

The Public Recorder



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Report of the President
by Sally M. Hayden

“Jiminy Peak – An Uplifting Experience”

It is hard to believe that within a month we will be at Jiminy Peak, Mountain Resort, for our fall conference. If you haven't done so, please fill out your conference registration form, if commuting, please choose your meals, include your check – and send to Barbara LaBombard, East Hampton, City Clerk. If you intend to stay at Jiminy Peak, please fax your Hotel Registration form. One last form to complete – your Educational Course Registration Form – please choose your classes and fax to Linda Lincoln, Brookfield Town Clerk. After all the forms have been completed, faxed, mailed, delivered to their proper contact, mark the dates on your calendar and get prepared.

No matter how much preparation you do, to feel comfortable leaving your office, you can't think of everything. My office staff chuckles every time I tell them I will be out of the office to attend a conference. They are convinced that there is someone out there lurking in the shadows of the Town Hall, waiting for me to go away. Then “they” appear with a question or request that we have never dealt with before.

Wednesday afternoon at Jiminy Peak will provide you with the tools to help you deal with stress. Just in time for those of you who have fall elections. Thursday morning at Jiminy there will be an all inclusive class dealing with the Presidential Primary. This is a class that none should miss! The Education Committee has commitments from the Elections Division and the Central Voter Registry. This class is designed to get you through the Presidential Primary. Thursday afternoon we are offering you a choice in the class you take. Any one of the classes will refortify your basic foundation as town clerk.

I hope to see you at Jiminy Peak. It is important for you, as Town Clerk, to continue your education, to receive the updates on issues that concern our office on a daily basis and to have time to visit with your Town Clerk friends. See you on the top of Jiminy Peak!

MTCA LOBBYIST - SPECIAL REPORT – AUGUST 2007

By Stephen Roche

As you will recall, I reported last month on work on the Election Day Registration (EDR) legislation under consideration on Beacon Hill (see [House 646](#) and [Senate 446](#)). Our sources indicate that action is likely this Fall with EDR advocates pressing the Legislature to act.

In place of my usual report this month, I want to take this opportunity to more fully explain what the MTCA Legislative Committee has put before the Election Laws (EL) Committee Chairs – it is a combination of what the EL Committee has come up with along with the MTCA 's suggested revisions.

Please bear in mind that we have *consistently remained neutral on EDR* and limited our comments to suggestions for how to make EDR work if the General Court and Governor decide to move forward.

We ask that you read the summary below of the bill and talk to your local state legislators NOW to help us frame the debate on Beacon Hill. Advise them of our suggestions (**in bold with explanations in parentheses**) and urge them to back us!

Section-by-Section of Election Day Registration Redraft II

Sec. 1: Amends current law to **change the hour for close of registration on the last day for registration for a primary or election from 8 PM to 5 PM** (*since people can register on election day, seems that clerks should be able to close at end of business day*). (Section 7 merged with this section)

Sec. 2(a): Permits a voter to register at the polling place where he maintains residence on the day of a primary or election. Requires the applicant to provide verification of identity in the form of the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security Number or MA driver's license number consistent with requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA); complete a form prescribed by the Secretary of State; provide proof of residency; and make an oath certifying under penalty of perjury that the applicant is eligible to vote.

Sec. 2(b): Lists acceptable forms of proof of residency consistent with federal HAVA requirements.

Sec. 2(c): Permits the Secretary of State to determine the date on which registrars shall place the names of qualified applicants on the annual registry of voters after the date of a primary or election.

Sec. 2(d): Requires the Secretary of State to make available a printed copy of the registered voters in each precinct to the registrars at the polling place for that precinct.

Sec. 2 (e): **Exempts annual town meeting and special town meeting from Election Day registration** (*the logic of this is obvious to clerks – but you need to explain to legislators*).

Sec. 2(f): Allows the Secretary of State to promulgate regulations to administer Election Day registration.

Sec. 2(g): Requires an investigation of illegal registration or illegal voting upon credible allegation or information to the proper authorities.

Sec. 2(h): Provides for punishment of illegal registration or illegal voting by imprisonment of up to 5 years in prison or \$10,000, or both.

Sec. 3: Amends current law to prohibit voters who have moved their residence from voting in the municipality of their former residence, and instead requires that voters who have moved their residence register to vote in the municipality to which they have moved and currently live on the date of a primary or election.

Sec. 4: Provides that on the last day of registration sessions before an election that registration take place **no later than 5 p.m** (*per 2(e) above*).

Sec. 5: Provides that the last day of registration sessions before a primary or election be 14 days prior to the primary or election. Shortening the deadline to register is intended to help ease the flow of voters registering on Election Day at the polling place.

Sec. 6: Revises the time that registration sessions must occur on the last day of registration before a primary or election.

Sec. 7: Revises the general laws to be in conformity with a change of the last day and time for registration sessions prior to the day of a primary or election.

Sec. 8: Provides for an advisory committee chaired by the Secretary of State to examine Election Day registration implementation issues, particularly live access to the central voter registry at every polling place. Requires the advisory committee to submit a report on the cost of providing live access to every polling place to the election laws and house and senate ways and means committees by December 31, 2008.

Also requires the advisory committee to prepare a strategy to promote and facilitate voter registration before the last day of registration (*our hope is that a BIG effort will be made to get folks to register two weeks before election day to reduce the impact of EDR*).

Sec. 9 Provides that secretary of the commonwealth shall conduct a detailed cost analysis for the implementation of Election Day Registration and submit his findings to the Election Laws Committee chairs by October 31, 2007 (*we have yet to see a detailed analysis of the costs at the state and local levels of implementing EDR – our hope is to see this information made available in time for the Governor’s FY 2009 state budget proposal to due by the end of January 2008*).

Sec. 10 Requires that state and local costs of implementing Election Day Registration shall be paid by annual appropriation in state budget (*implementing EDR will cost money – lots of money – and it’s a Local Mandate that the state needs to cover*).

Sec. 11-14 Provides for the elimination of the check-out tables at polling places (*this will free up at least 2 poll workers at each precinct to handle the folks registering on election day – not only will it save money, it will also expedite the voting process*).

Sec. 15 Sections 8-9 and 11-14 become effective upon passage of the bill.

Sec. 16: Provides an implementation date for Election Day Registration of July 1, 2008 (*this date assures that clerks will not have to implement EDR during the 2008 Presidential Primary in March and it coincides with the beginning of FY 2009 so that state funding is provided from the outset*).
Sections 1-7 and 10 become effective 7/1/2008.

CALL TO ACTION - WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW. Please speak with your legislators. **We expect the EL Committee to vote out an EDR bill at the beginning of October.**

If you receive any feedback from your legislators on EDR, please contact the MTCA Legislative Committee Chair, Larry Pizer, via email:

LPIZER@TOWNHALL.PLYMOUTH.MA.US

Thanks.

**Massachusetts Town Clerks’ Association
~Business Meeting~**

The Sea Crest Resort & Conference Center, Falmouth, MA
Wednesday, June 13-15, 2007

Sally Hayden, Acting President of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association, called the Business Meeting to order at 12:40 P.M.

Secretary's Report: Ann M. Click, Secretary, presented the February 8, 2007 meeting minutes as printed in the May Recorder.

The motion to approve the February 8, 2007 minutes was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Carole Marple, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report as of June 11, 2007. The current checking account balance is \$9,069.31 and the Money Fund Account balance is \$44,628.48 for a Total Cash: All Sources of \$53,697.79.

The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as of June 11, 2007 was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Carole presented the FY08 Budget and mentioned that Line Item 3500, the Media Stipend which the Association receives for election reporting was split between the FY07 Budget and the FY08 Budget. The motion to approve the FY08 Budget was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary of State, William F. Galvin, spoke next on several issues. Secretary Galvin feels that the Massachusetts Presidential Primary date will not be changed because of problems with winter elections. The Secretary thanked the clerks for working with the AutoMark Machines in our local elections. He mentioned hearing from some handicapped voters' stating their gratification for the machines. He feels the most appealing item about the AutoMark is using a single ballot. The Secretary stated that the State will not pay for AutoMark costs for special local elections or beyond 2008 elections.

Secretary Galvin discussed Election Day Registration. He feels provisional ballots will be too heavily used without EDR. He suggested that a laptop be available at every polling location to check voter registrations. He feels many legislators would be happy to have the EDR, but they do not see the administrative issues. He said the main reason for EDR is to enable many voters to vote in the major elections. He mentioned the issue of joining a party in order to vote at the Presidential Primary and suggested a 10 day waiting period. Another issue would be having enough ballots printed and available for the group that may show up to register and vote. He said it will be very important to have the legislators informed of issues and that a pool of money available to training and related costs. He feels that college students could be trained for registering voters. He is supportive of EDR if the administrative issues are addressed. He wants us to educate our legislators concerning the mechanics involved with EDR.

In reply to a question, the Secretary said he will send a letter to local boards informing them that EDR will be a mandate and they need to comply with budget requests. In reply to another comment about registering only at town or city halls, the Secretary feels there would be an objection because too many people would go to city halls. The Secretary repeated that there needs to be enough money for training and costs. Secretary Galvin concluded and left the meeting.

Nominating Committee member Linda Hutchenrider presented the following 2007-2008 slate of officers:

Officers:

Sally Hayden, President – for one year – Rutland/Worcester County
Theodora Eaton, 1st Vice President - for one year – Needham/Norfolk County
Arlene Marie Crimmins, 2nd Vice President - for one year – Foxboro/Norfolk County
Sandra J. Burgess, Secretary - for one year – Amherst/Hampshire County
Charlene M. Hinton, Treasurer - for one year – Carlisle/Middlesex County

Executive Board Members – Terms to End 2010

Maddie Daoust, Southbridge/Worcester County
Linda Hunt, Stockbridge/Berkshire County
Joyce Bradshaw, North Andover/Essex

The motion to approve the slate of Offices and Executive Board Members was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote

Next retiring Officers Ann Click, Secretary, Carole Marple, Treasurer and Executive Board Members Randall Hanson and Lorraine Murawski were presented with certificates of appreciation. Wendy Houle of Sunderland was not present but was recognized as a retiring Executive Board Member.

New clerks were asked to present themselves for introduction:

Wayland	Lois Toombs	Harvard	Janet A. Vellante
Natick	Judith Kuhn	Princeton	Lynne Greptum
Lakeville	Janet L. Tracy	Southwick	Michelle Hill
Westwood	Dorothy A. (Dottie) Powers		

Sally thanked the following County Associations and vendor for donating to the scholarship fund:

Middlesex County Clerks Association	donated one full scholarship
Worcester Count Clerks Association	donated one full scholarship
Tri-County Clerks Association	donated two full scholarships
Western Clerks Association	donated a partial scholarship
LHS Associates, Inc.	donated one full scholarship

The following will be attending the New England Municipal Clerk’s Institute at St. Michael’s and received scholarships:

Nancy J. Lowell, Warren, Town Clerk	Barbara Neeley, Shelburne, Town Clerk
Nancy Talbot, Ware, Town Clerk	Sandra Wright, Shrewsbury, Ass’t Town Clerk

The following will be attending the New England Municipal Clerk’s Academy at St. Michael’s and received partial scholarships:

Sharon George, Wilmington, Town Clerk	Barbara Sullivan, Mattapoisett, Town Clerk
Wendy Houle, Sunderland, Town Clerk	Margaret Bonderencko, Mendon, Town Clerk
Nancy M. Blackmer, Orange, Town Clerk	

MTCA Lobbyist, Stephen Roche, was introduced. Steve’s report is printed in the June Recorder. The Town Clerks’ testimony for the May 30th Hearing on H.646 and S. 446 was made available and is filed with these minutes. Steve reported that the ban on same sex marriages will not appear as a ballot question, but the restrictions on absentee ballots will appear in November 2008.

Steve spoke of the EDR Hearing and repeated some points such as the reliance on the Street Lists to keep the CVR updated and that any change should not occur until after 2008. Town

Clerk Kathy Nagle, Wellesley, also attended the hearing and said that the State Legislators do not understand the administrative problems behind the EDR. Steve and a group of clerks will be meeting on June 20th with the Election Law Committee.

At 1:50 P.M. a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann M. Click, MTCA Secretary

Denis Kennedy
Director of Public Information
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance



Dear Friends—

It's with sadness that I write to inform you that I am leaving OCPF. I have accepted a position as a principal of Dewey Square Group, a nationally known public affairs firm, and will start in September.

Dewey Square is headquartered in Boston, with offices in Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento and Tampa. My office will be in Boston (ironically, in the Saltonstall Building, right beside our current digs at Ashburton Place!). While the geographic change is minor, the switch will be a big one in just about every other way.

It is hard to say goodbye to all the clerks and election commissioners who have been so good to me over the last 11 years. I have come to know so many of you so well and have unlimited respect and admiration for the job you do every day. You accepted me and welcomed me into your lives – and your towns – and educated and enriched me in some many ways. Whether it's on the phone, out at a seminar or in the hospitality room at a conference, it's always been a pleasure and an honor to work with you.

I'm sure that our paths will cross again. Maybe I'll drop by Sea Crest next June and join the retired state officials club.

With great affection,
Denis Kennedy

PS Since I sent this news to you in August I have received many touching e-mails and notes. Thanks for the best wishes.

New England Association of City & Town Clerks
2010 Annual Conference Committee Needs YOU!

Carole B. Marple
Sherborn Town Clerk
19 Washington Street
Sherborn, MA 01770
1-508-651-7853
FAX 1-508-651-0407

Massachusetts will be hosting the New England Conference in 2010 and **you** are invited to be part of the Conference Committee. Those of us who have served on past New England Conference committees will confirm that being part of the planning and execution enhances the entire experience. Many good times (and some important work) are in store for the 2010 Committee!

It is time to establish the formal committee and plan this major event in clerkdom. This is your chance to be part of what is sure to be an outstanding, congenial group of clerks who will accomplish a great deal in the next few years. Please email our NEACTC Board member Catherine Stover twnclerk@nantucket.net and indicate your willingness to serve.

MTCA CERTIFICATION EXAM (CMMC) IN JANUARY

The MTCA examination for Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk designation will be offered in **JANUARY**. Applications must be received by Administrator Diane Casagni by December 31 for the JANUARY exam, which will be mailed mid-January 2008. Applicants must have at least three years experience as Town Clerk and must complete a minimum of six required courses sponsored by the MTCA.

The Administrator will verify the courses through the Education Committee. More information is available in the certification program brochure.

Applicants are strongly urged to return completed answer sheets by certified mail, return receipt requested. 80 is the passing score. Applicants are advised that they will need access to an updated copy of the Massachusetts General Laws to complete the exam successfully.

Applicants will be notified by mail of the results of their exams. A copy of the notification must be submitted with the application for MTCA certification. The notification of successful completion of the exam will be valid for one year and will have an expiration date printed on it. If an applicant is not certified within one year, the examination must be repeated.

A non-refundable fee of \$50, payable to MTCA, must be submitted with the application. This examination is offered twice yearly – during the months of January and June. Application forms for the exam are available at all MTCA conferences and from the Administrator, Norton Town Clerk Diane P. Casagni. Anyone with questions about the exam may call Diane either at work (508-285-0230) or at home (508-285-9240).

REMINDER.....

Please inform me at ecarey@town.tewksbury.ma.us if you **now** have internet access and the monthly Public Recorder can be e-mailed to you. Thank you...Liz

In memory of....

Joan V. Embree, retired Wrentham Town Clerk, 1986-1995, deceased August 2, 2007.

Carol Carson
Chief, Communications and Public Education Division
Massachusetts State Ethics Commission
One Ashburton Place, Room 619
Boston, MA 02108
www.mass.gov/ethics
617-371-9501
617-723-5851 (fax)
ccarson@eth.state.ma.us

We are pleased to announce that the summer edition of the *Bulletin*, the newsletter of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission, is ready for download* at http://www.mass.gov/ethics/Summer_07.pdf.

This issue features:

- The Complaint Process
- Executive Director Peter Sturges Steps Down
- Commission Holds Hearing on Regulations
- Recent Enforcement Matters
- Online Training Program
- Staff Notes

Please feel free to share this email with anyone whom you think will benefit from this publication.



A Tisket, A Tasket, Please Bring a Basket...

Some Mass Town Clerks are already hard at work raising funds for the New England Conference in 2010--we're the folks from whom you buy tickets during conferences to win a prize/basket or the 50/50 jackpot.

We hope to encourage every clerk to bring a prize or basket to one Mass conference. If every clerk steps up just once between now and 2010, think of the \$\$\$ we will earn to help keep conference costs reasonable! New England conferences are wonderful opportunities for learning and for networking with clerks from all the New England states.

You may want to put together a gift (basket) and donate it yourself or you might wish to solicit prizes from some of your local merchants. Either way, here is another chance to be part of clerks working to enrich clerks.

For more information, please speak with Ann Click (508-497-9710).

Carole B. Marple
Sherborn Town Clerk
19 Washington Street
Sherborn, MA 01770
1-508-651-7853
FAX 1-508-651-0407

MTCA CONFERENCE SCHEDULES - 2007 - 2008

MTCA FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 3, 4, 5, 2007
JIMINY PEAK RESORT
HANCOCK, MA

MTCA WINTER CONFERENCE
JANUARY 30, 31 & February 1, 2008
STURBRIDGE HOST
STURBRIDGE, MA

NEACTC NOVEMBER 14, 15, 16, 2007
FALL CONFERENCE
OGUNQUIT, ME

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

SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER 2007

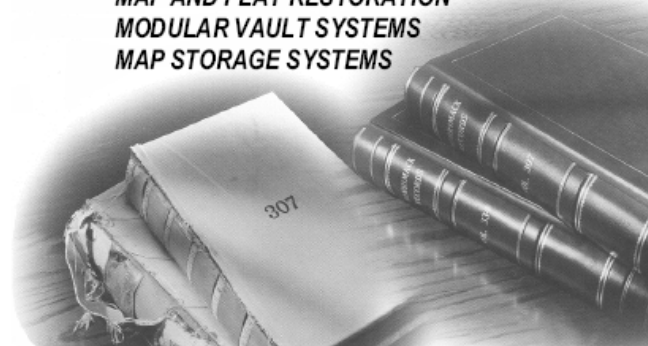
Thursday,	September 13, 2007	Rosh Hashanah
Saturday,	September 22, 2007	Yom Kipper
Sunday,	September 23, 2007	Autumn Begins
Wednesday,	October 3, 2007	MTCA/MCCA Conference
Monday,	October 8, 2007	Columbus Day
Sunday,	October 28, 2007	Day-Light Saving Time Ends
Wednesday,	October 31, 2007	Halloween

Brown's River

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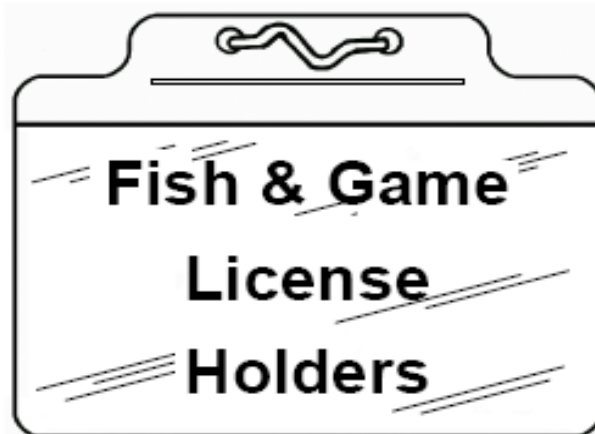
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**Peter Koutoujian, Retired
City Clerk of Waltham**

**Sally Hayden, President
Mass. Town Clerk's Association**

**State Rep. Peter Koutoujian, Jr.
Tenth Middlesex District**

The Public Recorder

Newsletter of the MTCA

1009 Main Street

Tewksbury, MA 01876



Massachusetts Town Clerks Association

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The Public Recorder

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