



Town Clerk's Office

Town Hall Room 12

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Amy E. Hennessy Neves, Town Clerk

What's Happening Now at the Town Clerk's Office:

Special Town Meeting:

Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 30th. Precincts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (not Pr. 3) are planning to conduct special elections in their Precincts before the Special Town Meeting begins at 7:30 pm. The Town Meeting Members in the above precincts are asked to arrive early (7:00 pm) and to check in with their Precinct Captain to ensure there is a sufficient number of members present to obtain a Quorum in order to hold the election. If applicable, newly elected members will be sworn in before Town Meeting begins, and then they will be allowed to stay in their precinct for the meeting. The registered voters not elected can still remain at the meeting, but cannot sit in their precinct or vote. Registered voters will sit in the back of the hall in the general seating area. Any registered voter in Milford can address the body, after receiving permission from Town Meeting Members and the Moderator to speak.

Dog Licenses:

Reminders have been mailed to dog owners by the Animal Control Officer regarding dogs who have yet to be registered in the Town of Milford for 2017.

Dog licenses can still be obtained after June 30th for 2017 but the cost includes a \$10.00 late fee. Male and Female dogs are now \$35.00, Spayed and Neutered dogs are \$16.00. Please provide our office with a current rabies certificate from the Vet and also proof of spay/neutering (if this is new from the previous year). If you order a dog license online, please email your rabies vaccination and proof of spay/neutering information to mLaughlin@townofmilford.com.

All payments can be made by cash, money order, cashier's check, business check, debit/credit cards (note that a convenience fee will be charged by Unibank to use the card). We do not accept personal checks.

How Do I Become a Permanent Absentee Voters?

If you are physically unable to go to your polling location to vote at any of our elections, you could request to be placed on our "permanent" absentee list each year by providing us a letter from your physician's office stating that you are unable to vote at your polling location due to illness or physical disability. Applications for permanent absentee voters would be automatically

sent to you each year to ensure you still intend to vote by permanent absentee. If you do not return the application we would remove you from the permanent list.

Registering to Vote:

You may submit an application to register or pre-register to vote in Massachusetts if:

- You are a citizen of the United States; and
- You are 16 years old; and
- You are not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.

If you meet the above requirements, you may apply online, by mail, or in-person.

Please note that if you are pre-registering at age 16, your registration will be placed in a pending que until you reach the age of 18. If you move after you pre-register, please contact our office so your name can be removed from the que. You can only legally be registered to vote in one city/town in Massachusetts.

If you are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction you are not eligible to register to vote.

If you are currently 18 years of age or older and a U.S. Citizen and wish to vote in any elections in the Town of Milford and have not already registered to vote, you have multiple ways you can register.

1. Register to Vote while at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Please know that if you are already registered, you do not have to re-register again at the RMV. If you have moved, you can change your home address while at the RMV. You may also change your enrollment in a political party at the RMV if you wish. Please keep a receipt of any voting transactions at the RMV. Voter registrations and any voter changes can be done before any voter registration deadlines (which would be 20 days before any election).

2. Register to Vote On-line

In order to register to vote online, you must have a signature on file with the Registry of Motor Vehicles. If you currently have a Massachusetts driver's license or state ID card, you may use the online voter registration application to register, update your address, or change your party affiliation. Voter registration forms submitted online must be submitted by midnight on the date of the voter registration deadline, which is 20 days before an election. The link to register on-line through the Secretary of the Commonwealth is as follows:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

3. By Mail.

If you do not qualify to register to vote online, or if you would prefer to register by mail, you may download the voter registration form by using one the links provided below. The form must be completed, signed, and delivered to the Milford Town Clerk's Office. Voter registration forms submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the voter registration deadline (20 days before an election). Download a form from the Town of Milford's website:

<https://www.milfordma.gov/sites/milfordma/files/uploads/voter-reg-mail-in.pdf>

or from Elections:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elevf/howreg.htm>

4. In Person.

You can complete a new voter registration form or make any changes to your registration (address or party affiliation) while at the Town Clerk's Office.

Change of Home Address:

You must update your voter registration every time you move. If you have moved, you may update your registration by filling out a new voter registration form and returning it to the Town Clerk's Office. If you move after the deadline to register to vote in a state election or primary, you should wait to update your registration until after the date of the election or primary, and return to vote at your previous polling place in Massachusetts. State law allows you to vote from a previous address in a state election/primary (only) for up to six month after you have moved, as long as you have not registered elsewhere. You may need to provide a valid ID at your polling location before voting.

Registering in a Political Party:

When you register to vote, you may choose to enroll in a political party or political designation or may choose to remain "Unenrolled (U)" which is commonly referred to as "independent". If you do not enroll in a party, you may still vote in state and presidential primaries by choosing a party ballot and will remain unenrolled.

Once you make an enrollment choice you may change your enrollment status by notifying your election official in writing at least 20 days before an election.

There are currently (3) political parties that you can register to be part of in Massachusetts:

Democratic (D), Republican (R), and Libertarian (L)

If you enroll in any of these three parties you may vote only in that party's primary. Enrollment in a political party does not affect your right to vote in the general election. In the general election, all voters receive the same ballot and vote for the candidate of their choice, regardless of party enrollment.

Political Designations:

Although there are dozens of political parties in the United States, only certain parties are entitled to have the names of their candidates for office printed on election ballots. In order to qualify for ballot placement, a party must meet certain requirements that vary from state to state. For example, in some states a party may have to file a petition in order to qualify for ballot placement. In other states, a party must organize around a candidate for a specific office; that candidate must in turn win a percentage of the vote in order for the party to be granted ballot status. In still other states, an aspiring political party must register a certain number of voters.

This is the current list of Designations:

America First Party (code V)
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American Independent Party (code Q)
American Term Limits (code BB)
Conservative Party (code A)
Constitution Party (code K)
Green-Rainbow (code J)
Green Party USA (code G)
Interdependent 3rd Party (code T)
Latino-Vote Party
Massachusetts Independent Party (code O)
Natural Law Party (code B)
New Alliance Party (code N)
New World Council (code C)
Pirate (code X)
Pizza Party (code AA)
Prohibition Party (code P)
Rainbow Coalition (code F)
Reform Party (code E)
Socialist (code S)
Twelve Visions Party (code DD)
Timesizing Not Downsizing (code M)
United Independent Party (code CC)
Veterans Party America (code W)

We The People (code H)
Working Families (code Z)
<u>World Citizens Party</u> (code Y)

Where Can I Check My Voting Information?

You can find out if you are registered and also where you go vote if you follow this link:

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>

or you can call or visit the Town Clerk's Office and we would be glad to help you.

Why Do I Need to Answer My Annual Street Listing (Annual Census)?

If you have not answered your Annual Street Listing (Annual Census) this year or in past years this may cause your Voting Status to be changed to Inactive. Please know that Inactive Voters will still be allowed to vote at the polls after they show a valid photo I.D. and complete an Affidavit of Continuous Residence with the Warden in their Voting Precinct. It is very important to keep your information current for voting and residency required purposes. The Annual Census will be mailed to each household no later than the end of January 2018.

What Do I Do With the Annual Street Listing (Annual Census) When I Receive it?

The following information will need to be answered and/or verified on your Census form within (10) ten days of receiving your form:

- * Full names of everyone living in the household, both adults and children.
- * Birth dates of everyone living in the household.
- * The "eldest" person in the household will be listed as "Y" for the "Head of Household" unless you designate another person.
- * Current occupations of those living in household should be listed (you can also list "retired", "student" or "none" if applicable).
- *Nationality (if not a U.S. Citizen)
- * A valid phone number for the household. You can indicate if number is "unpublished".

* You must indicate if anyone in the household has since passed (“D” deceased) or has moved (“M” please provide us their new address, even if out of State).

*Do not remove college age children if Milford is their legal address.

* You can indicate on the document if you are a Veteran.

* If you notice an “*” next to your name, this is an indication that you are listed as a Registered Voter.

*If your voter status is listed as “A” Active or “I” Inactive. If you were previously listed as “A”, the status will be updated only if we receive a signed Census for the current year.

* Your census form cannot be used as a Voter Registration form. If you need to register to vote, please use one of the above ways to register to vote.

* Please make any changes to your Census by printing legibly. You can make changes more noticeable by using a different color of ink other than black ink.

*If the Census you have been mailed is correct or has been corrected by you, please have any registered voters listed sign and date the form and return it to the Town Clerk’s Office as soon as possible with the envelope provided. There will also be a drop-off box at the Town Clerk’s Office.

*If you do not receive a form, please contact our office.

*If you do not complete and return your Census, you will be made “Inactive” on the next voting list and possibly removed from future lists (MGL Ch.51, Sec.4c). If “Inactive” you will also be required to produce and show a valid form of ID along with completing an Affirmation of Continuous Residence with your Precinct Warden if/when you were to go vote.

Registering Children for School in Milford:

To register children for school or if your family has had a change of address you are required to provide the Milford School System an Affidavit of Proof of Residence from the Town Clerk’s Office. You will need the following information to do so:

Families that Rent: Would need to show our office a lease or rental agreement with all family members names listed, or a notarized letter from the landlord/homeowner that would include the address, names & dates of birth of everyone in the household, a contact phone number for the family and also the contact information of the landlord/homeowner. Please have a valid photo ID available.

Families that are the Homeowners: Would need to obtain a copy of your field card from the Assessor's Office and complete the Affidavit of Proof of Residency for all occupants in your household. Please have a valid photo ID available.

Please note that after you are placed in our computer system, you will then receive an Annual Street Listing (Annual Census) that is to be completed and returned to our office each and every year to keep your information up to date and voter information current (if applicable).

Our Website:

The Town's website was upgraded in August, so it may look a little different than in the past. We will provide links to most of our forms online and also offer a link to order Vital Records so customers have access even when we are closed. Our website information is below.

<https://www.milfordma.gov/> (Main page)

<https://www.milfordma.gov/town-clerk> (Town Clerk's page)

Blackboard Connect Messages (Town of Milford "Robo" calls):

If you wish to have your phone numbers or email addresses registered to receive important notices about upcoming Town Elections, Voter Registration Deadlines, Dog licensing, etc., you can go to www.milfordpolice.org or <https://milfordpublicsafety.bbcportal.com/Entry> and add your information. If you are currently receiving notices and you no longer live in Milford, please contact the Police Department at (508) 473-1113 to have your information removed.