



# VOTER REGISTRATION

Wendy Stevens, Town Clerk

---

Presentation to Board of Selectmen  
April 11, 2022



# Registered Voters

- Winchendon 2022 Town Census
  - 8,841
- Registered voters
  - 7,304 (83%)
- Unregistered residents
  - 1,537 (17%)

# How Many Registered Voters Actually Vote?

- 2020 November General Election (presidential candidates)
  - 5188 voted (71%)
- 2021 Town Election (town elected officials)
  - 254 voted (3%)
- 2021 May 17 Town Annual Meeting
  - 129 voted (2%)
- 2021 Nov 8 Town Special Meeting
  - 80 voted (1%)
  - Meeting delayed to call in enough residents to meet required quorum of 75

# What Your Local Elections Include

- Selection of Personnel:
  - Board of Selectmen
  - Board of Health
  - School Committee
  - Housing Authority
  - Town Moderator

# What Your Local Town Meetings Include

- Water/sewer repairs
- Equipment purchases
- Facility improvements
- Road acceptances
- Overall town budget, school budget
- How YOUR tax dollars are spent

*Higher voter turnout provides broader representation*

# How to Register to Vote?

- Four options
  - Fill out paper form at Town Clerk's Office
  - Call Town Clerk's Office to have form mailed
  - Visit the State website: [vote.gov/register/ma](https://vote.gov/register/ma)
  - Register at Registry of Motor Vehicles when renewing your license
- Provide identification
  - Driver's License
  - Last four digits of Social Security Number
- Register at least 20 days before next election





# In-Person Voting Process

- Voting Location
  - Senior Center (Old Murdock School, 52 Murdock Ave)
- Voting Hours
  - State/Federal elections: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
  - Local elections: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Time Voter or Infrequent Voter?
  - Bring Identification. Examples:
    - Driver's license
    - State I.D.
    - Paycheck
    - Utility bill
    - Other official document bearing voter's name and address



# In-Person Voting Process (cont'd)

- Check in at your precinct table upon arrival
  - Don't know your precinct? Poll workers will help you!
  - Your party affiliation is requested *only* when you are voting in a Primary
- Receive a paper ballot
- Cast your votes at a standing or sit-down booth
- Use black ballot marker provided to fill in circles or write in candidates
- Make a mistake?
  - You may request up to three clean ballots
  - Rejected ballot is marked "spoiled" before issuing another



# In-Person Voting Process (cont'd)

- Finished voting?
  - Bring your ballot to the ballot box
  - Feed your own ballot into the machine
  - Place face down for privacy
  - The screen will CONFIRM that your ballot has been counted

# Absentee Voting

- Eligibility:
  - Away from town on Election Day
  - Disability preventing you from voting in person
  - Religious belief that prevents you from voting in person on Election Day
- Submit a written, signed request form at Town Clerk's Office
- Your ballot will be mailed to your registered address
- Return:
  - By mail (allow adequate mailing time)
  - In person (to Town Clerk or in collection box outside Town Hall)
- Absentee ballots received by close of Election Day are checked in and fed through the voting machines
  - Check-in process eliminates possibility of duplicate voting

# When the Polls Close...

- Tabulation tapes are collected from the voting machines
- Collected ballots must match number of voters checked in
- Poll workers check each ballot for write-ins
- Tapes and write-ins are added and checked by a second person
- Tabulations are posted for public viewing at polling place

# Learning About Local Candidates/Initiatives

- Candidates
  - Publish statements on social media and local newspapers
  - Often willing to field questions from public
- Initiatives
  - Town publishes warrant articles for upcoming election
  - Postcard notice mailed to all residences
    - Review warrant articles online or pick up paper copy at Town Hall
  - Discussed ahead of time at Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee meetings
    - Watch live or recorded meetings at Town website

# Mark Your Calendars...

# Make Your Voice Heard!

- Next Elections:

- May 2, 2022                      Town Election
- May 16, 2022                    Annual Town Meeting (in-person)
- Fall TBD                            Special Town Meeting (in-person)
- September 6, 2022            State Primary
- November 8, 2022            State Election

