

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK



ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

JUNE 2, 2026

CANDIDATE'S PACKET

Amy Bartelloni

Town Clerk

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
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“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

-Theodore Roosevelt

Congratulations! You have taken a courageous step by declaring your candidacy for elected office. For any government, but especially your local Town Government to work effectively, it requires the active participation of its citizens. Democracy functions best when the citizenry is given a choice. The Office of the Town Clerk thanks you for your active participation and wishes you the best of luck in your campaign.

The Town Clerks Office is here to assist you as you navigate through the local election process. A Candidates Packet is available on the Town’s website that provides the following:

- Running for Office in Bellingham – A step by step guide
- List of Elected Official Positions – Town of Bellingham Charter
- Election Calendar
- Positions on Ballot / Terms Due to Expire
- Campaign Finance Materials

I again extend my gratitude to you for placing yourself “in the arena”, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best of luck!

Amy Bartelloni
Town Clerk

Running for office in Bellingham



A step by step guide:

- **Meet eligibility requirements:** You must be a registered voter in Bellingham, at least 18 years old, and a US citizen.
- **Decide the office you're interested in:** Review the Town Clerk's website for a listing of positions available on this year's ballot. Bellingham holds local elections the 1st Tuesday in June. Check the calendar for important dates and deadlines.
 - Ensure the name you registered to vote is the name you want to appear on the ballot. Your registered name will appear on your nomination papers and ballot exactly.
- **Obtain Nomination Papers:** Nomination papers for the June 2, 2026 Local Election will be available March 2nd in the Town Clerk's office. To save time, you may call ahead to the Clerk's office (508) 657-2830, and papers can be prepared prior to your arrival.
 - At the Town Clerk's office, you will fill out a contact information sheet, and receive a copy of the Candidate's Guide (including a calendar of election deadlines and dates), your Nomination Papers, a Campaign Finance Guide, CPF 102 Campaign Finance Report, and a No Financial Activity Form CPF M-109.
- **Collect signatures:** A candidate must have 50 verifiable signatures to be placed on the ballot. Signatures must be made by registered Bellingham voters. A registered voter may only sign a candidate's nomination papers once. A registered voter may sign more than one candidate's nomination papers.
 - It is recommended that you submit more than the required number (50) for certification in case any of the signatures cannot be certified.
- **Submit Nomination papers:** Signed nomination papers must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office for certification. The deadline for the June 2026 local election is April 14th, 2026.
- **Understand Campaign Finance Laws:** You will be provided a Campaign finance guide when you take out your papers. Familiarize yourself with these laws, including limits on contributions and regulations on spending. The Office of Campaign and Political Finance has additional resources: www.ocpf.us.
 - State law requires an accounting of all money received or spent during a political campaign, even if that number is zero, or you do not have a committee.
 - Candidates are required to comply with the campaign finance laws and procedures, and to submit regular campaign finance reports at the following intervals: Eight (8) days prior to the election, thirty (30) days after the election (win or lose), and an end of year report due by January 20th (win or lose).
 - Campaigns must report and record the full name and address of each contributor where the contribution was in excess of \$50, the date of deposit and amount of contribution, the contributor's occupation and employer if aggregate contributions by that contributor has equalled or exceeded \$200 in the calendar year.

- **Important notes:**

- All local elections are non-partisan and ballots do not display party affiliations.
- **Political Signs:** Chapter 240 (Zoning Bylaws) §44 (Signs) provides information relative to political signage and is regulated by the Building Inspector for the Town of Bellingham. Political signs may be located subject to the consent of property owners. They may be displayed for Annual or Special Town Elections, state, county and federal elections to include primary elections, for a period of four weeks prior to election day and shall be removed within seven days after election day. In the case of a primary election, the winning candidate may leave signs on display until seven days following the final election. The property owner shall be responsible for removal of all signs within the prescribed seven days after an election. No political sign may be placed on utility poles or other utility devices. No signs may be displayed within 150 feet from the entrance of the polling place on primary or election day. No political sign may have a total area greater than 16 square feet. No sign lot may have more than three signs total. No sign may be placed so as to obstruct any intersecting roads or driveways.
 - MGL Ch 87, Section 9 allows for a fine of fifty dollars for affixing a notice, sign advertisement or other thing to a tree in a public way without obtaining written permission from the Tree Warden or Highway Department in the case of a state highway.
 - MGL Chapter 266, Section 126 allows for not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, plus the cost of removing such defacement for posting banners, announcements, notices or signs on utility poles. These items can be safety hazards to vehicles and pedestrians as well as interfere with the proper operation of electric service.

- **Campaign Activities on Election Day**

On Election Day, at the polling place, **No Campaigning**, or any action intended to influence the action of a voter, is **allowed within 150 feet of the entrance door to the polling location**. Prohibited actions include: holding any campaign signs; circulating or distributing campaign materials; wearing any campaign buttons or identifying signage; soliciting a person's vote for or against a candidate or question on the ballot; or distributing stickers. Extended time talking with Election workers or other residents in the polling location after you have voted may appear to be campaigning. Vehicles displaying campaign materials are also prohibited within the 150 feet of entrance.

For the most up-to-date information, it's always best to contact the Town Clerk's office directly at (508) 57 – 2830 or townclerk@bellinghamma.org

This is issued as a general guide, and it's essential to stay informed about all applicable deadlines and requirements set forth by the Town of Bellingham and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 1 General Provisions.

3-1-1.

The offices to be filled by ballot of the voters of the entire town shall be a select board, a moderator, a school committee, a town clerk, constables, a planning board, library trustees, 3 members of a housing authority and such members of regional authorities or districts as may be established by statute, interlocal agreement or otherwise.

3-1-2.

The regular elections for town office shall be held annually on such date as may from time to time be fixed in the town by-laws.

3-1-3.

Elected town officials shall receive such compensation for their services as may be appropriated.

3-1-4.

Notwithstanding their election by voters, the town officers named in this section shall be subject to the call of the select board or of the town administrator, at all reasonable times, for consultation, conference and discussion on any matter relating to their office.

3-1-5.

Elected multiple member body vacancies. If there is a vacancy in a board consisting of 2 or more members, other than the select board, the remaining members shall forthwith give notice of the existence of any such vacancy to the select board. The select board with the remaining member or members of such board shall fill such vacancy by a joint vote. The select board shall set the date for the joint vote and give 1 week's notice. If such notice is not given within 30 days following the date on which such vacancy occurs, the select board shall, after 1 week's notice, fill such vacancy without participation by the remaining member or members of the multiple member body.

Section 2 Select Board.

3-2-1.

Composition, Term. A select board of 5 members shall be elected at-large for 3 years, each so arranged that the terms of as close to an equal number of members as possible shall expire each year.

3-2-2.

Vacancies in the office of select board shall be filled by a special election in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws.

3-2-3.

Executive powers. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all executive powers of the town shall be vested in the select board which shall have all the powers and duties given to town select boards or boards of selectmen under the Massachusetts Constitution and the General Laws and such additional powers and duties as may be authorized by this charter, by by-law or town meeting vote.

3-2-4.

Licensing. The select board shall be a licensing board for the town and shall have the power to issue licenses as authorized by law to make all necessary rules and regulations regarding the issuance of such licenses, to attach conditions and to impose restrictions on any such licenses as it deems to be in the public interest and to enforce all laws, rules, regulations and restrictions relating to all such businesses for which it issues licenses.

3-2-5.

The select board shall cause the charter, by-laws and rules and regulations for the government of the town to be enforced and shall cause an up-to-date record of all its official acts to be kept.

3-2-6.

The select board may investigate or may authorize the town administrator to investigate the affairs of the town and the conduct of any agency of the town.

3-2-7.

Town administrator. The select board shall appoint a town administrator for a 3-year term. The appointment of the administrator shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than 3 members of the select board, with reappointment by not less than 3 affirmative votes of the select board. Removal shall require not less than 4 affirmative votes of the select board.

3-2-8.

Other appointments. The select board shall have the authority to make appointments as provided by the General Laws, by this charter and by by-law and to make other such appointments as it may deem necessary. A listing of appointments authorized at the time of this charter is provided in section 8-2-3 the town administrative organization.

3-2-9.

Unless noted elsewhere in this charter, the terms of office of all appointments made by the select board shall be as currently specified by the General Laws, by this charter, by by-law or town meeting vote.

Section 3 Town Moderator.

3-3-1.

Term. There shall be a town moderator elected for a term of 3 years.

3-3-2.

Powers and duties. The town moderator shall be the presiding officer of the town meeting, shall regulate its proceedings, decide all questions of order and shall have such other powers and duties as may be provided for that office by the General Laws, by this charter, by by-law and by other vote of the town meeting, including appointing a finance committee.

Section 4 School Committee.

3-4-1.

Composition, term of office. There shall be a school committee consisting of 5 members elected for terms of 3 years each so arranged that the terms of as nearly an equal number of members as is possible shall expire each year.

3-4-2.

Powers and duties. The school committee shall have all the powers and duties which are given to school committees by the General Laws and it shall have such additional powers and duties as may be authorized by this charter, by by-law or by other town meeting vote. The powers of the school committee shall include, but are not intended to be limited to, the following:

(i)

to appoint a superintendent of the schools and other officers as allowed by the General Laws, to fix their compensation, define their duties, make rules concerning their tenure of office and to discharge them; and

(ii)

to make all reasonable policies consistent with the General Laws or the executive office of education regulations for the administration and management of the public school system and for the conduct of its own business and affairs.

Section 5 Town Clerk.

3-5-1.

Term. There shall be a town clerk elected to serve for a term of 3 years.

3-5-2.

Powers and duties. The town clerk shall: (i) be the keeper of vital statistics for the town; (ii) be the custodian of the town seal; (iii) administer the oath of office to all persons, elected or appointed to any office; (iv) issue such licenses and permits as are required by law to be issued by town clerks; (v) supervise and manage the conduct of all elections and all other matters relating to elections; and (vi) be the clerk of the town meeting, keep its records and in the absence of the town moderator to preside pending the election of a temporary town moderator. The town clerk shall also have such other powers and duties as are given to town clerks by the General Laws, by this charter, by by-law or by other vote of the town meeting.

Section 6 Planning Board.

3-6-1.

Composition, term. There shall be a planning board consisting of 5 members elected for terms of 3 years each, so arranged that the term of office of has nearly an equal number as is possible shall expiring each year. As authorized by section 9 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, there shall be 1 associate member of the planning board. Such associate shall act on special permit applications when designated to do so by the planning board chair, in case of absence, inability to act or conflict of interest on the part of any member of the board. The associate member shall be appointed for a 3-year term by majority vote of the select board and members of the planning board, in the same manner as for filling a vacancy.

3-6-2.

(a)

Powers and duties. The planning board shall have all of the powers and duties planning boards may have under the Massachusetts Constitution and the General Laws and it shall have such additional powers and duties as may be authorized by the charter or by by-law.

(b)

The planning board shall make careful studies of the resources, possibilities and needs of the town and shall make plans for the development of the town. The planning board shall provide for the review of the comprehensive master plan every 10 years, setting forth in graphic and textual form, policies governing the future growth and development of the town's economic, developmental and human service needs.

(c)

The planning board shall regulate the sub-division of land within the town by adoption of rules and regulations governing such development and the administration of such rules and regulations. The planning board shall make recommendations to the town meeting on all matters affecting land use and development, including the zoning by-laws of the town.

(d)

The planning board shall make an annual report, giving information regarding the condition of the town and any plans or proposals for its development and estimates of their costs.

Section 7 Board of Library Trustees.

3-7-1.

Composition, term. There shall be a board of library trustees consisting of 5 members elected for terms of 3 years each, so arranged that the term of office of as nearly an equal number of members as possible shall expire each year.

3-7-2.

Powers and duties. The board of library trustees shall have the custody and management of the public library and of all property of the town related to the said library. All funds of money and property that the town may receive by gift or bequest for the purpose of library support or maintenance shall be administered by the board in accordance with the provisions of any such gift or bequest. The board shall have all of the other powers and duties which are given to

boards of library trustees by the General Laws, by this charter, by by-law or other town meeting vote.

Section 8 **Constables.**

3-8-1.

Composition term of office. There shall be not less than 1 nor more than 4 constables elected for terms of 3 years each, so arranged that the terms of office of each will expire simultaneously.

3-8-2.

Powers and duties. Constables may exercise such powers as provided under the Massachusetts Constitution and the General Laws.

Section 9 **Bellingham Housing Authority.**

3-9-1.

Composition, term of office. There shall be a housing authority which shall consist of 5 members serving for terms of 5 years each, so arranged that the term of 1 member shall expire each year. Three of the members shall be elected by the voters of the town and 2 members shall be elected or appointed in accordance with section 5 of chapter 121B of the General Laws, as it may be amended from time to time.

3-9-2.

Powers and duties. The housing authority shall make studies of the housing needs of the community and shall provide programs to make available housing for families of low income and for elderly and disabled persons of low income. The housing authority shall have such other powers and duties as are assigned to housing authorities by the General Laws.

Section 10 **Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational District School Committee (Bellingham Representative).**

3-10-1.

Composition, term of office. The voters shall elect such members of the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational School Committee for school committee for such terms as may be provided under the agreement and laws establishing the committee.

3-10-2.

Powers and duties. The members of the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational School Committee shall along with members from other municipalities participating therein, be responsible for the management and supervision of the said school according to the agreement and laws governing the same.



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10 Mechanic Street
Bellingham, MA 02019

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Amy Bartelloni

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2026 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2
BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL**

EVENT	DEADLINE DATE & TIME	LAW REFERENCE
First day to obtain nomination papers	March 2nd	
Last day to obtain nomination papers	April 10	1:00 PM MGL C.53S.9A
Last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification*	April 14	5:00 PM
Last day to object or withdraw	April 30	5:00 PM MGL C.55B s.7
Last day to register to vote in town election	May 22	5:00 PM MGL C.51 s.26 s.8
Deadline to post warrant	May 26	n/a MGL C.38 s.10
Last day to apply for ballot by mail	May 26	5:00
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION	Tuesday, June 2	TBD

***50 signatures required**

The required number of signatures for candidates is set at 1% of the total number of voters in the Town of Bellingham who voted in the last race for Governor. The total number of votes in the 2022 Governor's race in Bellingham was 6,683. MGL Ch.53 s.6 states the # of signatures required cannot be less than 20 and no more than 50.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS FORM CPF M102

Pre-Election report	8th day preceding election	Reporting period: 1/1/2026 – 5/16/2026	DUE MAY 26, 2026
Post-Election Report	30th day after election	Reporting period 5/17/2026 – 6/22/2026	DUE JULY 2, 2026
Annual Report	YEAR END		DUE January 20, 2027

Note: If you do not receive any contributions, spend any money (including your own) or incur any liabilities in connection with your campaign, you may sign form CPF M-102-o (available at the town clerk's office) for each reporting period in lieu of filing Form CPF M10

2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CALENDAR

EVENT	DEADLINE DATE & TIME	LAW REFERENCE
Last day to register to vote	May 18	
Deadline for warrant to be posted		
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	May 27	



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2026 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

NOMINATION PAPERS FOR THE FOLLOWING TOWN OFFICES
ARE AVAILABLE BEGINNING MARCH 1ST

ELECTED BODY	TERM	# POSITIONS AVAILABLE	CURRENTLY HELD BY
SELECT BOARD	3	2	Michael J. Hennessey Ann L. Odabashian
PLANNING BOARD	3	1	William F. O'Connell
PLANNING BOARD	1	1	
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3	2	Laura M. Howard Macala Lamour
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	3	1	Beverly Pierce
HOUSING AUTHORITY	5	1	Debra K. Sacco
CONSTABLE	2	2	

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK



CAMPAIGN FINANCE LINKS FOR INFORMATION AND REPORTING FORMS

Candidates for Municipal Office who file locally (non-depository)

Candidate Information:

- [Campaign Finance Guide](#)
- [Public Employees & Campaigns](#)
- OCPF website: [Guides & Fact Sheets](#), [Municipal Forms](#)

New Candidates Required Filing:

- CPF M101 – [Statement of Organization](#)

Candidate Reporting Forms & Information

- [CPF M102](#) – [How to complete](#), [Instructions](#), [Common errors](#)
- [CPF M102-0](#) (no activity)
- [CPF M109](#) (not raising/expenditure this election cycle)

Amy Bartelloni
Town Clerk