

# The Public Recorder



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Report of the President, Sally M. Hayden

## 2007 the year of Surprise

HELLOOOOO 2008!! Thank goodness! Goodbye 2007!!

Not that 2007 was completely unbearable. The Red Sox's did win the World Series! Our Association had three awesome conferences. Two conferences, we were joined by the cities. Did we not have the best weather ever at Jiminy Peak?

February was a bit apprehensive. We learned that our president, Judith St. Croix, was retiring before her term as president of the association would end. Yours truly, had to step up to the plate as pitch hitter. It was about that time, spring, that we learned that we would have a new voting device – the AutoMark. We were informed that we would be using these machines in our spring municipal elections. There was a bit of scrabbling. We had to be trained on the machines; we joined a gym to improve our biceps in order to carry the machine, and rented a “POD” to store the machines in when not in use.

While the AutoMark consumed us, in the distance you could hear faint whispers of Election Day Registration. The City and Town Clerks formed an Election Task Force to discuss this very topic. Discussion began on presenting an election reform package to our Legislative Committee for consideration to bring to our membership. This task has been completed, and the proposal is with our Legislative Committee.

From the AutoMark we went full tilt into discovering that the Presidential Primary would be moved from March 2008 to February 2008. Much to our disbelief we found that our view of “manipulating an election” was not seen through the eyes of the legislators.

**2008** - How will we face this year? Will we look at it with excitement and eagerness? Or will we be fearful of what is around the corner? I am inclined to look at 2008 with excitement, eager to face the next challenge in my professional life –

**Bring It On!**

The human spirit can fly over any obstacle that stands in the way of accomplishment.

# MTCA LOBBYIST REPORT – DECEMBER 2007

## By Stephen Roche

### *2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY*

The excitement is growing as we head into our presidential primary election in February. It's been interesting to see how state legislators have aligned themselves with the various candidates. Democratic legislators have largely gone with the two leading candidates – Clinton and O'Bama. Governor Patrick is strongly supporting O'Bama and some key members of his staff spent the week before the New Hampshire primary organizing for O'Bama in that state.

On the Republican side, several legislators have rejected former governor Mitt Romney in favor of McCain and Giuliani. Former Republican governors Jane Swift and Paul Cellucci are also backing candidates other than Romney. Recent polls suggest tat Mr. Romney could lose Massachusetts next month; obviously, that would be a big setback for his campaign

We should expect to hear more about the record turnouts in Iowa and New Hampshire in coming months as Election Day Registration (EDR) advocates are sure to raise the fact there were no apparent problems on election day in those states.

Again, thank God we are not implementing EDR this year; I cannot see how that could have gone well for us.

### *STATE HOUSE LEADERSHIP – ARE MORE CHANGES ON THE WAY?*

Senate President Murray moved to fill several key leadership posts that have been vacated during the past several months. Among those changes are:

<b>SENATOR</b>	<b>NEW POST</b>	<b>FORMER POST</b>
Stephen Tolman	Assistant Majority Whip	Vice Chair, Senate Ways & Means (SW&M)
Stephen Brewer	Vice Chair, SW&M	Asst. Vice Chair, SW&M
Harriette Chandler	Asst. Vice Chair, SW&M	Senate Chair, Community Development & Small Business Committee
Brian Joyce	Senate Chair, Community Dev. & Small Business Committee	Senate Chair, Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development Committee
James Marzilli	Senate Chair, Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development Committee	new Senate member <sup>1</sup>
Thomas McGee <sup>2</sup>	Senate Chair, Veteran & Federal Affairs Committee	fills vacancy

<sup>1</sup> Senator Marzilli is a former House member; won special election to fill Robert Havern's seat.

<sup>2</sup> Senator McGee also serves as Senate Chair of the Labor & Workforce Development Committee.

SENATOR	NEW POST	FORMER POST
Brian Joyce	Senate Vice Chair, Transportation Committee	replaces Sen. Chandler
Anthony Petruccelli	Senate Vice Chair, Election Laws Committee	replaces Senator Baddour

Things are much more interesting on the House side as Speaker Sal DiMasi called a Democratic caucus to forcefully deny that he has any intentions of giving up his post any time soon. There have been persistent rumors during the past few months that DiMasi plans to resign in order to earn more money. Those rumors prompted behind-the-scenes campaigns by three House Leadership members to succeed DiMasi – Bob DeLeo of Wintghrop, Ron Mariano of Quincy and John Rogers of Norwod. Recently, those lobbying efforts have caused bad blood in the House, causing the Speaker to pull together all House Democrats to quash the succession campaigns and quiet affairs.

### *RETURN TO LEGISLATIVE WORK*

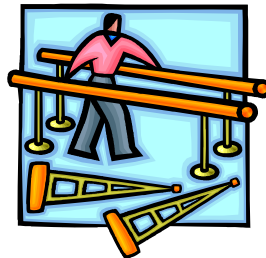
The House and Senate both returned to formal sessions the week of January 14th. There is lots of talk about action on the Governor’s numerous proposals before the Summer Break on July 31<sup>st</sup>, especially casino gambling. The Governor releases his proposed spending plan for FY 2009 by the end of January and faces a budget gap of up to \$1.4 billion. The Governor may include expected revenues from casino gambling in his budget to avoid deep cuts in other problems; if that happens, we will see a real battle on casino gambling erupt during the House and Senate debates on the FY 2009 state budget.

### *A PERSONAL NOTE*

As I write this report, I am recuperating at home from full right replacement surgery on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the New England Baptist Hospital. I cannot believe how well I am doing as I move freely around home on crutches, able to go up & down stairs, doing the daily chores of living, and even working a few hours a day.

I am not sure if I will be able to join you at the MTCA Winter Conference, but I hope to do so.

**Good Luck on February 5th!**



**From us: Wishing you a speedy recovery!!**

## An UPDATE:

From Michelle Tassinari, Director/Legal Counsel, Elections Division



The Presidential Primary is almost upon us! Accordingly, we just wanted to provide some reminders that we hope are helpful.

### ***Voter Registration***

As you know, **Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**, is the last day for individuals to register to vote for the February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary. With the ongoing primaries and caucuses around the country in addition to advertising of the last day to register (on the radio and television), we are expecting a lot of people registering before the deadline. Accordingly, on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, you must be open to hold registration sessions from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.; provided, however, that in towns having less than 1500 voters, the session will be sufficient if it runs from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon and from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the evening.

### ***Warrant***

A sample warrant for the Presidential Primary was e-mailed on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The warrant must be posted by the Board of Selectmen or City Council by **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, (at least *seven days prior* to the **February 5<sup>th</sup>** Presidential Preference Primary).

### ***Voting Supplies***

Voting supplies are in the process of being delivered. This includes absentee voting supplies, including applications and envelopes, and tally sheets. We will provide you with updates on delivery as we receive them from our shipper. Our shipper is DBS and the shipments will come either UPS or common carrier. Once you receive each box, check that you have received all of the supplies listed on the packing sheet included with your supplies.

For the absentee ballot envelopes, the only changes are to the size (smaller) and the inner envelopes have all four parties. If you have any requests for absentee ballots for Green-Rainbow or Working Families voters, please let us know so we can send you out some envelopes in the meantime—we have a limited supply in our office.

You will be provided with sufficient forms for the 2008 presidential primary, state primary and election. Please contact the Elections Division should you need additional supplies.

### ***Presidential Primary Ballots***

Absentee ballots are in the process of being delivered and should arrive in the next couple of weeks. Please note that the printer is sending ballots out in partial shipments. We are requesting that you **thoroughly review all your ballots upon receipt**. Offices appearing on the ballot are: Presidential Preference; State Committee Man; State Committee Woman; and Ward or Town Committee. Should you discover any mistakes, please notify the Elections Division ***immediately***. Remember that State Committee seats are elected by senatorial district. Also, there are four representative districts that will have state representative candidates printed on their ballots. Please note that for those communities that have optical scan ballots, all four party ballots will be printed as optical scan ballots. (In the past we have printed some party ballots on paper ballots).

## **Who Can Vote**

As February 5, 2008, is a primary, only those voters enrolled in a party or unenrolled voters may vote. A person registered in a political designation is not eligible to vote in a party primary.

If a voter is enrolled in a political party, they may only vote in that party's primary. For example, if a voter is registered as a Democrat, they may only receive a Democratic ballot, or if a voter is registered as a Republican, they may only receive a Republican ballot. Please remember that there are four political parties—Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow and Working Families.

An unenrolled voter, commonly referred to as “independent,” may vote in any primary. When appearing at the check-in, the voter must declare which party ballot they want to receive. This information must be recorded on the voting list next to their name—most use their codes D, R, J or Z.

New this year—thanks to your association—when an unenrolled voter votes in a presidential primary, they DO NOT become a member of the party whose ballot they vote on. No more enrollment cards!!!

## ***Absentee Voters***

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for the presidential primary is noon on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Spoiled Ballots**

A voter who makes a mistake in marking their ballot may request a new one. If a voter spoils a ballot, the voter may obtain two others, one at a time, upon returning each spoiled one. For unenrolled voters, changing their mind of the party whose ballot they want to vote in is not “spoiling” a ballot.

## **Provisional Ballots**

Provisional ballots must be offered to any person who appears at the polls and is not listed or who claims a listing error (such as wrong party). Certain information is gathered from the individual, they are provided with a provisional ballot, and the determination of whether that ballot is counted is made AFTER the close of polls. The determination of whether a provisional ballot is counted must be made regardless of whether it will make a difference in the outcome of the election.

## ***Exit Polling***

Exit polling is allowed within 150 feet on Election Day. However, an exit pollster may not interfere with a person on his way to an election, nor may an exit pollster disturb the peace, order, or decorum at the polls. For the upcoming presidential primary, Edison Media Research has indicated that they intend to conduct exit polls at certain precincts. They have indicated that they will contact those municipalities where they intend to conduct such exit polls. Please remember that they may remain within 150 feet of the polling location for the purpose of exit polling. If your polling place is large enough, they may be located within the polling place outside the guardrail after the check-out area.

## ***Polling Hours***

The polls must be open on February 5<sup>th</sup> from no later than 7:00 am to 8 pm (you can open as early as 5:45 am). You will be reimbursed for the cost of the extended polling hours for the Presidential Primary. The amounts are determined by the state auditor and the money is deposited directly into your Cherry Sheet accounts.

### ***Write-Ins***

Voters at the Presidential Primary may vote for candidates whose names are not printed on the ballot by write-in or stickers. This most commonly arises for the offices of state committee (both man and woman) but most often for ward or town committee.

If you do not have any candidates listed for either state committee man or woman or ward or town committee, you most likely will have write-in votes to count. For state committee, a candidate must receive at least fifty (50) votes in the district to qualify for election. After qualifying, a candidate for state committee must also be the top vote getter to win the election. For ward or town committee, candidates must receive at least five (5) votes to qualify for election. After qualifying, a candidate for ward or town committee must receive enough votes to finish among the number to be elected.

Unlike write-in candidates at state primaries, to whom party enrollment requirements do not apply, write-in candidates for state, ward or town committees must have been enrolled in the proper party as of Tuesday, August 21, 2007. If they are not, they may not be declared elected, and the person receiving the next highest number of votes is elected instead.

Successful write-in candidates do not have to sign a written acceptance.

### ***Counting Votes***

For ward and town committees, should a voter both vote for a group, and for candidates within that group individually, count the vote as one vote for each member of the group. Do not count this as an overvote, and do not count the votes cast for the individuals.

### ***Reporting Election Results***

Election results for presidential preference and state committeeman and state committeewoman should be reported to the Elections Division using the tally function of the VRIS. As with the last state election, you must enter your results into VRIS, then print them and mail the signed copy to us. The forms must be returned no later than February 9, 2008, within four days of the Presidential Preference Primary.

Good luck to everyone!!!

**With Sympathy:**

**Our sympathies go out to Edie McCracken, former Westwood Town Clerk, on the loss of her son in December 2007.**

## JOB POSTING

Agency Name:	<b>Office Of Campaign And Political Finance</b>
Official Title:	<b>Director, Communication and Public Education</b>
Functional Title:	<b>Director, Communication and Public Education</b>
Occupational Group:	<b>Managers/All Other</b>
Position Type:	
Full-Time or Part-Time:	<b>Full-Time</b>
Salary Range:	<b>\$55,000.00 to \$65,000.00 Annually</b>
Bargaining Unit:	<b>N/A</b>
Shift:	<b>Day</b>
Confidential:	<b>No</b>
Number Of Vacancies:	<b>1</b>
City/Town:	<b>Boston</b>
Region:	<b>BOSTON</b>
Facility Location:	
Application Deadline:	<b>01-11-2008</b>
Apply Online:	<b>No</b>
Posting ID:	<b>J12894</b>

**Duties:** The successful applicant's primary duty will be to manage the educational function of the Agency.

### **OCPF'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Schedule and present seminars and workshops across the commonwealth for various audiences, including candidates for state and local office, political committees, interest groups, local officials, and local election administrators. Respond to press calls, maintaining a list of such calls.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

Prepare, edit, update and write all educational materials including campaign finance guides, seminar materials, press releases, annual report and the agency's quarterly newsletter.

Compile and analyze data to prepare and write the Agency's various studies on campaign finance activity by candidates and committees.

Responds to e-mail and phone questions on campaign finance activity.

### **WEBSITE**

Maintain and update website, including writing and posting of new material.

Collaborate with Agency IT staff on website presentation and appearance.

Assist public, candidates, and committees with interactive use of Agency website and electronic filing capability.

### **LEGISLATIVE/ENFORCEMENT**

Tracks campaign finance related legislation and drafts written testimony for Director to submit to legislative committees.

Assists in drafting of legislation to amend the campaign finance law.

Serves as part of team that reviews cases, advisory opinions, and other matters as determined by the Director.

**Preferred Qualifications:** B.A. required, advanced degree a plus.

Strong writing and editing ability essential, as is the ability to speak effectively in public.

Understanding of state and local government. Knowledge of town meeting/local election processes a plus.

Two to four years of writing experience required.

Familiarity with Access, Adobe Acrobat, and Page Maker preferred.

Must be able to assist in various areas of Agency, including audit, legal, and IT.

Excellent organizational skills are a must.

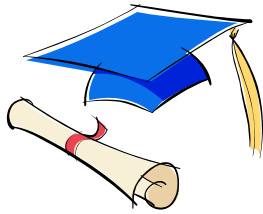
Valid Massachusetts Drivers License and access to a reliable vehicle for statewide travel.

**How To Apply:** Mail cover letter, resume, and a writing sample to: Campaign and Political Finance, One Ashburton Place, Room 411, Boston, MA 02108

E-Mail: [mmuise@cpf.state.ma.us](mailto:mmuise@cpf.state.ma.us)

**Agency Web Address:** <http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/>

**Good Luck Onorina Maloney, former elected Groton Town Clerk.  
We wish you good health and many adventurous opportunities.**



**ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**  
**Mark your calendars!**  
By Tedi Eaton

St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont will once again host the 2008 New England Municipal Clerk Institute and Academy from July 13 – 18, 2008 and it promises to be another exciting year!

Look for the New England Municipal Clerk Institute and Academy scholarship criteria and application in the February issue of The Public Recorder. You will need to fill out the application and include a letter from either your Finance Director or Board of Selectmen that states that you have been denied funds from your municipality. Preference is given to first-time students, but all students have a chance for a scholarship. The state associations, the New England Association of City and Town Clerks and the New England Municipal Clerks Institute all provide money for scholarship to go to the Institute. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 22, 2008 ~ with no exceptions!

All applications will be reviewed by the MTCA Scholarship Committee and the recipients will be announced at the June Conference. Members of the MTCA Scholarship Committee are Theodora K. (Tedi) Eaton, Needham; Marlene B. Chused, Sharon; and Sandra J. Burgess, Amherst.

So, mark you calendars for the 2008 New England Municipal Clerk Institute and Academy fro July 13 – 18, 2008 and look for the scholarship application in the February issue of The Public Recorder! And, Good Luck!

JANUARY 2008 – FEBRUARY 2008

<b>Monday,</b>	<b>January 21, 2008</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>February 2, 2008</b>	<b>Ground Hog Day</b>
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>February 5, 2008</b>	<b>Presidential Primary</b>
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>February 12, 2008</b>	<b>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday</b>
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>February 18, 2008</b>	<b>President's Day</b>
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>February 22, 2008</b>	<b>George Washington's Birthday</b>

MTCA CONFERENCE SCHEDULES – 2008

**MTCA WINTER CONFERENCE**  
MARCH 5, 6, & 7, 2008  
STURBRIDGE HOST  
STURBRIDGE, MA

**MTCA SUMMER CONFERENCE**  
JUNE 11, 12, & 13, 2008  
SEA CREST  
FALMOUTH, MA

**IIMC NE CLERK'S INSTITUTE & ACADEMY**  
JULY 13 – 18, 2008  
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE  
COLCHESTER, VT

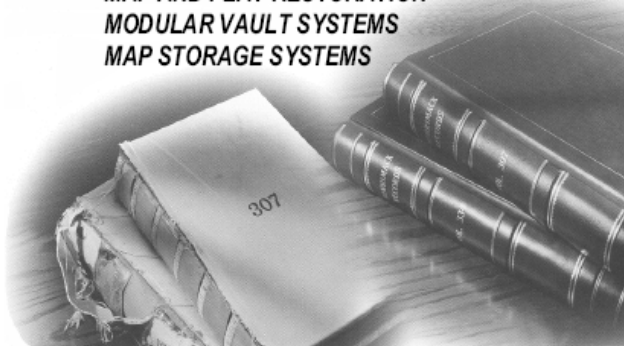
**MTCA FALL CONFERENCE**  
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HANCOCK, MA

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—Patricia Shields, Town Clerk, Town of Boxford, MA

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The Public Recorder

## Newsletter of the MTCA

1009 Main Street  
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### **Massachusetts Town Clerks Association**

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### **The Public Recorder**

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