

Hingham's Upcoming Town Elections

Hingham's 2020 Town Elections are coming up fast – on Saturday, June 27th.

Why should YOU vote? It's the only way to choose the elected officials who will represent us. Along with attending [Town Meeting](#) (June 20th this year), it's the most important civic duty you'll perform all year.

Registering to Vote

Check your status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>.

The last day to register for the Town Election is Wednesday, June 17. The deadline is usually 20 days before the election, but because of COVID-19 and the change of date for the Town Election to June 27th, it's 10 days before the election.

If you're not registered yet, there's still time. There are three ways to register to vote:

1. **Online:** go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr>
2. **In person:** the Town Clerk's office accepts voter registrations over the counter at 210 Central Street. We suggest you call (781) 741-1410 first to confirm their hours.
3. **By mail:** download the Voter Registration form from <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/voter-reg-mail-in.pdf>. Then just print it out, fill it in, and mail it to: Hingham Town Clerk, 210 Central Street Hingham, MA 02043.

For more information on registering, please visit <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm>.

Absentee Ballots

Under previous state law, a voter only qualified to vote absentee if they would be absent from the town during voting hours, or if a religious belief or physical disability prevented them from going to the polling place. However, a new law specifies that any person taking a precaution related to COVID-19 qualifies for an absentee ballot by reason of physical disability. This includes those who are sick, self-quarantined, or simply choose not to go to a public place for their own or a family member's safety.

There are three easy steps to voting absentee:

1. **Request an Absentee Ballot:** download the Application for Absentee Ballot from <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9898/Absentee-Ballot-Application>. You can also request a ballot in writing, or via email to the Town Clerk at townclerk@hingham-ma.gov.
2. **Print out the application, fill it in and sign it** (requests are not valid without a signature).
3. **Return it** – send a picture of both pages of your completed request form via e-mail to townclerk@hingham-ma.gov. You can also mail it to the Town Clerk at 210 Central Street, Hingham MA, 02043, or drop it off in the drop box in the front driveway at Town Hall.

After you've returned your Application for Absentee Ballot, the Town Clerk's office will mail you an absentee ballot. You just fill in the ballot and return it by mail. You must return your ballot to the Town Clerk by June 27th.

Early Voting

There is no early voting in person for municipal elections, but you may vote early by mail. Just download an Application for Early Voting Ballot at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9899/2020-Municipal-Early-Ballot-Application>.

Return your completed application via e-mail to townclerk@hingham-ma.gov, mail it to the Town Clerk's office (210 Central Street, Hingham MA, 02043), or drop it off in the drop box in the circular driveway at Town Hall. Residents who complete these applications will receive a ballot by mail and **must return it to the Town Clerk by June 27th**.

Please contact the Town Clerk's office at townclerk@hingham-ma.gov or 781-741-1410 with any questions.

In Person Voting

There will be no in-person early voting this year, but there will still be in-person voting on Election Day itself. Here are the polling places for the Town Elections on Saturday, June 27th:

- Precincts 1-4: Hingham High School, 17 Union Street
- Precincts 5, 5A and 6: Hingham Middle School, 1103 Main Street

Linden Ponds residents (Precinct 5A) should be aware that their polling place has been moved. Anyone at Linden Ponds wishing to vote in person should go to the Middle School for this Town Election.

Polls will be open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Who's Running for What?

The ballot is available at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9897/2020-Town-Election-Ballot>, but here's a summary (competitive races highlighted in red, with candidate profiles from HinghamAnchor.com):

<i>Moderator (one-year term)</i>	Michael J. Puzo, 83 Cross Street
<i>Selectman (three-year term)</i>	<u>William C. Ramsey</u>, 55 North Street <u>Kirk J. Shilts</u>, 65 Prospect Street
<i>Board of Assessors (three-year term)</i>	Stuart "Greg" Hall, 583 Main Street
<i>Board of Health (three-year term)</i>	Elizabeth "Lizzie" Eldredge, 154 Union Street
<i>Municipal Light Board (three-year term)</i>	John P. Ryan, 175 Otis Street
<i>Housing Authority (five-year term)</i>	Megan Buhr, 489 Main Street
<i>School Committee (three-year term)</i> VOTE FOR TWO!	<u>Michelle Ayer</u>, 41 Hemlock Road <u>Jennifer Benham</u>, 300 Gardner Street <u>Stephanie Gertz</u>, 16 Carleton Road
<i>Planning Board (five-year term)</i>	Rita Sandonato Da Silva, 5 Taurasi Road
<i>Sewer Commission (three-year term)</i>	Stephen Harold, 20 Weathervane Court
<i>Recreation Commission (five-year term)</i>	Adrienne Ramsey, 55 North Street

In Summary

This year, everyone's dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. We've seen how critical it is to have strong professional staff and good decision-making at the local level by our volunteers on boards and committees.

This makes it more important than ever that everyone get out and VOTE!

For a PDF version of this article, please click [here](#).