

## Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

# The Public Recorder

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### From the President, Marie Y. Ryan



**H**appy fall everyone! Well, another great conference has come and gone and hopefully we all learned at least one thing.



*Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump addressed the MTCA Fall Conference on September 21, thanking the clerks for their professionalism in helping to calculate the uniform polling hours reimbursement for 2018 elections. Based on the information that clerks provided the Auditor's Division of Local Mandates, the Commonwealth will provide approximately \$1.9 million to cover costs for cities and towns. Auditor Bump said, "You all in this room are the reason that our elections are run with efficiency and integrity. Your hard work, and commitment to the voters in your community are why, when the votes are cast, regardless of whether their preferred candidate won or lost, they trust and respect the results of our democracy."*

I'm not sure that everyone realizes all the hard work that goes into the conferences and I want to thank Bob Cutler, Nancy Talbot, Barbara Labombard, Dottie Powers and all the Education Committee Members (and anyone else I may have missed)! They do a fantastic job.

Now, on that note, even if there are no openings on different committees that you may be interested in, contact someone on that committee. Often there may be something going on for that committee that they could use extra help. I encourage everyone to think about it and get involved. It is a great way to get involved and see what the committees really do or if it is something you may want to participate in when there is an opening in the future.

Don't forget to check out our new website at [www.masstownclerks.org](http://www.masstownclerks.org)! It is awesome and special thanks to Danielle Sicard, Kelly McElreath and Amy Warfield and anyone who helped them, who have worked so hard for us to get us this very useful terrific new website!

Well, the first few months as President of this great group has gone smoothly. I want to thank you all for your help with the many issues that we all have to deal with.

Have a great fall!

## BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

Beacon Hill has been quite active since my last report in June. Numerous bills impacting your Association have been heard at the legislatures' joint committees, particularly the joint committee on Election Laws. Just this week that committee heard numerous bills relating to campaign finance as well as a few bills, which we supported, aimed at funding municipalities for all costs related to early voting.

All summer your task force representative, Danielle Sicard and I have been busy meeting with influential legislators and interest groups including Common Cause garnering support for appropriate changes to the early voting law which would, among other things, do away with the envelope requirement, promote an equitable system for counting and storing the ballots and scrapping early voting by mail. Additionally, Danielle has been working with the SOC to ensure a seamless transition once changes become law.

Coincidentally, legislative support is growing for expansion of automatic voter registration, in particular House Bill 2120 filed by Representative Peter Kocot. Chairman Bob Cutler and your legislative committee working with the Executive Board is refining an appropriate detailed response including proposed changes in support. Also, perhaps complicating things, the state's Supreme Judicial Court ruling on the twenty-day voter registration timeline has added a lot of legislative interest in same day voter registration as well.

The Association is hopeful that any appropriate voter access bill moving forward will include the changes we desire to the early voting law. You should note that Auditor Bump has been encouraging legislators to provide sufficient funding and resources for a smooth execution of the voter registration process.

In another area of interest, I am pleased to report that the section of the fiscal 2018 budget creating Community Development Districts which places additional and quite frankly unworkable requirements on Clerks was sent back to the Legislature by Governor Baker with an amendment addressing our concerns.

You should also be aware that the Legislature passed a law amending the retail marijuana law passed by the voters in 2016 which among other things mandates the process local communities can restrict and or prohibit facilities locally. After much debate, the legislative

compromise enacted basically allows communities to act with certain requirements for approval of restrictions; namely if a community approved the 2016 referendum then that community must obtain approval of restrictions from the voters of that municipality, and if the voters of the community voted to reject the 2016 referendum then restrictions can be passed by the board of selectmen without going to the voters.

On a legislative personnel note, two months ago House Speaker Bob DeLeo appointed Representative Jeffrey Sanchez of Jamaica Plain as his new Chairman of the powerful House Ways & Means Committee. Jeffrey is an effective leader and very well-respected gentleman whom will ultimately review most legislation we care about. I have had the pleasure of working with him in his previous role as House Chair of the Health Care Financing Committee. The Speaker moved up Representative Kocot to assume that Chairmanship.

I will continue to work with Bob Cutler to keep you posted on all legislative issues of importance as they develop. I wish you all the very best particularly during this municipal election season.

## CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK

The following individual has earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

**Dianne K. Bucco, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Wenham, MA.**

**Kelly Dumas, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Uxbridge, MA.**

**Linda Emerson, CMC - Assistant Town Clerk - Town of Rockport, MA**

**Catherine Heuberger, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Mattapoisett, MA.**

**Anne G. Iannitelli, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of West Bridgewater, MA**

**Susan C. Kelley, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Duxbury, MA.**

**Kandy Lavallee - CMC—Interim Town Clerk - Town of Grafton, MA.**

**Dina Livingston, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of East Bridgewater, MA**

**Laura McCarthy, CMC - Assistant Town Clerk - Town of Dennis, MA.**

**Donna Shortall, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Rockland, MA.**

**Cynthia Thompson, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Wrentham, 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](http://www.iimc.com) or contact us at [hq@iimc.com](mailto:hq@iimc.com) or 909-944-4162.

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—Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk of Montague

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—Mary-Ellen Lannon, Town Clerk of Winchester

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—Joyce Bradshaw, Town Clerk of North Andover

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# Newsletter of the MTCA

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## **The Public Recorder**

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