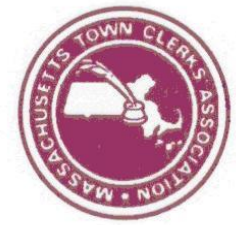


**Executive Board Meeting
Northborough Senior Center
Monday, August 7, 2023 – 10 AM**



1. SECRETARY’S REPORT—JAYNE DAVOLIO
 - Approve June 7, 2023 Minutes (attached)
2. TREASURER’S REPORT— TRICIA BESSETTE
 - FY23 Year End Budget vs Actual (attached)
 - Plymouth 2023 Conference Draft Report as of 7.31.23 (attached)
 - FY 24 Year to date Budget vs Actual (attached)
 - Membership report (attached)
3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT—ELIZABETH GREENDALE
 - Appointments – Education Committee replacement (attached)
 - Conference Timeline Worksheet (attached)
 - Conference Update – Wednesday Class
 - Vendor Fee Waived Request – Department of Correction
 - Bill Campbell proposal of Campaign Donation Funds
4. 1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT—DANIELLE SICARD (verbal)
 - Scholarship Report
 - Vendors Report
5. 2ND VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT—DOTTIE POWERS
 - Conference Cost Comparisons (attached)
 - Conference Turn out summary (attached)
6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT—TRUDY REID
 - Springfield Class Line Up (attached)
7. LEGISLATIVE REPORT—ANDY DOWD
 - MTCA Legislative Agenda (attached)
 - MTCA survey & Data Results – Key Objectives for Changes Final (attached)
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - BYLAW / POLICY & PROCEDURES REVIEW COMMITTEE – NANCY BLACKMER
 - CLERKS MANUAL COMMITTEE – JAYNE DAVOLIO
 - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
 - WEBSITE UPDATE / TRAINING – ANDY DOWD & KELLY MCELREATH (verbal)
 - CMMC CERTIFICATION/CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR—BARBARA LABOMBARD
 - MEMBER RECOGNITION COMMITTEE – NANCY BLACKMER
 - MENTORING COMMITTEE – DANIELLE SICARD
 - New Clerk Mentoring Session Report (attached)
 - FY24 Mentoring Calendar & fee increase (verbal)
 - NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT—TEDI EATON
 - TECHNOLOGY AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – DANIELLE SICARD (verbal)
9. SOFTWARE COORINATOR – DANIELLE SICARD (verbal)
10. SUNSHINE FUND ADMIN / SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT—CHERYL ESTRELLA (attached)
11. PAST PRESIDENT REPORT—BOB CUTLER

www.masstownclerks.org

MTCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



June 6, 2023 – Hotel 1620 Plymouth Summer Conference

Rough draft 6/7/2023

	Attendance	Present
PRESIDENT	ROBERT E. CULTER, JR	√
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	ELIZABETH T. GREENDALE	√
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	DANIELLE M. SICARD	√
TREASURER	DEBRA BOURBEAU	√
ASST. TREASURER	LYNN SIBLEY	
SECRETARY	JAYNE MARIE DAVOLIO	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023	LILLIAN M. DRANE	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023	ANDREW DOWD	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023	MICHELLE HILL	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024	JOSEPH JUDD	
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024	ILLENE TWISS	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024	VALERIE FOX	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2025	CARLA DAWNE WARREN	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2025	KELLY DARLING	√
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2025	MARY DE ALDERETE	√
PAST PRESIDENT	NANCY TALBOT	
CONFERENCE REG ADMIN CERTIFICATION ADMIN	BABRABA LABOMBARD	√
ED. DATABASE COOR/CHAIR	TRUDY REED	
SUNSHINE ADMIN/SOCIAL	CHERYL C.A. ESTRELLA	√

Open the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

President Cutler thanked everyone as this was his last meeting as President. He also gave thanks to Elizabeth Greendale and Danielle Sicard for all the hard work that they did while he was president.

1. SECRETARY'S REPORT—JAYNE DAVOLIO

- Approve April 3, 2023 Minutes (attached)

Changes needed to be made to appointment documents (Norfolk County – Patricia) (Avon-ma.gov) (Kelly Darling 774-840-0616) (Barbara Certification Admin Easthampton ma.gov Monday- Thursday 1400 ext.) (Correct phone number to 5002 Andy Dowd) (Nancy Blackmer 978-413-2265) (Madeline 508-320-3882) (Cheryl Estrella 1501 direct extension)

Changes need to be made. (Tom Joyce 100 Sudbury Street, Suite 2014 Boston)

MTCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



June 6, 2023 – Hotel 1620 Plymouth Summer Conference

Rough draft 6/7/2023

Motion to approve the minutes once the above changes are corrected, Carla Dawne Warren, Seconded by Danielle Sicard, all in favor.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT— DEB BOURBEAU
FY 23 Year to date report attached.

Motion Elizabeth Greendale, Seconded by Carla Dawne Warren, All in favor.

- Membership report (attached)

No discussion

Proposed Budget: Attached

Increase 25.00 for Registration is now 75 and registering late 125. Increased the media line and cost for meals.

Motion to bring to the association for approval Danielle Sicard, Seconded Andy Dowd, All in favor

3. Presidents Report: PRESIDENT ROBERT CUTLER

Appointments: attached, Asst. treasurer open, Clerks manual committee Ryan Witkos, minor change in legislative committee Carin kale moved up and Jim Haggarty as alternate, President Cutler replaced Elizabeth Greendale on the legislative review committee.

Motion to approve corrections for Ryan Witkos for clerks manual committee ending in 2026 Danielle Sicard, Seconded by Mary de Alderete, All in favor.

MTCA Committee & Board Policy Book

Attached

Motion to accept & approve by Carla Dawn Warren as reviewed, Seconded by Kelly Darling, All in favor.

MTCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



June 6, 2023 – Hotel 1620 Plymouth Summer Conference

Rough draft 6/7/2023

4. 1st Vice President- ELIZABETH GREENDALE

Scholarship report none needed.

Vendors Report: 32 tables Vendors, \$2800 in donations.

5. 2nd Vice President – DANIELLE SICARD

There is a record number for the conference. There will be four lines for lunch, and this will be a busy meeting for the luncheon. AV doubled from last year for payment. So please contact the company with any issues. The contact information is on the equipment.

6. CMMC CERTIFICATION/CONFERENCE ADMINSTRATOR- BARBARA LABOMBARD - 291 total number registrations. Total deposited for registration and meals was \$ 33, 821.00. See attached report.

7. Education Report: Trudy Reid: Trudy was unable to appear at the conference. Jayne Davolio asked if members like the line up. All seemed happy and mentioned that whoever does the Athenian needs to take ownership of it.

8. Legislative report, ANDY DOWD:

For clerks' day on the hill a draft letter to be distributed for talking points. Also, a graph survey will be attached with the letter to help out when talking to our reps and senators.

The postcards seem to be the biggest challenge and burden. Discussion of the weeks and weekends for EV. Discussion on the process and permanent vote by mail questions. A lot of moving parts to the system. Unlikely for change before 2024, maybe changes to the postcard. Danielle Sicard mentioned that out of 52 weeks in 2024 there will be 18 weeks that election work is not conducted.

Grant program into the Secretary for 5 million for equipment and staffing is still a work in progress.

AVR Automatic voter registration discussion and Test models for VRIS are rolling out.

MTCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



June 6, 2023 – Hotel 1620 Plymouth Summer Conference

Rough draft 6/7/2023

Danielle commended the hard work that Kelly Darling and Carla Dawn Warren did on the document and to add further information with the DATA. Great Job! We all need to talk the same language at the state house. We need to be professional and stay on point. We are the Clerks we need to show our position and own it.

State primary will be the day after Labor Day always as our thoughts go on deaf ears.

September 3, 2024.

9. Committee reports:

BYLAW /POLICY & PROCEDURES REVIEW COMMITTEE - NANCY BLACKMER not in attendance

Recognition will be presented at Lunch for Town Clerk of the Year.

Clerks Manual Committee: JAYNE MARIE DAVOLIO - will start this committee after this conference with a full slate of members including our new appointment of Ryan Witkos.

Communications Committee: Updated the Gmail etiquette adding a second page with FAQ. Facebook page etc. Reference of finding your people around you to help you and follow the etiquette. Making Sure members are not replying to all. Work next with website admin. Kelly McElreath, Andy Dowd & now Carla Dawn Warren. Discussion on where everything is stored and who oversees each of the cabinets before August there will be training. Carla Dawn Warren to become chair.

Mentoring Committee: DANIELLE SICARD- Two sessions Dennis and Burlington New Clerks 14 and 19 attending. Next to calendar over the summer for hosting and to planning, where to go. We need to look at a Vitals class and to revamp VRIS class. Reports done on all budgets.

Nomination committee: They did a great job.

MTCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



June 6, 2023 – Hotel 1620 Plymouth Summer Conference

Rough draft 6/7/2023

10. Software coordinator- DANIELLE SICARD This is a huge transition year with the new agreement and how to understand the process. Training is coming! Before the August board meeting.

11. SUNSHINE FUND ADMIN/SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: CHERYL ESTRELLA- report attached.

12. PAST PRESIDENT REPORT: NANCY TALBOT- not able to attend.

Motion to adjourn Elizabeth Greendale, Seconded by Carla Dawne Warren, All in Favor.

11:20 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne Marie Davolio

Jayne Marie Davolio, MTCA Secretary

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

FY23 Year End

INCOME	FY23 Budget	NEW INCOME	ACTUAL	REMAINING
3100 - Conference Revenue				
3110 - Registration	\$38,000.00	\$5,810.00	\$36,210.00	\$1,790.00
3120 - Meals	\$49,000.00	\$7,700.00	\$58,186.00	(\$9,186.00)
3130 - Mentoring Workshops	\$1,800.00	\$495.00	\$1,500.00	\$300.00
3140 - Vendor Income	\$22,000.00	\$7,055.00	\$25,585.00	(\$3,585.00)
Total Conference Revenue	\$110,800.00	\$21,060.00	\$121,481.00	(\$10,681.00)
3200 - Certification Revenue	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	\$1,505.00	(\$5.00)
3300 - Scholarship Donations	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
3400 - Public Recorder/Website Ads	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
3500 - Media Stipends/AP/Educ	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$19,468.00	(\$7,468.00)
3600 - Dues	\$30,000.00	\$665.00	\$32,905.00	(\$2,905.00)
3700 - Interest Income (Bank Account)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3800 - MISC (Mkting/Sundries)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	(\$20.00)
Cash Transfer from Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$48,000.00	\$915.00	\$55,148.00	(\$7,148.00)
TOTAL INCOME	\$158,800.00	\$21,975.00	\$176,629.00	(\$17,829.00)

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

FY23 Year End

EXPENSE	FY23 BUDGET	NEW EXP	ACTUAL	REMAINING
5000 - President Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$465.78	\$1,032.42	\$1,467.58
5100 - Secretary Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5200 - Treasurer Expenses				
5200 - Treasurer Expenses	\$250.00	\$195.63	\$407.61	(\$157.61)
5201- MTCA software	\$2,900.00		\$2,835.00	\$65.00
5202 - Software Coordinator	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Total Treasurer Expenses	\$4,350.00	\$195.63	\$4,442.61	(\$92.61)
5300 - Lobbyist Expenses				
5301 - Lobbyist Salary	\$36,050.00	\$3,004.17	\$35,525.04	\$524.96
5302 - Lobbyist Expenses	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5303 - Lobbyist Reg Fee	\$110.00		\$110.00	\$0.00
Total Lobbyist Expense	\$36,160.00	\$3,004.17	\$35,635.04	\$524.96
5400 - Scholarship Expenses				
5401 - NEMCI Exp (outside sources)	\$2,500.00		\$0.00	\$2,500.00
5402 - NEMCI Exp (MTCA)	\$1,100.00		\$0.00	\$1,100.00
5403 - MTCA Conference Scholarships	\$4,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00
5404 - Awards/Scholarships	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Scholarship Expenses	\$7,600.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,100.00
5500 - Legislative Committee Expenses	\$250.00	\$3,073.04	\$3,073.04	(\$2,823.04)
5600 - Certification Expenses				
5601 - Administrator Stipend	\$1,000.00	\$125.00	\$870.00	\$130.00
5602 - Certification Expenses	\$400.00		\$322.11	\$77.89
Total Certification Expenses	\$1,400.00	\$125.00	\$1,192.11	\$207.89
5700 - Conference Expenses				
5701 - Printing Brochures/Program	\$1,500.00	\$694.25	\$1,812.38	(\$312.38)
5702 - Conference Deposits	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00	\$0.00
5703 - Postage / Brochure Mailing	\$0.00		\$21.79	(\$21.79)
5705 - Entertainment	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$100.00
5706 - Speakers / Education	\$1,240.00	\$711.35	\$711.35	\$528.65
5707-1 - Conference Hotel / Meals	\$83,000.00	\$35,695.58	\$83,237.42	(\$237.42)
5707-2 - Conference AV equipmemt	\$2,000.00		\$8,854.28	(\$6,854.28)
5708 - NE Conference (2022)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
5709 - Misc Conf Exp (survey)	\$200.00	\$244.38	\$741.63	(\$541.63)
5710 - Mentoring - refreshments	\$1,800.00	\$498.50	\$1,361.43	\$438.57
Total Conference Expenses	\$98,340.00	\$39,344.06	\$105,240.28	(\$6,900.28)

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

FY23 Year End

EXPENSE Continued	FY2023 BUDGET	NEW EXP	ACTUAL	REMAINING
5800 - Executive Board Meetings/Lunches	\$2,600.00	\$873.32	\$2,419.76	\$180.24
5900 - Communication/Public Recorder				
5901 - Pub Rec Stipend / Editor	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5902 - Postage	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5903 - Printing	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5904 - Web Update & Hosting	\$2,000.00	\$1,995.00	\$1,995.00	\$5.00
Total Communication/Public Recorder	\$2,000.00	\$1,995.00	\$1,995.00	\$5.00
6000 - Auditor				
6001 - Annual Financial Review	\$850.00		\$1,750.00	(\$900.00)
6002 - Annual Tax Returns	\$850.00		\$1,750.00	(\$900.00)
Total Auditor Expense	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	(\$1,800.00)
6100 - Marketing / Name Badges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6200 - Miscellaneous Expenses				
6201 - Gifts/Memorials/Flowers	\$1,000.00		\$2,029.60	(\$1,029.60)
6202 - NEMCI Graduation Gifts	\$400.00		\$294.00	\$106.00
6203 - Miscellaneous	\$500.00		\$25.00	\$475.00
Total Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$2,348.60	(\$448.60)
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$158,800.00	\$51,576.00	\$163,378.86	(\$4,578.86)
Income / Expense Variance	\$0.00		\$13,250.14	

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

FY23 Year End

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	5/31/2023	\$64,123.51
New Income		\$21,975.00
New Expenses		\$51,576.00
Current Balance	6/30/2023	\$34,522.51

Money Market account Balance

Beginning Balance	5/31/2023	\$32,288.80
New Income		\$6.62
New Expenses		
Current Balance	6/30/2023	\$32,295.42

**MASSACHUSETTS TOWN CLERK'S ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE REPORT**

INCOME	Conference: Plymouth 2023	Plymouth 2022	Plymouth 2021	Plymouth 2019	Plymouth 2018	Plymouth 2017
	ACTUAL revised	ACTUAL revised	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
3100 - Conference Revenue						
3110 - Registration	\$14,860.00	\$13,800.00	\$6,600.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,410.00	\$11,950.00
3120 - Meals	\$23,811.00	\$22,460.00	\$10,560.00	\$14,370.00	\$14,515.00	\$15,966.00
3140 - Vendor Income	\$11,315.00	\$27,110.00	\$4,800.00	\$8,570.00	\$7,375.00	\$8,655.00
Total Conference Revenue	\$49,986.00	\$63,370.00	\$21,960.00	\$36,440.00	\$35,300.00	\$36,571.00
EXPENSE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
5000 President Expense	\$465.78	\$445.68				
5400 - Scholarship Expenses						
5403 - MTCA Conference Scholarship	\$0.00	\$148.56	\$0.00	\$851.16	\$692.37	\$930.44
5700 - Conference Expenses						
5701 - Printing Brochures/Program	\$694.25	\$560.40		\$425.27	\$417.02	\$381.35
5702 - Conference Deposits	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
5703 - Postage / Brochure Mailing	\$0.00					
5705 - Entertainment	\$500.00	\$8,900.00	\$500.00			\$1,100.00
5706 - Speakers / Education	\$711.35	\$3,125.00	\$600.00	\$190.00	\$591.00	\$501.80
5707 - Conference Hotel / Meals	\$35,695.58	\$47,819.81	\$18,777.40	\$36,055.55	\$31,998.11	\$33,122.09
5707-2 AV	\$4,884.68					
5708 - NE Conference					\$2,000.00	
5709 - Misc Conf Exp (mentory/survey)	\$244.38	\$2,106.02	\$1,326.91		\$321.28	
5710 - Printing / Copying						
5800 Executive Meeting/lunches	\$873.32	\$732.00				
Total Conference Expenses	\$46,069.34	\$65,837.47	\$23,204.31	\$39,521.98	\$38,019.78	\$38,035.68
Income / Expense Variance	\$3,916.66	(\$2,467.47)	(\$1,244.31)	(\$3,081.98)	(\$2,719.78)	(\$1,464.68)
Total # of Registrants:	291	264	88 88 - zoom	256	263	236
MCCA donation:		\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,700.00	\$250.00

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

As of August 1, 2023

INCOME	FY24 Budget	NEW INCOME	ACTUAL	REMAINING
3100 - Conference Revenue				
3110 - Registration	\$53,000.00		\$0.00	\$53,000.00
3120 - Meals	\$51,600.00		\$0.00	\$51,600.00
3130 - Mentoring Workshops	\$1,800.00		\$0.00	\$1,800.00
3140 - Vendor Income	\$24,000.00		\$0.00	\$24,000.00
Total Conference Revenue	\$130,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130,400.00
3200 - Certification Revenue	\$1,500.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$1,150.00
3300 - Scholarship Donations	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
3400 - Public Recorder/Website Ads	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
3500 - Media Stipends/AP/Educ	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
3600 - Dues	\$31,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,100.00
3700 - Interest Income (Bank Account)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3800 - MISC (Mkting/Sundries)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash Transfer from Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$43,100.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$42,750.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$173,500.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$173,150.00

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

As of August 1, 2023

EXPENSE	FY23 BUDGET	NEW EXP	ACTUAL	REMAINING
5000 - President Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
5100 - Secretary Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5200 - Treasurer Expenses				
5200 - Treasurer Expenses	\$250.00		\$0.00	\$250.00
5201- MTCA software	\$2,900.00		\$0.00	\$2,900.00
5202 - Software Coordinator	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Total Treasurer Expenses	\$4,350.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$3,750.00
5300 - Lobbyist Expenses				
5301 - Lobbyist Salary	\$36,050.00	\$3,004.17	\$3,004.17	\$33,045.83
5302 - Lobbyist Expenses	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5303 - Lobbyist Reg Fee	\$110.00		\$0.00	\$110.00
Total Lobbyist Expense	\$36,160.00	\$3,004.17	\$3,004.17	\$33,155.83
5400 - Scholarship Expenses				
5401 - NEMCI Exp (outside sources)	\$2,500.00		\$0.00	\$2,500.00
5402 - NEMCI Exp (MTCA)	\$1,100.00		\$0.00	\$1,100.00
5403 - MTCA Conference Scholarships	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
5404 - Awards/Scholarships	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Scholarship Expenses	\$7,600.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,600.00
5500 - Legislative Committee Expenses	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
5600 - Certification Expenses				
5601 - Administrator Stipend	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
5602 - Certification Expenses	\$400.00	\$136.92	\$136.92	\$263.08
Total Certification Expenses	\$1,400.00	\$136.92	\$136.92	\$1,263.08
5700 - Conference Expenses				
5701 - Printing Brochures/Program	\$1,800.00		\$0.00	\$1,800.00
5702 - Conference Deposits	\$7,000.00		\$0.00	\$7,000.00
5703 - Postage / Brochure Mailing			\$0.00	\$0.00
5705 - Entertainment	\$600.00		\$0.00	\$600.00
5706 - Speakers / Education	\$1,240.00		\$0.00	\$1,240.00
5707-1 - Conference Hotel / Meals	\$89,600.00		\$0.00	\$89,600.00
5707-2 - Conference AV equipmemt	\$7,500.00		\$0.00	\$7,500.00
5708 - NE Conference (2022)	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
5709 - Misc Conf Exp (survey)	\$2,500.00		\$0.00	\$2,500.00
5710 - Mentoring - refreshments	\$1,800.00		\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Total Conference Expenses	\$113,040.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$113,040.00

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

Budget vs. Actual

As of August 1, 2023

EXPENSE Continued	FY2024 BUDGET	NEW EXP	ACTUAL	REMAINING
5800 - Executive Board Meetings/Lunches	\$2,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,600.00
5900 - Communication/Public Recorder				
5901 - Pub Rec Stipend / Editor	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5902 - Postage	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5903 - Printing	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
5904 - Web Update & Hosting	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Total Communication/Public Recorder	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
6000 - Auditor				
6001 - Annual Financial Review	\$850.00		\$0.00	\$850.00
6002 - Annual Tax Returns	\$850.00		\$0.00	\$850.00
Total Auditor Expense	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00
6100 - Marketing / Name Badges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6200 - Miscellaneous Expenses				
6201 - Gifts/Memorials/Flowers	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
6202 - NEMCI Graduation Gifts	\$400.00	\$199.04	\$199.04	\$200.96
6203 - Miscellaneous	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,900.00	\$199.04	\$199.04	\$1,700.96
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$173,500.00	\$5,940.13	\$5,940.13	\$167,559.87
Income / Expense Variance	\$0.00		(\$5,590.13)	

Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association
Budget vs. Actual
As of August 1, 2023

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	6/30/2023	\$34,522.51
New Income		\$350.00
New Expenses		\$5,940.13
Current Balance	7/31/2023	\$28,932.38

Money Market account Balance

Beginning Balance	6/30/2023	\$32,295.42
New Income		\$0.82
New Expenses		
Current Balance	8/1/2023	\$32,296.24

Membership Summary

2024

Member Type	Member Status	#	Membership Amt	Over Paid	Total
ACTIVE MEMBER	ACTIVE	178	\$13,410.00	\$0.00	\$13,410.00
ACTIVE MEMBER	PENDING	1	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
AFFILIATE MEMBER	ACTIVE	8	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
ASSOCIATE	ACTIVE	137	\$3,425.00	\$0.00	\$3,425.00
ASSOCIATE	PENDING	1	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
RETIRED	ACTIVE	11	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$110.00
STAFF- No Membership	ACTIVE	6	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					\$17,870.00

MTCA 2022-2023 APPOINTMENTS

All terms run July 1st thru June 30th unless otherwise noted

updated as of:
6/7/2023
DRAFT
8/7/2023

Member	Municipality	Committee Member Position	by	Appt Date	Term Expires	term yrs	# members	Appt Authority
ASSISTANT TREASURER						2 yr	1	E Board
Intentionally Vacant				2023	2025			
BUDGET COMMITTEE						1yr	5	E Board
<i>Chair</i>	Patricia Bessette			2023				
	Intentionally Vacant			2023				
	Amy Akell	<i>Treasurer (Chair)</i>		2022	2024			
	Jayne Marie Davolio	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>		2023	2024			
	Andrew Dowd			2023	2024			
BY-LAW - POLICIES & PROCEDURES REVIEW COMMITTEE						3 yr	6	President / E Board
<i>Chair</i>	Nancy Blackmer	Orange		2023	2026			
	Stephanie Carrera	Stoughton		2023	2026			
	Narice Casper	Marshfield		2023	2026			
	Jeanne Hudson	Holden		2023	2026			
	Trudy Reid	Wayland		2023	2026			
	Dorothy Powers	Westwood	<i>2nd VP (Advisory)</i>	2023				
CMMC CERTIFICATION ADMINISTRATOR						3 yr	1	E Board
Barbara LaBombard				2021	2024			
CMMC CERTIFICATION / EXAMINATION BOARD						3 yr	5 <i>(staggered terms)</i>	E Board
	Barbara LaBombard	Easthampton	<i>CMMC Certification Admin</i>	2021				
<i>Chair</i>	Madaline I. Bonadies	Southbridge		2021	2024			
	Nancy Blackmer	Orange		2023	2026			
	Lillian Drane	Lakeville		2022	2025			
	Valerie Fox	Lincoln		2022	2025			
CLERK'S MANUAL COMMITTEE						3 yr	5	EBoard
<i>Chair</i>	Jayne Marie Davolio	Millbury	<i>Secretary (Chair)</i>	2021				
	Deborah Kaye	Mashpee		2023	2026			
	Mary De Alderette	Lexington		2023	2026			
	Dorothy Powers	Westwood		2023	2026			
	Ryan Witkos	Hardwick		2023	2026			
COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE						3yr	7 & website com. Reps <i>(staggered terms)</i>	President / Eboard
	Patricia Bessette	Avon	<i>Treasurer OR Assist. Treas</i>	2023				
	Jayne Davolio	Millbury		2023				
	Nancy Burnham	Athol		2023	2026			
	Andrew Dowd	Northborough		2023	2026			
	Elizabeth Gaffey	Walpole		2022	2025			
	Dawne Warren	North Andover		2023	2024			
	Kelly McElreath	Plymouth		2022	2025			
<i>Chair</i>	Danielle Sicard	Easton	<i>Member & Mentoring Committee Rep</i>	2021	2024			
	Dorothy Powers	Westwood	<i>Legislative Committee Rep</i>	2021				
	Trudy Reid	Wayland	<i>Education Committee Rep</i>	2021				
	Barbara LaBombard	Easthampton	<i>CMMC Certification/Exam Board</i>	2021				

MTCA 2022-2023 APPOINTMENTS

All terms run July 1st thru June 30th unless otherwise noted

updated as of:
6/7/2023
DRAFT
8/7/2023

Member	Municipality	Committee Member Position	by	Appt Date	Term Expires	term yrs	# members	Appt Authority
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE						2 yr	9	President / EBoard
<i>Chair</i>	Elizabeth Greendale	Holliston	<i>President (Chair)</i>		2023			
	Danielle Sicard	Easton	<i>1st VP - Vendors</i>		2023			
	Dortothy Powers	Westwood	<i>2nd VP - Hotel</i>		2023			
	Barbara LaBombard	Easthampton	<i>Conference Registration Admin</i>		2022			
	Trudy Reid	Wayland	<i>Education Database Coordinator</i>		2021			
	"	"	<i>Education Committee Chair</i>		2021			
	Cheryl Estrella	Freetown	<i>Conference Brochure Admin</i>		2023	2025		
	Terri Bunce	Dennis			2023	2025		
	Kaari Mai Tari	Concord	<i>Conference Class Registrations Admin</i>		2023	2025		
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATOR						3 yr	1	E Board
	Barbara LaBombard	Easthampton			2022	2025		
EDUCATION DATABASE COORDINATOR						3 yr	1	President
	Trudy Reid	Wayland			2021	2024		
EDUCATION COMMITTEE						3 yr	11	E Board
	Dorothy Powers	Westwood	<i>2nd VP</i>		2023		<i>(staggered terms)</i>	
	Amy Akell	Ipswich			2021	2024		
	Laurie Becker	Paxton			2023	2026		
	Jayne Marie Davolio	Millbury			2022	2025		
	Mary De Alderete	Lexington			2022	2025		
	KC Kato	Wellesley			2023	2026		
	Stefany Ohannesian	Medway			2023	2026		
<i>Chair</i>	Trudy Reid	Wayland	<i>Education Database Coordinator</i>		2021	2024		
	Kaari Mai Tari	Concord			2023	2026		
	Amy Warfield	Burlington			2022	2024		
	Bridget Rodrique	Bedford			2022	2025		
ELECTION LAWS TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE						3 yr	1	President / E Board
	Danielle Sicard	Easton			2022	2025		
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (Jan 1 - Dec 31)						1 yr 3 yr	2 Alt. 7	President / E Board
	Lori West	Hull			2018	2024	<i>(staggered terms)</i>	
	Dottie Powers	Westwood			2018	2024		
	Catherine Harder-Bernier	Hanover			2020	2023		
	Carin A. Kale	Hamilton			2023	2023		
<i>Chair</i>	Andrew Dowd	Northborough			2019	2025		
	Debra Gremo	Auburn			2019	2025		
	Ryan Witkos	Hardwick			2021	2025		
<i>Alt.</i>	James Hegarty	Southborough			2023	2023		
<i>Alt.</i>	Danielle Sicard	Easton	<i>1st VP (Alt - 1 yr term)</i>		2023			
LOBBYIST REVIEW COMMITTEE						3 yr	3	President / Eboard
	Patricia Bessette	Avon	<i>Treasurer</i>		2023			
	Andrew Dowd	Northborough	<i>Chair of Legislative Committee</i>		2021			
	Robert E. Cutler, Jr.	Foxborough			2023	2026		

MTCA 2022-2023 APPOINTMENTS

All terms run July 1st thru June 30th unless otherwise noted

updated as of:
6/7/2023
DRAFT
8/7/2023

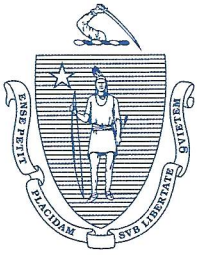
Member	Municipality	Committee Member Position	by	Appt Date	Term Expires	term yrs	# members	Appt Authority
MEMBER RECOGNITION COMMITTEE						3yr	5	President / Eboard
	Elizabeth Greendale	Holliston	<i>President</i>	2023		<i>(staggered terms)</i>		
	Robert E. Cutler	Foxborough	<i>Past President</i>	2021				
<i>Chair</i>	Nancy Blackmer	Orange		2021	2024			
	Jayne Marie Davolio	Millbury		2023	2026			
	Theodora Eaton	Needham		2022	2025			
MENTORING COMMITTEE						n/a	up to 12	Mentoring Committee
<i>Chair</i>	Danielle Sicard	Easton		2016				
	Dottie Powers	Westwood		2016				
	Kelly McElreath	Plymouth		2016				
	Elizabeth Greendale	Holliston		2016				
	Andrew Dowd	Northborough		2017				
	Marie Ryan	West Stockbridge		2017				
	Terri Bunce	Dennis		2019				
	Trudy Reid	Wayland		2019				
	Jayne Marie Davolio	Millbury		2019				
	Mary de Alderete	Fitchburg		2019				
	Amy Warfield	Burlington		2021				
NOMINATION COMMITTEE (Jan 1 - Dec 31)						2 yr	5	E Board
	Nancy Blackmer	Orange		2019	2023			
	Jayne Marie Davolio	Millbury		2019	2023			
<i>Chair</i>	Theodora Eaton	Needham		2019	2023			
	Kelly McElreath	Plymouth		2023	2023			
	Kaari Mai Tari	Concord		2019	2023			
	Danielle M. Sicard	Easton	<i>1st VP (non voting)</i>	2023				
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE						2 yr	3	President
<i>Chair</i>	Danielle M. Sicard	Easton	<i>1st VP (Chair)</i>	2023				
	Nancy Blackmer	Orange		2023	2025			
	Jayne Marie Davolio	Millbury		2023	2025			
SOFTWARE COORDINATOR						2 yr	1	President
	Danielle Sicard	Easton		2023	2025			
SUNSHINE FUND ADMINISTRATOR / SOCIAL SECRETARY						1 yr	1	President
	Cheryl Estrella	Freetown		2023	2024			

CONFERENCE DEADLINES WORKSHEET

			Deadline Date	Actual Deadline Date - if different	President	1st VP	2nd VP	Secretary	Education Chair	Conference Reg. Admin.	notes / questions
Dates that fall on a weekend generally should be moved to the Friday											
E-Board Packet	mtg										
Materials to President	7		Monday, July 31, 2023				Vendor & Scholarship applications	Hotel rates / meal choices & fees		Class topics & instructors List	
President to send out packet	5		Wednesday, August 2, 2023		X				website		
Conference Registration Packet	mtg										
Hotel information sent out	-4		Thursday, August 3, 2023		X			website			
Materials to President / Reg Admin	4		Friday, August 11, 2023				meal choices & fees to Conf. Reg. Admin		Class write up w/ instructors & IIMC pts	registration form	
President send for proofing	8		Tuesday, August 15, 2023								PROOF DEADLINE - NEXT DAY BY 5PM
Materials disseminated	10		Thursday, August 17, 2023		X					prestogen must be live by this date	Prestogen - Turn off by deadline listed below - send 2nd VP by class & by community reports next business day
Conference Booklet	conference										
Materials to Conference Brochure Admin	9		Monday, September 11, 2023		X		vendors contact info	rooms & times		Class write up w/ instructors & IIMC pts	
1st proof	8		Tuesday, September 12, 2023								PROOF DEADLINE - NEXT DAY BY 5PM
2nd proof	7		Wednesday, September 13, 2023								PROOF DEADLINE - NEXT DAY BY 12NOON
Final OK to print	6		Thursday, September 14, 2023								Attendees list & CMMC lists
Hotel Set Up Needs	deadline										
AV / Room set up to 2nd VP	2		Monday, September 4, 2023						from Education Coordinators		
E-Board Packet	conference										
Materials to President	7		Wednesday, September 13, 2023				Vendor & Scholarship applications	Hotel rates / meal choices & fees		Class topics & instructors List	
President to send out packet	5		Friday, September 15, 2023		X				website		

HOTEL DEADLINES

E-Board Meeting Date		8/7/2023									
Conference Start Date		9/20/2023									
Registration & Classes Deadline	12	Friday, September 8, 2023									
Cancellation - Reg Fees	2	Monday, September 18, 2023									
Cancellation - Meal Fees	7	Wednesday, September 13, 2023	11-Sep				<u>VENDORS:</u> Registration deadline	21	8/30/2023		Verify Meals cancellation is before this date
							Processed in software*	7	9/6/2023		
prestogen open	11	Friday, August 18, 2023					<u>SCHOLARHIPS:</u> Application deadline	30	8/21/2023		
prestogen closed	12	Friday, September 8, 2023					Processed in software*	7	9/6/2023		
							<u>LUNCH GUESTS:</u> Processed in software*	7	9/6/2023		* before meal counts due to hotel



WILLIAM C. CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 411
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

TEL: (617) 979-8300
(800) 462-OCPF
FAX: (617) 727-6549

Memorandum relative to State Election Campaign Fund

I. Introduction

The limited public financing system for political campaigns in Massachusetts was first instituted in 1975. The original bill which led to the adoption of the public financing system laid out the legislative purposes behind the proposal.¹ First, the legislation established a voluntary system in which individual taxpayers could contribute an additional dollar over their tax liability to the fund “thereby encouraging broad participation in the political process.” Second, the fund created a mix of limited public and private financing of statewide office campaigns “to reduce dependence of candidates for state-wide elective office upon large contributions from private sources and to encourage the entry of candidates into campaigns for such offices.” In legislation adopted in 1994, the program was amended with a further goal of limiting campaign expenditures by statewide candidates.

In the almost 50 years since the adoption of the program, certain limits of the plan have not been updated while other limits have not been updated since 1994. More importantly, this memorandum will demonstrate that the original purposes of the program are not being met and historically have not been met in a significant manner.

II. “Encouraging broad participation in the political process”

The sole source of funding for limited campaign public financing in Massachusetts is the State Election Campaign Fund established under M.G.L. Chapter 10, Section 42. By checking a box on their annual income tax returns, individual taxpayers may direct \$1.00 of their tax liability to the State Election Campaign Fund while filers of joint returns can designate \$2.00. Such a designation does not increase a filer’s tax liability or decrease the amount of a refund. By checking the box, the taxpayer demonstrates their willingness to support the expenditure of public money to fund political campaigns.

One of the stated purposes for the public financing system was “encouraging broad participation in the political process.” The following data demonstrates that the program is not meeting that purpose. Since its inception, the support exhibited by taxpayers has been tepid. Based on information available from the Department of Revenue for the years 1976 through 2013 shown

¹ 1975 Senate Bill 2062 <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/343293/ocm39986874-1975-SB-2062.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



in Table 1 below, the annual participation rate of taxpayers over those 38 years has exceeded 10% only 3 times. The average participation rate has been 5.28% and the median participation rate is 4.92%. Based on available data shown in Table 1, the participation rate declined each year from 2001 to 2013, decreasing by more than half during that period. The data in Table 2 shows total collections and indicates a continuing decline in participation from 2014 through 2022.

Table 1
State Election Campaign Fund
Taxpayer Participation Rate
1976-2013²

Tax Year	Participation Rate
1976	3.25%
1977	4.91%
1978	2.98%
1979	2.84%
1980	2.84%
1981	3.57%
1982	3.81%
1983	2.89%
1984	2.69%
1985	2.40%
1986	2.56%
1987	2.06%
1988	1.73%
1989	1.82%
1990	1.68%
1991	1.51%
1992	1.47%
1993	1.50%
1994	9.89%
1995	8.45%
1996	9.86%
1997	10.39%
1998	8.82%
1999	10.22%
2000	9.89%
2001	10.32%

² See “Report on the Limited Public Financing System for Candidates for Statewide Office in Massachusetts in the 1994 Election – January 30, 1995” p. 7 at https://ocpf2.blob.core.windows.net/pdf/studies/pf_1995.pdf and “Report on the Limited Public Financing System for Candidates for Statewide Office in the 2014 Election – January 30, 2015” p. 4 at <https://ocpf2.blob.core.windows.net/pdf/studies/publicfinancestudy2014.pdf>

2002	9.24%
2003	8.08%
2004	7.50%
2005	6.98%
2006	6.51%
2007	6.16%
2008	5.78%
2009	5.68%
2010	5.59%
2011	5.24%
2012	4.93%
2013	4.89%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

As the participation rate has fallen, so too have the actual dollar amounts collected. Table 2 shows the continual decrease in collections available for the public financing program in the last 30 years. Note that 1993 was the last year when a taxpayers' tax liability would increase by checking the box.

Table 2
State Election Campaign Fund
Amounts Collected
1993-2022³

Year	Amount Collected
1993	\$56,648
1994	\$394,150
1995	\$351,705
1996	\$417,791
1997	\$449,991
1998	\$382,270
1999	\$447,283
2000	\$445,789
2001	\$465,545
2002	\$419,308
2003	\$365,895
2004	\$343,790
2005	\$321,393
2006	\$308,467
2007	\$296,489

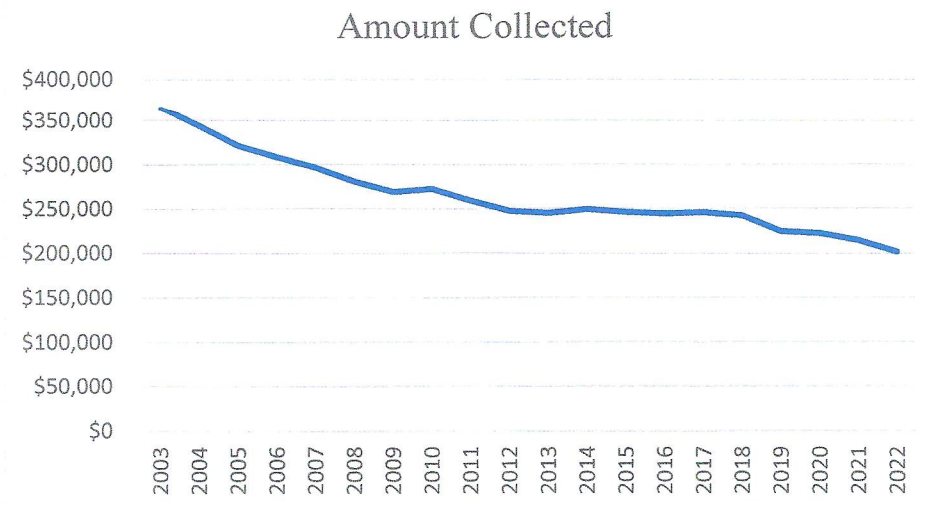
³ See "State Election Campaign Fund 2021-2022 Report" p. 8 at <https://ocpf2.blob.core.windows.net/pdf/studies/2022secfreport.pdf>

2008	\$280,672
2009	\$269,131
2010	\$272,463
2011	\$258,910
2012	\$247,366
2013	\$245,108
2014	\$249,160
2015	\$245,951
2016	\$244,085
2017	\$245,688
2018	\$242,130
2019	\$224,350
2020	\$222,169
2021	\$214,340
2022	\$201,683

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue. From 2014 through 2022, the total is based on OCPF’s analysis of Blue Book Reports from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Table 3 illustrates the amount collected per year for each of the last twenty years without adjusting for inflation, which would further erode the value of the funds.

Table 3
State Election Campaign Fund
Amounts Collected Through Tax Return Checkoff
2003-2022



Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue. From 2014 through 2022, the total is based on OCPF’s analysis of Blue Book Reports from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

The actual dollar amounts collected each year through the state income tax checkoff program have steadily declined over the past two decades. Since the funds collected represents a taxpayer checking a box on the tax return, the number of taxpayers supporting the program has also decreased.

In 1996, the Special Commission on Public Financing of Political Campaigns, which was authorized by an act of the Legislature, issued a report on the status of the program at that time.⁴ The report indicated that “At a \$1 check-off figure, a taxpayer participation rate of 70 percent would be necessary to fully fund the existing system.”⁵ The fund has never come close to that participation rate at any point in its nearly 50 year existence. The trend continues. Based on information obtained from the Department of Revenue, in 2020 a total of 4,760,178 taxpayers were eligible to participate in the program. With collections totaling \$222,169 this results in a 4.66% participation rate.

The Special Commission noted that prior to the 1994 legislation changing the check-off from an increase in the taxpayer’s liability to a designation not affecting their liability, “participation never exceeded 5 percent of taxpayers annually and declined steadily to a low of approximately 1.5 percent in the 1993 tax year.”⁶ While participation reached a high of 10.39% in 1997, collections have declined and is now consistently less than 5%.

This experience has been similar for the Federal Presidential Election Campaign Fund which had a participation rate of 27.5% in its first year in 1976 and reached a high of 28.6% in 1977 but has been declining over the years to where in 2021 the participation rate dropped to 3.34%.⁷

Finally, the public’s receptiveness to public financing of campaigns was addressed in a recent study. In the 2020 book *Campaign Finance & American Democracy – What the Public Really Thinks and Why it Matters*, Professor David M. Primo and Professor Jeffrey D. Milyo analyzed data collected in the 2015 and postelection 2016 Cooperative Congressional Election Study.⁸ When the public was asked whether candidates should be able to use “taxpayer dollars” to pay for their campaign, out of all respondents 66.3% either strongly disagreed or disagreed, 16.6% strongly agreed or agreed, and 17.1% were neutral. When the public was asked whether candidates should be able to use “public funds” to pay for their campaign which could include user fees or fines, out of all respondents 54.6% either strongly disagreed or disagreed, 21.2% strongly agreed or agreed, and 24.1% were neutral. In either case, less than one-quarter of respondents surveyed supported the use of public funds by candidates to pay for their campaigns. This data corresponds with the participation rate seen among Massachusetts and Federal taxpayers.

⁴ <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/bitstream/handle/2452/30153/1996acts0037.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

⁵ “Commonwealth of Massachusetts Final Report of the Special Commission on Public Financing of Political Campaigns – May 15, 1995, p. 4; <https://ocpf2.blob.core.windows.net/pdf/studies/1996pf.pdf>

⁶ “Commonwealth of Massachusetts Final Report of the Special Commission on Public Financing of Political Campaigns – May 15, 1995, p. 3

⁷ https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/Pres_Public_Funding.pdf

⁸ “David M. Primo and Jeffrey D. Milyo, *Campaign Finance & American Democracy – What the Public Really Thinks and Why It Matters*, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2020), pages 106-108

III. “To reduce dependence of candidates for state-wide elective office upon large contributions from private sources” and limiting expenditures by candidates

Another stated purpose of the limited campaign public financing system is “to reduce dependence of candidates for state-wide elective office upon large contributions from private sources.” The data regularly collected by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance and readily available to the public on the agency website indicates that this purpose is not being met. Further, the intention of legislation adopted in 1994 of limiting expenditures by statewide candidates has also not been met.

The current formulation of the State Election Campaign Fund was established by the adoption of Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003, effective July 1, 2003. The expenditure limits, maximum distributions and minimum qualifying contributions set forth in Tables 4 and 5 herein have not been increased in the ensuing 20 years. Further, the amount of the current expenditure limits and maximum distributions are the same as those established in prior legislation adopted in 1994. The qualifying contribution limit of \$250 and the minimum qualifying contributions required are the same as those found in the 1975 legislation.

Although contributions of only up to \$250 count towards the qualifying contributions for matching funds, the \$250 can be part of much larger contributions. For example, based on the raw data available on the Office of Campaign and Political Finance website and although not all of these contributions were eligible for matching funds as they were not from individuals, in 2006 a participating gubernatorial candidate received 34 contributions of \$1,000, 7,539 contributions of between \$500 and \$999, 5,949 contributions between \$250 to \$499, and 15,873 contributions between \$100 and \$249. In addition, the candidate received an additional 16 contributions between \$2,000 and \$14,999 from organizations. Between \$1 and \$99, that is, “small donor contributions,” the candidate received 10,450 contributions, which were just 26% of all contributions, including matching funds, received by the candidate. Participation in the public funding program therefore does not appear “to reduce dependence of candidates for state-wide elective office upon large contributions from private sources.” In fact, over 92% of the contributions came from private sources.

Eligible candidates may only receive limited public financing if they agree to observe spending limits throughout the entire campaign. In return for agreeing to limits, candidates who have opposition in the primary are eligible to receive money for both the primary and, if they are successful in the primary and are opposed, in the general election. Party-affiliated candidates must observe these limits in both the primary and general elections. Candidates who are not enrolled in a party cannot participate in the primary election round of funding but must observe the limits beginning with the date nomination papers are due in August through the general election date. The statutory expenditure limits vary according to the office sought. Because the nominees for governor and lieutenant governor run as a “candidate team” after the primary, they are both included in the gubernatorial candidate’s general election expenditure limit and maximum matching fund amounts. The following Table 4 sets out the statutory expenditure limits for participating candidates, which levels originated in 1994 legislation.

**Table 4
Expenditure Limits for Public Financing Participants⁹**

	Primary	General	Total Limit
Governor	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Lt. Governor	\$625,000	-----	\$625,000
Attorney General	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$1,250,000
Treasurer	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$750,000
Secretary of State	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$750,000
Auditor	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$750,000

The amount of matching funds which participating candidates are eligible to receive are equal to half of their statutory expenditure limits, which levels also originated in 1994 legislation.

**Table 5
Maximum Distributions for Public Financing Participants¹⁰**

	Primary	General	Total
Governor	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000
Lt. Governor	\$312,500	-----	\$312,500
Attorney General	\$312,500	\$312,500	\$625,000
Treasurer	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000
Secretary of State	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000
Auditor	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$375,000

In examining the six gubernatorial elections from 2002 to 2022, the average expenditures made by the successful candidates, not including those of their lieutenant governors, for the year of the election and the preceding year was \$8,901,146. The expenditures ranged from a low of \$6,637,901 to a high of \$10,124,704. While the expenditure limits are in effect for a much narrower window of time, these expenditures by gubernatorial candidates reflect the amount of money deployed for successful campaigns over the last two decades.

In the 2022 general election for governor, the successful candidate who did not participate in the State Election Campaign Fund program set a self-imposed expenditure limit of \$6.9 million for the general election campaign period. Even if an opposing gubernatorial candidate had agreed to participate in the program and took the steps necessary to receive public funding thereby agreeing to limit their expenditures, this self-imposed limit of the non-participating candidate would have allowed the participating candidate to receive the matching public funds of up to \$750,000 for the general election, to the extent funds were available, and make expenditures up to \$6.9 million, not the \$1.5 million limit set forth in the statute.

⁹ M.G.L. Ch. 55C, Sec. 1A

¹⁰ M.G.L. Ch. 55C, Secs. 5 and 7

In fact, the expenditure limits for all statewide races in 2022 general election far exceeded the statutory limits due to these self-imposed limits of non-participating candidates. As stated, in the race for governor and lieutenant governor running as a team, the spending limit was \$6,900,000 rather than \$1,500,000. For attorney general, the figure was increased from \$625,000 to \$3,000,000. The statutory expenditure limit for both the auditor and secretary of the commonwealth increased from \$375,000 to \$2,500,000 in each race. The limit for treasurer and receiver general increased from \$375,000 to \$10,000,000.

Returning to the state election of 2006, this serves as an example of how even with the required expenditure limits to participate in the program the goal of reducing expenditures established in the 1994 amendments to the program is not met. In that election, one gubernatorial candidate participated in the program and received public funding. An opposing gubernatorial candidate did not participate in the program for the primary election and set an expenditure limit of \$15,360,000. Under the public financing statute, the expenditure limit for the participating gubernatorial candidate was also increased to \$15,360,000. During the primary election window of June 7, 2006 through September 19, 2006, according to the raw data available on the Office of Campaign and Political Finance website, the participating candidate expended \$3,458,252, while the statutory expenditure limit was \$1,500,000. In the general election, a nonparticipating gubernatorial candidate set an expenditure limit of \$15,000,000 thereby increasing the expenditure limit for the participating candidate to the same amount. For the general election window of September 20, 2006 through November 7, 2006, the participating candidate expended \$2,992,064, while the expenditure limit for that period was also \$1,500,000. For the year of the election and the preceding year, the participating gubernatorial candidate expended in total \$10,124,704 for their successful campaign.

As stated, those figures reflect the actual sums candidates are expending to run an effective campaign. For a gubernatorial campaign, the expenditure limits and matching funds available do not approach the sums actually being spent nor do they equal what the original amounts were when adjusted for inflation. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator, the expenditure limit set for a gubernatorial candidate in 1994 at \$1,500,000 in today's dollars would be \$3,045,113. According to the same source, the maximum distribution of matching funds set in 1994 for a gubernatorial candidate at \$750,000 would be the equivalent of \$1,522,556 today. Further, the maximum qualifying contribution limit of \$250 which goes back to 1975 would be \$1,424 in 2023.

Further, simply raising the expenditure limits and the maximum distribution amounts to encourage candidates to participate in the program would not be effective if the amount collected in the tax return checkoff program for the State Election Campaign Fund continues to decrease, as shown in Section II above.

IV. "To encourage the entry of candidates into campaigns for such offices"

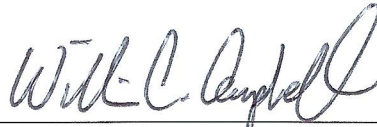
Finally, the third purpose of the campaign finance law was "to encourage the entry of candidates into campaigns for such offices", that is, statewide offices. Although the intention of the campaign funding program is to lower barriers and provide opportunity to a potential candidate based on the availability of these funds, the fact that the funds must go first to a

candidate for governor reduces the likelihood that this would occur. For the other five statewide offices, the possibility of receiving any public funding from the State Election Campaign Fund is entirely dependent on the decision of the gubernatorial candidates as to whether they will participate or not. The Special Commission on Public Financing referred to this as “‘spill over’ to other statewide races.”¹¹

The availability of matching funds takes no real place in the other statewide candidates’ calculation as to whether they will have sufficient funds to mount a robust campaign. Participation by a gubernatorial candidate for all practical purposes prohibits the other constitutional officers from benefitting from public financing. Signatures on nomination papers by the other statewide candidates must be gathered long before they know if they will have any opportunity to receive matching funds. The highest number of candidates receiving public funding occurred in 1990 with nineteen candidates. In the past two decades and following the adoption of Chapter 55C, the number of candidates who received public funds has decreased from ten to three.

V. Remaining program funds will not be utilized until 2026

Due to a lack of sufficient candidates participating in the program during the most recent election cycle, as of December 31, 2022 there was \$517,461 remaining in the State Election Campaign Fund. These funds will be added to each year as taxpayers file their returns, albeit at decreasing amounts based on historical trends. All of these funds are essentially sidelined until the next state election in 2026.



William C. Campbell, Director
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

¹¹ “Commonwealth of Massachusetts Final Report of the Special Commission on Public Financing of Political Campaigns – May 15, 1995, p. 6

Proposal to transition State Election Campaign Fund to a Local Election Early Voting Fund

There is a growing need for additional funding in cities and towns for the costs of early voting. This proposal is to phase out the limited campaign public financing program and to utilize the current tax return checkoff program to allow taxpayers of the Commonwealth to voluntarily support their communities in advancing election reforms, expanding voter access, promoting innovation, and meeting local election needs.

The Commonwealth has significantly increased voter access with the implementation of no excuse mail-in voting and early voting. These have resulted in additional costs for the municipalities. In 2020, more than 253 Massachusetts communities received over \$3,591,677 from a private organization to assist with the costs of conducting elections.¹² The communities also benefitted from funds received through the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office. Many of those funding sources will not be available for future elections, although the costs will continue to be incurred and will increase with inflation.

A proposal is to transition the taxpayer checkoff program from one that provides taxpayer money to candidates to conduct political campaigns to creating a new fund administered through the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth to provide grants to communities to assist with the new early voting costs. With the finding of the State Auditor in 2017 that the costs of early voting are an unfunded mandate, this fund would provide a sure source of funds for the grants.¹³ The continued method of taxpayers checking a box on their tax return to now provide funds to our communities to advance election reforms, expand voter access, promote innovation and meet local election needs would be beneficial in and of itself, but also would achieve one of the original purposes of the campaign fund and that is to encourage broad participation in the political process.

Due to a lack of sufficient candidates participating in the State Election Campaign Fund program during the last state election cycle, as of December 31, 2022 there was \$517,461 remaining in the State Election Campaign Fund. These funds will be added to each year as taxpayers file their returns, albeit at decreasing amounts based on historical trends. All of these funds are essentially sidelined until the next state election in 2026.

In the meantime, cities and towns are incurring costs to provide voting opportunities for the public and could benefit from grants through the fund. Using the 2020 Department of Revenue data that there are 4,760,178 taxpayers eligible to participate in the program and

¹² See Form 990 filed by Center for Technology and Civic Life for 2020 at <https://www.influencewatch.org/app/uploads/2022/01/center-for-tech-and-civic-life-2020-990-updated.pdf>

¹³ See <https://www.mass.gov/decision/financial-impact-of-early-voting-in-the-city-of-woburn-and-the-town-of-oxford>

assuming even just a modest increase in participation to 20%, this would result in nearly \$1,000,000 for our communities.

This program would serve two purposes, first, “encouraging broad participation in the political process” and, second, allowing the taxpayers to help their communities meet the costs of conducting modern elections.

Legislative History of Public Funding in Massachusetts

A public financing system has been in effect in Massachusetts since 1975 with the adoption of M.G.L. Chapter 55A.¹⁴ This statute required participating statewide candidates to collect qualifying contributions of differing amounts depending upon the office sought. In return, the candidates would receive matching contributions through public funding in both primary elections and general elections in which they appeared on the ballot and had opposition. The state election campaign fund consisted of revenue generated through a state tax return checkoff system by which taxpayers voluntarily contributed \$1.00 for individuals and up to \$2.00 for joint returns to the fund. The first statewide election where the fund was in effect was held in 1978.

At that time, the total qualifying contributions for gubernatorial candidates for the primary had to exceed \$75,000 and for the general election \$125,000. Qualifying contributions could not be more than \$250 each and the same contribution could be used in calculations for both the primary and general election. Once qualified, a gubernatorial candidate could receive matching funds of \$250,000 for the primary election and the same amount for the general election. The other statewide candidates followed this same process but had lower thresholds for both minimum qualifying contributions and maximum matching funds.

Chapter 55A was amended in 1994 with three significant changes.¹⁵ First, candidates could no longer participate in the program and receive public funds unless they agreed to abide by certain expenditure limits. Further, a candidate who chose not to participate in the program was required to file a statement indicating the maximum amount of expenditures for their primary and general election. The expenditure threshold of the participating candidate was then raised to the same amount as set by the non-participating candidates. Gubernatorial candidates were limited to expenditures up to \$1,500,000 in the primary election and to the same amount in the general election. These limits for the other statewide candidates were set at lower amounts. Second, the maximum amount of matching funds a candidate could receive was increased. The maximum matching contributions candidates for governor could receive was increased to \$750,000 for the primary election and the same sum for the general election and at lower amounts for the remaining statewide candidates. Third, if a taxpayer voluntarily contributed to the fund, this designation no longer increased a filer's tax liability or decreased the amount of any refund.

In 1998, voters approved a statewide ballot question which deleted Chapter 55A in its entirety and inserted a new Chapter 55A known as the Clean Elections Law. This was a broader based program in that not only were statewide officers included, but also governor's councillors, state senators and state representatives. The amount of qualifying contributions candidates had to obtain was significantly lower. Gubernatorial candidates were required to collect only \$6,000 rather than the earlier \$75,000 amount, however the qualifying contributions could only be between \$5 and \$100 each and contributions from individuals or political committees were limited to \$100 in the aggregate in an election cycle. Further, the amount of minimum qualifying contributions required, the expenditure limits, the maximum matching funds received, and the maximum contribution and in-kind contributions received were indexed every two years.

¹⁴ See Section 3 of Chapter 774 of the Acts of 1975

¹⁵ See Sections 36, 39, 46 and 47 of Chapter 43 of the Acts of 1994

Under the Clean Elections Law, candidates for governor were required to obtain \$6,000 in qualifying contributions. They were limited to expenditures of \$1,800,000 for the primary election and \$1,200,000 for the general election. The gubernatorial candidates could receive a maximum of \$1,500,000 in public funds for the primary election and \$1,050,000 for the general election. The candidates for other statewide office also received maximum sums different than allowed under the earlier version of Chapter 55A and these amounts were in some instances higher and others lower than before. The governor's council, state senate and state representative candidates could receive matching funds at significantly lower amounts than the statewide candidates.

In 2002, a non-binding ballot question appeared on the statewide ballot. Voters were asked whether they “support[ed] taxpayer money being used to fund political campaigns for public office.” The majority of voters voted no on the question. Following the vote, new legislation was adopted in 2003 that repealed Chapter 55A and established a new Chapter 55C which hewed more closely to the earlier version of Chapter 55A.¹⁶ In fact, the maximum amount of a qualifying contribution, the minimum total qualifying contributions amounts required, expenditure limits for the primary and general elections, and the maximum matching funds received are identical to those in former Chapter 55A as amended through 1994. This State Election Campaign Fund (SECF) under Chapter 55C is the limited campaign finance law under which statewide candidates, that is, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer and receiver general, secretary of the commonwealth, and auditor, operate today. Candidates for governor's council, state senators and state representatives are no longer included in the public financing program. The voluntary taxpayer checkoff program remains the sole source of funding for the state election campaign fund and continues not to increase the filer's tax liability or decrease the amount of a refund.

¹⁶ See Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003

INTENT: To repeal the limited public financing program for statewide offices and to establish a fund to support the costs incurred by municipalities in implementing early voting.

PROPOSED:

An Act relative to establishing a local election early voting fund.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 42 of Chapter 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety and replacing same with the following: -

Section 42: Local Election Early Voting Fund

Section 42. There shall be established on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Local Election Early Voting Fund, consisting of all revenues received under section 6C of chapter 62, and all other monies credited or transferred to the fund from any other fund or source pursuant to law.

The state treasurer shall deposit the fund in accordance with sections 34 of chapter 29 in such manner as will secure the highest interest rate available consistent with safety of the fund. The local election early voting fund shall be expended at the discretion of the secretary of the commonwealth in the form of grants to local communities for payment of costs related to early voting by the city or town for primary elections, preliminary elections, state elections, local elections, special primary elections, special preliminary elections, special state elections and special local elections. The secretary of the commonwealth shall promulgate regulations as necessary for the administration of the local election early voting fund.

SECTION 2. Sections 42A, 42B and 42C of said Chapter 10, as appearing, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Section 6C of Chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety and replacing same with the following: -

Section 6C: Massachusetts Local Election Early Voting Fund; voluntary contributions

Section 6C. Every individual who files a separate return may voluntarily contribute one dollar to be paid over to the Local Election Early Voting Fund, established by section forty-two of chapter ten. In the case of a joint return, each spouse may voluntarily contribute one dollar to said fund. A credit in the full amount of any contribution under this section shall be allowed against the tax imposed by this chapter; provided, that for any such return no such credit shall exceed the income tax liability for any taxable year.

A contribution made under this section may be made with respect to any taxable year at the time of filing the return of the tax imposed by this chapter for such taxable year; provided, however, that the commissioner shall prescribe the manner in which such contribution shall be made on the face of the return required by section five of chapter sixty-two C.

The provisions of this section shall apply only to residents required to file a return under this chapter.

For purposes of this section the words "income tax liability for any taxable year" shall mean the amount of tax imposed by this chapter reduced by sum of the credits allowed by clause (a) of section six.

SECTION 4. Chapter 55C, as appearing, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 5. Any funds remaining in the State Election Campaign Fund established pursuant to Section 42 of Chapter 10 on the effective date of this Act shall be deposited in the Local Election Early Voting Fund.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon passage.

Conference cost history

Conference Expenses

Fall	Reg Fee	Reg late fee	Hotel (no fees)	Thur Breakfast	Lunch	Banquet	Fri Breakfast	Location	Dates
2023	\$ 75	\$ 125	\$ 159	\$ 35	\$ 45	\$ 55	\$ 35	Springfield	Sept 20 - 22
2022	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 159	\$ 35	\$ 45	\$ 55	\$ 35	Springfield	Sept 21 - 23
2021	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 155	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 50	\$ 30	Springfield	Sept 22-24
2020				n/a covid					
2019	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 149	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 50	\$ 30	Springfield	Sept 18-20
2018	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 145	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ 45	\$ 25	Springfield	Sept 26-28
2017	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 135	\$ 25	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 25	Springfield	Sept 20-22
2016	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 129	\$ 25	\$ 28	\$ 40	\$ 25	Springfield	Sept 28-30
2015			\$ 119					Springfield	9/30-10/2
2014	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 25	\$ 26	\$ 40	\$ 25	Springfield	Oct 1-3
Winter (joint)	Reg Fee	Reg late fee	Hotel (no fees)	Thur Breakfast	Lunch	Banquet	Fri Breakfast	Location	
2024	\$ 75	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 35	\$ 40	\$ 55	\$ 35	Devens	Jan 31 - Feb 2
2023	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 35	\$ 40	\$ 55	\$ 35	Devens	Feb 1-3
2022	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 30	Devens	Feb 2-4
2021				n/a covid					
2020	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Devens	Feb 5-7
2019	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Devens	Feb 6-8
2018	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Devens	Feb 7-9
2017	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Devens	Feb 1-3
2016	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 119	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Devens	Feb 3-5
2015			\$ 119					Devens	Feb 4-6
Summer (joint)	Reg Fee	Reg late fee	Hotel (no fees)	Thur Breakfast	Lunch	Banquet	Fri Breakfast	Location	
2024	\$ 75	\$ 125							
2023	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 139	\$ 35	\$ 40	\$ 55	\$ 35	Plymouth	June 7-9
2022	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 133	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 50	\$ 30	Plymouth	June 8-10
2021	\$ 50	n/a		\$120				Plymouth	June 9-11
2020				n/a covid					
2019	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 127	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Plymouth	June 12-14
2018	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 124	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 25	Plymouth	June 13-+15
2017								Plymouth	June 14 -16
2016			\$ 109					Plymouth	June 15-17
2015								Sea Crest	June 10-12

Conference Registration Summay

Year	Conference	Location	Attendee
2012	Fall	Jiminy Peak	143
2013	Fall	Jiminy Peak	135
2014	Fall	Springfield	190
2015	Fall	Springfield	211
2016	Fall	Springfield	253
2017	Fall	Springfield	174
2018	Fall	Springfield	216
2019	Fall	Springfield	228
2021	Fall	Springfield	221
2022	Fall	Springfield	165

Conference Registration Summay

Year	Conference	Location	Attendee
2012	Winter	Sturbridge	239
2013	Winter	Sturbridge	223
2014	Winter	Sturbridge	240
2015	Winter	Devens	214
2016	Winter	Devens	267
2017	Winter	Devens	226
2018	Winter	Devens	236
2019	Winter	Devens	238
2022	Winter	Devens	224
2023	Winter	Devens	266

Conference Registration Summary

Year	Conference	Location	Attendee
2012	Summer	Sea Crest	273
2013	Summer	Sea Crest	245
2014	Summer	Sea Crest	279
2015	Summer	Sea Crest	266
2016	Summer	Plymouth	333
2017	Summer	Plymouth	236
2018	Summer	Plymouth	264
2019	Summer	Plymouth	256
2021	Summer	Zoom (Remote)	94
2021	Summer	Plymouth	88
2022	Summer	Plymouth	271
2023	Summer	Plymouth	293

Springfield Conference Outline, September 21 – 23, 2023

Election FOCUS (fun facts, overview, communications and usability with State Elections)

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Working sessions with ES&S and LHS for those who currently use these tabulators and may need a refresher course.

Attendees will have lunch and dinner on their own

1:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Join Michelle Tassinari and her team as we discuss the pre-election process. During this time, there will also be tabletop exercises, a time for Q&A, and/or roundtable conversations.

- How to create an election calendar
- Issuing nomination papers / certifying nomination papers
- Ballots – to preparing them through the process of mailing ballots, tracking their return
- Preparing the voter's list
- Early Removal / Central Tabulation
- UOCAVA voters

Thursday, September 21, 2023

9:00 AM – 4:45 PM

This class will be broken into the morning class and an afternoon class.

We return with Michelle Tassinari and her team to continue to discuss Elections. During this time, there will also be tabletop exercises, a time for Q&A, and/or roundtable conversations. Today's class will focus on Election Day to include:

- Polling place setup
- Checking in the voters
- Observers
- Inactive voters / Challenging voters
- Provisional ballots
- Processing AV/EV at the polls
- Closing the polls and counting the ballots

Friday, September 22, 2023

Join Michelle Tassinari and her team to discuss post-election responsibilities. During this time, there will also be tabletop exercises, a time for Q&A, and/or roundtable conversations.

- Post-election tabulation
- Certification of election results
- Entering voter activity
- Recounts



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association
Legislative Committee
Andrew T. Dowd, Chair
63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532
Phone: 508-393-5002
Fax: 508-393-6996
E-mail: adowd@town.northborough.ma.us

August 7, 2023

Re: MTCA Legislative Committee Report – E-board Meeting 08/07/2023

1. Clerks Day on the Hill

The association held a very successful Clerks Day on the Hill at the Statehouse on June 28th, 2023. Over 150 Clerks attended the event. Members gathered in the Great Hall and were welcomed by MTCA President Elizabeth Turner Greendale and Legislative Committee Chair Andrew Dowd MTCA Legislative Agent, Tom Joyce then welcomed Senator John F. Keenan and Representative Daniel J. Ryan, Chairs of the Joint Committee on Election Laws. Representative Kristin Kassner acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Town Clerk's during the district wide recount last year which resulted in her election to office.

After lunch, attendees visited their legislators' offices and shared the associations objectives for changes to the election laws along with survey data. Many also took advantage of a guided tour of the historic Statehouse.

2. OCPF proposal to transition State Election Campaign Fund to a Local Election Early Voting Fund

William C. Campbell, Director Office of Campaign and Political Finance reached out to the association regarding a proposal that would create a Local Election Early Voting Fund. Mr. Campbell provided the following background information along with the enclosed proposal.

OCPF administers the State Election Campaign Fund which provides matching funds to candidates for statewide office every four years. The program is funded through taxpayers checking a box on their state tax return designating \$1 of their tax (up to \$2 for joint returns) to the fund. After researching the history of the program, it is clear that the program is not meeting its intended purposes and there is little public support. The program was originally adopted in 1975 with the intention of promoting good government. Rather than simply dissolving the program it may be

www.masstownclerks.org

better to transition the check-off program to a new use that in changing times will support efforts of improving government. In particular, the legislature has adopted new ways to advance and ease voting opportunities for their communities, in particular early voting including enhanced voting by mail.

Over the past few months, Mr. Campbell has spoken to the leadership in both the House and Senate. There is general support for the concept. The next step is to have a bill filed so that a hearing may be held, and further consideration given to the proposal. It would be beneficial if the MTCA could assist in getting the bill filed which will have the support of OCPF. Together we could advance a bill that would eliminate a moribund program and provide communities with some relief in meeting the costs of early voting. While this would not address all the financial needs associated with the costs of early voting, it would provide a steady source of funding. The general sense is that the voters in the Commonwealth support early voting and this new program would give them a way to show their support for the efforts.

Attached is a memorandum that describes the current state of the State Election Campaign Fund. Further included is a discussion describing the transition of the fund to one that would assist the towns and cities of the Commonwealth in meeting some of the costs of early voting. The legislative history of the limited public financing programs follows. Finally, proposed legislation to implement this transition is included.

Sincerely,

Andrew T. Dowd

Andrew Dowd, Chair
Legislative Committee

Enc.



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association
Legislative Committee
Andrew T. Dowd, Chair
63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532
Voice/Text: 508-393-5002
E-mail: adowd@town.northborough.ma.us

June 28, 2023

The members of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association appreciate your support of legislative items that impact our profession. We look forward to working with you during this session.

In recent years, the administration of elections has changed dramatically. Beginning in 2016 in-person early voting for all state elections was required. In 2020, during the pandemic, all voters were allowed to vote early by mail. Sweeping changes to the election laws made voting by mail and in-person early voting a permanent requirement beginning in 2022.

These changes have placed a tremendous burden on those of us who are tasked with administering elections. We ask that you carefully consider proposals that would modify these current requirements and allow us to better manage the burdens placed upon us.

- **In Person Early Voting** – we strongly recommend reducing the number of days currently required. Our survey data has shown that only about 5% of voters took advantage of early voting for the 2022 primary election. Data also indicated that early voting turnout for the 2022 general election was the highest during the last few days of the 2-week period. These long periods of in-person early voting come with a significant cost.
- **Vote by Mail Postcards** – the required SOC postcard mailing creates an extremely burdensome manual process. We advocate for a permanent Vote by Mail option for voters to permanently opt in or opt out, eliminating the multiple postcard mailings.
- **Fully Fund Mandated Costs** - we strongly encourage you to fully fund the mandated costs associated with early voting. In order to efficiently manage this labor-intensive process, we need equipment (high speed printers and tabulators) and additional staff.
- **Survey Data** – our association conducted a comprehensive survey to capture information regarding voter turnout, vote by mail requests, in-person voting volume, and costs associated with each method. Please see attached.

www.masstownclerks.org

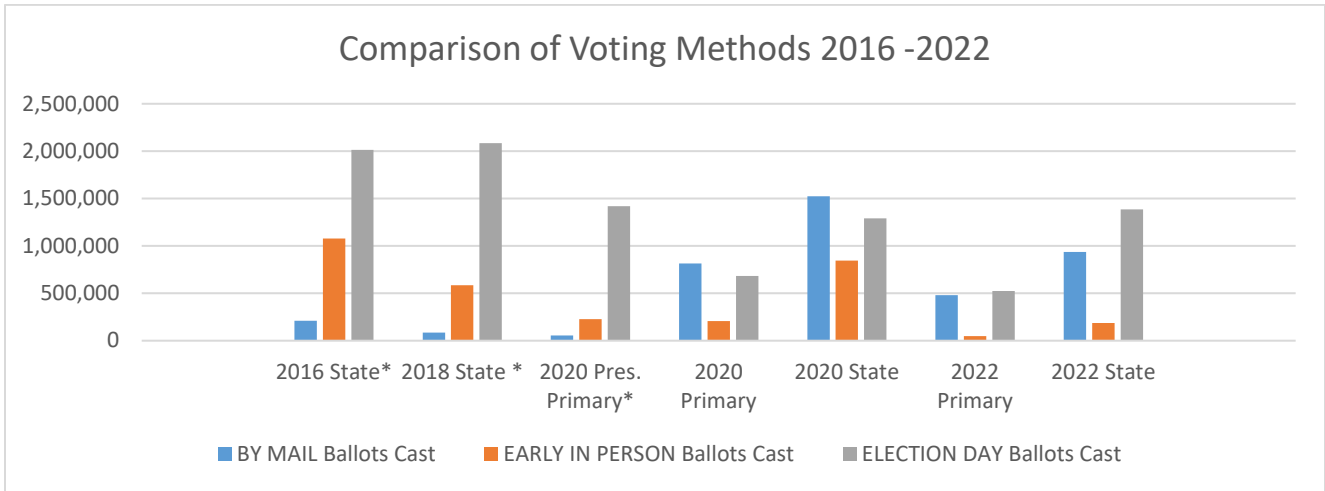
EARLY VOTING SURVEY RESPONDENTS' DATA 2023

332 responses - representing 94.5% of MA Cities & Towns

- 53% - small communities (up to 10,000 registered voters)
- 32% - medium sized (10,001 – 25,000 registered voters)
- 15% - large communities (over 25,000 registered voters)

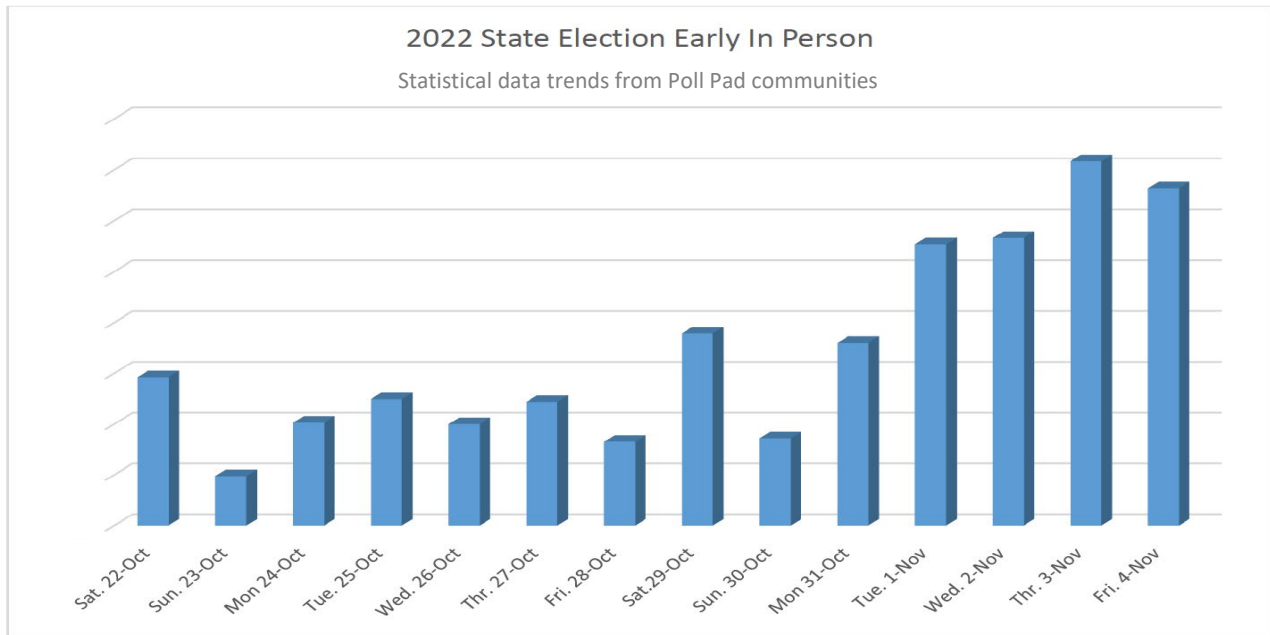
Major Findings

- Sharp decrease in Early Voting In-Person
- 53% of Clerk's reported significant to major impacts to office operations due to robust Vote by Mail participation – reducing other services to residents



MTCA LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES FOR CHANGES

- **Reducing the number of days required for Early Voting In-Person Period**
 - Highest Turn out occurs during the last 4 days of Early Voting in-Person - 51.4%
 - Only 13% of voters chose to vote Early Voting in-Person on Saturdays
 - Significant decrease in voters using Early Voting In-Person from 21% in 2016 to 7.5% in 2022



- **Vote by Mail Post Cards - The MTCA is advocating for a provision that would allow Voters to opt in/opt out of Vote by Mail, thus eliminating multiple post card mailings**

Major Concerns with Handling Vote by Mail and Postcards

- 32.6% clerks expressed concerns about hostility from the voters regarding the receipt of postcards
- 44.7% clerks reported voter confusion regarding the postcards
- 39.3% clerks reported errors made on the postcards by voters
- 55% clerks reported excessive time spent ensuring voters were not unintentionally disenfranchised by confusion on postcards, missing signatures, address issues.

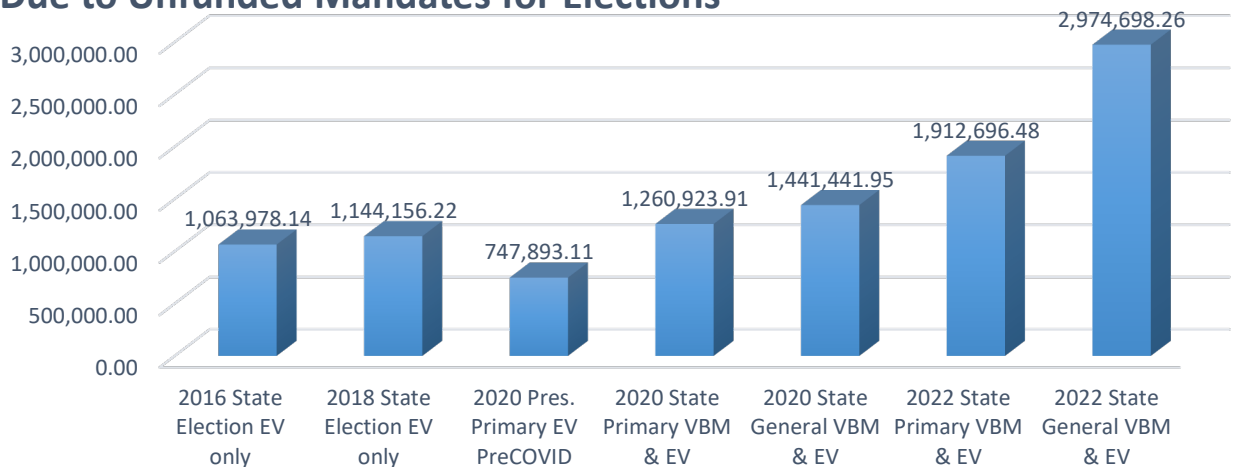
Effectiveness of the Vote by Mail Postcards

- 66% clerks expressed a desire for voters’ ability to Opt-out of future mailings during the year
- 49.5% clerks expressed a need for clarification on the election types (local vs state)

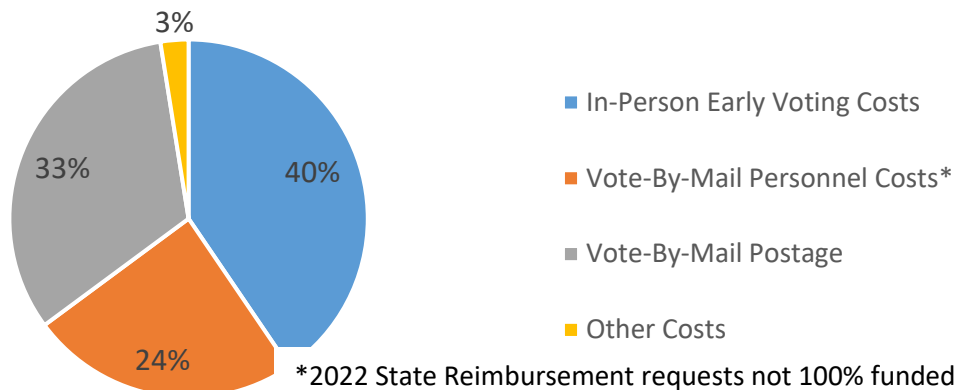
- **Costs – The MTCA is advocating to fully fund the mandated costs associated with Early Voting**

- Increase of 46% in State reimbursements for Unfunded Mandate from 2016 to 2022 State Elections
- Reimbursements averaged \$2,697 for (1-20K); \$15,500 for (20- 50K) and \$51,523 for (over 50K)
- Auditors’ reimbursements account for hired staff additional hours, other than the Clerk; clerks are reporting over time hours worked 37% 1-20 hours; 13% 21 -30 hours; 21% 31-60 hours

Reimbursements Made to Cities and Towns Due to Unfunded Mandates for Elections



Unfunded Mandate Cost breakdowns for State 2022 Election*



**MASSACHUSETTS TOWN CLERK'S ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE REPORT**

New Clerk Potpourri - Mentoring Class	June 2023	June 2022	June 2021	Jan 2021	June 2019	June 2018	June 2017
INCOME	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
3100 - Conference Revenue							
3130 - Mentoring Workshops	\$510.00	\$360.00	\$285.00		\$390.00	\$450.00	\$345.00
Total Workshop Revenue	\$510.00	\$360.00	\$285.00	\$0.00	\$390.00	\$450.00	\$345.00
EXPENSE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
5700 - Conference Expenses							
Burlington \$ 191.90							
5709 - Misc Conf Exp (mentor/survey) Dennis \$306.60		\$243.74	\$198.00		\$278.61	\$321.28	\$430.39
Total Conference Expenses	\$498.50	\$243.74	\$198.00	\$0.00	\$278.61	\$321.28	\$430.39
Income / Expense Variance	\$11.50	\$116.26	\$87.00	\$0.00	\$111.39	\$128.72	(\$85.39)

	June 2023	June 2022	June 2021	Jan 2021	June 2019	June 2018	June 2017	June 2016
Total # of Registrants:	34	24	19		26	30	23	28
Dennis	19	Wenham	12	27 - zoom	50 - zoom			
Burlington	15							

COUNTING WORKSHOPS FY24 CALENDAR

TOPIC / FOCUS	Date	LOCATION
ELECTIONS	Wed, Oct 11th	WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL 21 State Line Rd West Stockbridge, MA 01266
	Thurs, Oct 19th	NORTHBOROUGH LIBRARY 34 Main St Northborough, MA 01582 (Access parking via Patty Lane)
ELECTIONS – Local & Pres Primary	Wed, Dec 6th	PLYMOUTH TOWN HALL – GREAT HALL 26 Court Street Plymouth, MA 02360
	Thurs, Dec 7th	MILLBURY TOWN HALL 127 Elm Street Millbury, MA 01527 (parking at Town hall and elm street available –
<u>TIM / RECORDS MANAGEMENT</u>	Tues, March 26th	DENNIS TOWN HALL – Stone Hearing Rim 685 Route 134 South Dennis, MA 02660 (Lower parking lot to the right of town hall)
	Thurs, March 28th	HOLLISTON UPPER TOWN HALL 703 Washington Street Holliston, MA 01746
<u>NEW CLERK POTPOURRI</u>	Thurs, June 13th	LEXINGTON TOWN HALL 2ND FLR SB RM 1625 Massachusetts Ave
	Thur, June 13th	WESTWOOD MAIN LIBRARY 660 High Street Westwood, MA 02090 (North Shore as Mentor Hosted to be offered)



MTCA Executive Board
Social Secretary

June 2023 – July 2023

08/07/2023

It was voted by the E-Board at MTCA meeting held on 12/5/2022, that for the loss of a spouse/partner or child, that flowers be sent or that a memorial donation to be sent to the charity fund listed in the obituary. Neither of these to cost more than \$75 per MTCA policy/procedures/by-law.

Type:	Sent:	To:	Reason:
<i>Thank You Card</i>	06/10/2023	Lillian Drane Lakeville, MA Tri-County Assoc	<i>Scholarship donation to NEMCI</i>
<i>Thank You Card & Photo</i>	07/31/2023	Senator Michael Rodrigues 24 Beacon St, Rm #212 Boston, MA 02133	<i>Sponsoring "Clerks Day on the Hill"</i>
<i>Thank You Card & Photo</i>	07/31/2023	Senator John F. Keenan 24 Beacon St., Rm #413-F Boston, MA 02133	<i>Co-Chair of Joint Committee on Election Laws</i>
<i>Thank You Card & Photo</i>	07/31/2023	Rep. Daniel J. Ryan 24 Beacon St., Tm #443 Boston, MA 02133	<i>Co-Chair of Joint Committee on Election Laws</i>

Regards,
Cheryl C.A. Estrella, CMC
Town Clerk, Town of Freetown, MA
Social Secretary for the MTCA