their Town website and told those wanting the results that that is where they could obtain them.

Our Fall Conference will be at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel this year. The information was sent out in August, if you have not registered and plan to attend, please get your registration in. Our Winter Conference will also be in a new location, Devens Conference Center, February 4, 5, and 6. Mark your calendars and watch for the information as it gets closer.

BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

There were few surprises to report as result of the primary elections you conducted last Tuesday. Generally speaking the turnout was particularly low given the statewide offices at stake. A remarkable surprise is the mere 6% margin by which heavy favorite Attorney General Martha Coakley bested Treasurer Steve Grossman in the democratic primary for Governor. Also, another surprise was the large plurality by which political newcomer Maura Healey trounced Warren Tolman in the democratic primary for Attorney General.

To be certain, last Tuesday evening was a celebration for female statewide candidates! We will have to wait until the general election November 4th to see if that holds. While Maura Healey and Deb Goldberg are hugely favored to beat their republican opponents in seven weeks, the race between Coakley and republican Charlie Baker is too close to call. Baker will be in overdrive trying to woo Grossman voters and attract unenrolled voters from across the board. In fact the democrat Mayor of Quincy has endorsed his candidacy.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin ran unopposed in the primary but faces a republican in

the general. Pollsters reportedly have Galvin winning by a considerable margin.

In the state legislature all primary races but for one, celebrated incumbent victories. Representative Wayne Matewsky, (D Everett) was the single incumbent to lose in House and Senate primaries.

We can expect voter turnout on Election Day to perhaps be comparable to 2010. This may be probable given the high profile race to succeed Governor Patrick in the corner office as well as the wide interest in the four ballot questions namely; continuing the 2013 law linking the gasoline tax to the rate of inflation, casino repeal, expansion of the bottle deposit law, and lastly guaranteed paid sick time for workers.

Will there be any upsets on November 4th? Will most pollsters be as far off the mark as they proved to be in the primary? Will the current electorate be as angry with "establishment" endorsed candidates as they seemed to be on September 9th?

Stay tuned. Rest assured, the next several weeks will be an interesting time here for politics in Massachusetts.

MTCA CONFERENCES

MTCA FALL CONFERENCE

October 1 - 3, 2014



**Sheraton
Springfield**
MONARCH PLACE
HOTEL

MTCA WINTER CONFERENCE

Devens Common Center, Devens MA

February 4 - 6, 2015



CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK

I am pleased to inform you that as of today, the following individual has earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

Denise Graffeo - Town Clerk - Town of Tewksbury, MA.

The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning. The program has been in existence since 1970 and has helped thousands of clerks in various municipalities.

Founded in 1947, IIMC is a professional association with more than 10,000 members in the US, Canada and 15 other countries. IIMC's primary goal is to actively promote the continuing education and professional development of municipal clerks through

extensive education programs, certification, recertification, publications, networking, annual conferences and research. IIMC also engages in municipal research administration, enhances critical professional skill development and fosters a spirit of mutual assistance and good fellowship among municipal clerks around the globe. IIMC is governed by a 26-member Board of Directors.

For more information please visit our website at www.iimc.com or contact us at hq@iimc.com or 909-944-4162.

Sincerely,

Chris Shalby
Executive Director



NEACTC CONFERENCE

New Hampshire welcomes you to join them November 19-21, 2014 where the sea meets the land in historic Portsmouth, NH.

The 2014 New England Association of City & Town Clerks annual conference will be held at the beautiful Sheraton Harborside Hotel in the heart of Portsmouth where you can walk to quaint shops, restaurants, historic sites and many other attractions the city has to offer.

For more information and registration forms go to www.newenglandclerks.org.



OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE**How does the new campaign finance legislation affect local election officials?**

Gov. Patrick signed a bill recently that makes dozens of changes to the campaign finance law, but only a few that affect local election officials.

The primary purpose of the legislation is to require more disclosure by Independent Expenditure "Super" PACs, political committees that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose candidates, so long as they don't coordinate with candidates and their committees.

Super PACs can organize and file reports on the local level, if they are created to support or oppose candidates who file locally.

The new law requires Super PACs to file disclosure reports to disclose expenditures, receipts, in-kind contributions and liabilities – OCPF will create forms for this purpose.

We don't anticipate a glut of Super PACs to organize on the local level. However, if a Super PAC organizes in your community, please call OCPF to discuss reporting requirements.

Several other changes to the law directly or indirectly affect town clerks, committees and candidates. They are:

The annual contribution limit increases from \$500 per calendar year to \$1,000. The new limits take effect Jan. 1, 2015.

Municipal candidates and committees, including municipal ballot question committees, are required to file subvendor reports. These reports are filed by candidates or committees disclosing how their vendors spend money on behalf of the campaign, subject to the following thresholds – the committee pays the vendor \$5,000 or more in a calendar

year, and the vendor makes payments to sub-vendors of \$500 or more. This change is immediately in effect.

Candidates can accept up to \$100 in money order contributions per year per individual, an increase of \$50. This change starts Jan. 1, 2015. Cash contributions are still \$50 for the calendar year.

The director of OCPF must make a summary of the law and forms available to town clerks for distribution of the materials to candidates. This section was changed to implement our recommendation that clerks collect e-mail address for all local candidates and forward a summary of the law and the forms electronically. This change is in effect now.

A full summary of the campaign finance law changes can be found on the front page of the OCPF website, www.ocpf.us. The bill is available here: [Chapter 210 of the Acts of 2014](#).

**MTCA MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2014
SEACREST BEACH HOTEL**

- ♦ A quorum of voting members being present, President Nancy Blackmer called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

Secretary's Report

2nd VP Jeremy Gillis made a motion to accept the minutes from the Association meeting from February 6, 2014 from the Sturbridge Conference and it was seconded by Treasurer Robert Cutler. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report - Robert Cutler

Treasurer Robert Cutler presented his report and stated there were copies on each table of the current Budget vs Actual Budget. On a motion by 2nd VP Jeremy Gillis and seconded by 1st VP Andrew Dowd, the current Budget vs Actual Budget was unanimously approved. He noted that the Purposed Budget had a few small changes where he reduced or eliminated the amounts. Member Carol Marple questioned cutting the scholarship for IIMC. Treasurer Cutler stated that it was originally in the Budget for \$2500, but due to decreased funding he suggested to the E-Board to eliminate this line item. Member Carol Marple made a motion to put it back into the Proposed Budget at \$5000 and this motion was seconded by Member Denise MacAloney. Member Anita Tekle stated that it had been discussed by the E-Board and that the Association is low on funds and recommended cutting it out. Member Anita Tekle said the Association is down to barebones financially and the conferences at this point don't even pay for themselves. Member Carol Marple then requested to withdraw her motion. On a motion by 2nd VP Gillis and seconded by the members, the Treasurer's Proposed Budget was unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee – Tedi Eaton

Nominating Committee Member Tedi Eaton read the Committee's recommended list of Clerks and the positions nominated for. President Nancy Blackmer asked for a motion which was made by 2nd VP Jeremy Gillis and seconded by Treasurer Robert Cutler, there were no questions or discussion and the nominations were unanimously approved.

Bylaw Committee – Anita Tekle

Bylaw Committee Member Anita Tekle reported that there are copies of the revised Bylaws on each table and it had been printed in The Recorder for review by the members. She stated that there were only a few minor changes to clean up the language and inconsistencies. Member Anita Tekle also told the Association that Article 3; Section A1 had been deleted because the Committee was going to revisit that section at a later meeting. 2nd VP Jeremy Gillis made a motion to accept the revised Bylaws and 1st VP Andrew Dowd seconded the motion. Member Anita Tekle stated that the motion has to pass by a 2/3rd majority vote by Town Clerks only. Motion passed unanimously.

CMMC Awards - President Blackmer introduced Barbara LaBombard who presented the clerks who have recently earned their CMMC certificate and recertification. They were:

Elizabeth Sloan from Hanson, 1st Certification
 Carlene C. Hamlin from South Hadley, 1st Certification
 Diane B. Packer from Natick, 1st Certification
 Joyce Green from Hubbardston, 1st Re-Certification
 Linda A. Ramsdell from Ashburnham, 1st Re-Certification
 Evelyn Bird from Windsor, 3rd Re-Certification
 Anita Tekle from Concord, 3rd Re-Certification

Legislator of the Year Award – Legislative Agent, Tom Joyce

Legislative Agent, Tom Joyce discussed the new election laws in brief and stated that one of the main reasons we got as far as we did with the new laws was due to the Legislator of the Year recipient, Representative James Murphy. He then introduced Representative Murphy to the Association.

Representative Murphy gave a thank you speech to the members. He then presented a signed copy of the new elections laws to President Nancy Blackmer for the Association.

*Minutes continued***Archives Preservation Classes- Donna Hooper**

President Nancy Blackmer introduced Past President Donna Hooper to speak in regards to the upcoming new classes for archives preservation. Past President Hooper then introduced Janet Bastian from Simons College, who then gave an update on the classes. She stated that there will be two in person classes available in November 2014 and classes after that will be online. The cost will be \$150.

New Election Laws - Michelle Tassinari

President Nancy Blackmer introduced Michelle Tassinari, Director of the Election Division to discuss some of the changes in regards to the new election laws. Michelle discussed the following topics included in the new laws:

- ◆ The training requirement will not be effective until Aug 1, 2015
- ◆ Online registration- they are working with RMV currently and it has to be in place by August 2015, however, it may be completed before that date
- ◆ Pre-registration will begin in August 2016 and will be available online as well
- ◆ Section 8- requires an online portal to check voter status-this has already been up and running
- ◆ Section 9 – change in who can vote in primary elections begins after the 2014 elections
- ◆ Section 10 & 11 – Wavier in the system to appoint fewer poll workers has to be completed prior to August 2014
- ◆ Early Voting- begins for Nov 2016 Election; it does not include primary elections, special elections or town elections. It will require only 1 location in the Clerks' offices. The ballots are not counted early; they are placed in separate envelope to be counted on Election Day.
- ◆ Post-Election Audit – will not begin until after 2016 election. We will have to hand count certain precincts, don't have to use poll workers and it won't happen until well after the election.
- ◆ Section 16 – Election Task Force
- ◆ Section 17 – Residency Study will be done by the Secretary of State's Office

President Blackmer then asked Member Amy Warfield to talk about the MTCA website. Member Amy Warfield explained that many members were having trouble getting on to the website member's section. She stated that your ID to get on will be your first initial and last name.

President Blackmer then asked all new clerks to come up front and introduce themselves and what town they were from.

1st VP – Andrew Dowd

1st VP Andrew Dowd stated that there were a few scholarship applications for this conference. He thanked those who received scholarships for helping with the cost by sharing a room. Then he thanked all the vendors for attending the conference, and stated that there were 20 vendors for this conference.

2nd VP – Jeremy Gillis

2nd VP Jeremy Gillis thanked all the members and vendors for attending as well as the hotel for all their assistance.

City Clerks Association – 1st VP Lisa Thomas

1st VP of City Clerks Lisa Thomas told the Association that the City Clerks President Alison Bouchard had a fire at her home that destroyed everything they had. She said she would be sending around a large card for everyone to sign if they would like to. Also, there will be an envelope that you could donate money to her if you want as well.

1st VP of City Clerks Lisa Thomas also reminded everyone that Danielle Norton, from the Registry of Vital Records would be holding workshops in regards to the Death Module and anyone interested should let her know because they can only hold up to about 100 people.

President Nancy Blackmer asked for a motion to adjourn, 1st VP Jeremy Gillis made the motion and seconded by 1st VP Andrew Dowd, all in favor.

Adjourned at 1:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan, CMMC, CMC
MTCA Secretary

GET TO KNOW THE MASS. TOWN CLERKS

Nancy M. Blackmer, MMC/CMMC - Town Clerk of Orange MTCA President

Town/Population: Orange, MA - Population 7,800 Town Clerk since January 2000. Also a Notary Public and Commissioner to Qualify

Children/Grandchildren: She has 2 daughters age 35 and 33. Both are married and her 1st grandchild is due in March 2015.



What is your favorite food? Lobster

What is your favorite vacation spot? Maine and St. Martin

Do you have any hobbies? Quilting/Sewing

What is your favorite movie/TV Show? Bing Bang Theory

What is your favorite thing about your career? Meeting people and helping them with their problems

What is your proudest accomplishment? Earning my CMMC and MMC and serving as President of the MTCA

Jeremy P. Gillis, MMC/CMMC - Town Clerk of Easton Second Vice- President

Town/Population: Easton, MA - Population 23,500 Town Clerk since 2008. Also a Notary Public, Commissioner to Qualify, Justice of the Peace, and Municipal Hearing Officer. Assistant City Clerk, Gloucester 2006-2008

Children/Grandchildren: Jacob and Connor, age 6

What is your favorite food? A perfectly cooked cheeseburger

What is your favorite vacation spot? White Mountains of New Hampshire

Do you have any hobbies? Reading, Hockey, Fishing, and Baseball Memorabilia collecting

What is your favorite movie/TV Show? Stand By Me, Tie: The Walking Dead & M*A*S*H

What is your favorite thing about your career? Overseeing elections and the interaction with colleagues across the country. I enjoy the process of trying to always improve the processes of the office and position.

What is your proudest accomplishment? Outside of being a dad, my proudest moment was when I won election to the City Council at age 26, which started my career in local government.



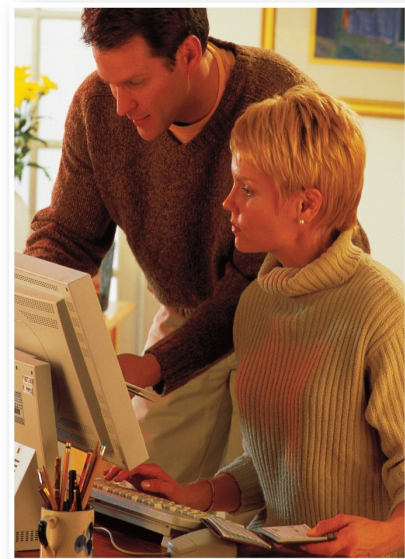
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- Mary-Ellen Lannon Town Clerk of Winchester

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Newsletter of the MTCA

584 Main Street
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Massachusetts Town Clerks Association

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The Public Recorder

The Public Recorder is published monthly August to June by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association for its membership.

Closing date for copy submission is the FIRST DAY of each month. All news, notes, clippings, meeting notices, and address corrections should be sent to Editor Nancy E. Burnham, 584 Main Street, Athol MA 01331

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