



TOWN OF HULL
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

253 Atlantic Avenue
Hull, MA 02045
Telephone: 781-773-3803

Lori Wade MME/CMME

May 31, 2023

To all registered voters in the Town of Hull,

Please be advised in connection with the May 15, 2023 Annual Town Election, the Town sought a court order to ensure that all votes cast at the election, including during the extended hours from 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., are counted. The Town's filed pleadings for its Second Emergency Motion and the Order issued by the Court can be found on the Town Clerk's webpage. To summarize, the Order requires that the Town: (1) count all votes cast at the Annual Town Election between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and (2) re-open the polls for the Annual Town Election for two additional hours so that any persons prevented from voting at the May 15, 2023 Annual Town Election due to the fire, have an opportunity to cast a ballot.

The Order indicates that I have discretion to select the date and time at which the polls will be reopened, following consultation with Town Counsel. This notice is to confirm that I have consulted with the Town Counsel, the Town Manager, and the School Department. The reopening of the polls requires coordination between various town departments.

Since this series of events has been so public, and we are all looking to finalize this election, I have prioritized the need to set a date to reopen the polls as quickly as possible. I have selected Tuesday, June 13, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. This will allow the Town to finalize the election while providing appropriate notice to voters who may wish to cast a ballot at the re-opened polls.

I have established the polling hours to be relatively consistent with the timeframe in which the fire appeared to have impacted access to the polls. All three precincts will vote at the Hull High School polling location. We will operate the re-opened polling hours the way we regularly run all Town elections and in compliance with state election laws.

In trying to get the election finalized before the summer, we are cognizant that we have already spent money on the May 15, 2023, election, and will be respectful of the time and resources of the candidates, voters and the Town. We will be using the remaining absentee and regular ballots from the May 15th election. The ballots will not be reprinted, and the machines will not need to be reprogrammed.

At the conclusion of the reopened polling hours, the votes cast during that time, and the 80 ballots previously voted between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on May 15, 2023, will also be processed. We will then add all the votes that were hand-counted, as well as those that were identified as write-ins to the machine totals. Upon the conclusion of the end of night tallying of the ballots, "Unofficial Results" will be provided at the polling location and on the Town Clerk webpage.

Absentee ballots may be requested by those **who have not** cast a vote in the Annual Town Election. We are still using the voter's list from the Annual Town Election. We have clear records of voters who have already cast their vote and those that are eligible to vote during the re-opened polling hours.

An application for an absentee ballot may be found on the Town Clerk webpage, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's webpage, or in my office during regular business hours. Applications and/or request for an absentee ballot with the voter's signature can be returned by the voter in person to the Clerk's office, be dropped into the Town Hall Drop Box, be photographed or scanned and sent to the Clerk's office by e-mail, mailed, or can be delivered via fax.

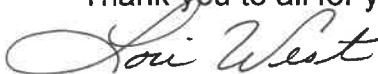
The state constitution provides that absentee ballots can be requested for one of three reasons. The person requesting the ballot will be: (1) out of Town at the time the polls are open; (2) prevented from getting to the polls due to a physical disability, or (3) prevented from going to the polls because of religious beliefs. The rules relative to filling out the absentee ballot are the same as with any other election. Most importantly, the voter, or if the voter cannot write, an assistant, must sign the affidavit swearing that they are the person they say they are. We will accept applications for mailed absentee ballots until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 6th (the 5th business day prior to the date of the election). Any person, however, who seeks to vote absentee, may also do so at my office at Town Hall, provided that their application is received no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday, June 12th (the day before the election).

I will soon post a calendar for the upcoming re-opening of the polls; however, absentee ballots are available now.

The deadline to file for a recount is 10 days after the re-opening of the polls, which, in this case is Friday, June 23rd by 5:00 PM. If a candidate is sworn into office at any day after the election, their term immediately begins.

To provide notice of the reopening of the polls we will: post information on our website, and social media accounts. We will also post signage (i.e. electronic signs or similar) around Town indicating that the polls will be reopening on June 13th for the times stated. We will print the notice in the Hull Times, and will request that they post the same notice immediately to social media, website, and the like. Just as we did the night before the May 15, 2023 election, we will send out an automated call the night before the polls are reopened, reminding voters who have signed up for this service of the time the polls will reopen.

Thank you to all for your commitment to the Town of Hull.



Lori West
Hull Town Clerk