

RUNNING FOR RTM IN WALPOLE

“A Candidate’s Guide to running for Town Election”

- Review List of **Terms Due to Expire** for listing of positions available on this year’s ballot.
- Review **Annual Town Election Calendar**. Note the last day to obtain and return nomination papers.
- Appearing on the Ballot**

Incumbents (Walpole Charter 2-6 B)

Current RTM members who have been ELECTED by ballot (not by RTM caucus to fill a vacancy) are considered incumbents. Incumbents may forego filing of nomination papers if they have filed a written statement of their intent to seek re-election with the Town Clerk twenty-one (21) days prior to the last day for filing of nomination papers.

New Candidates for RTM: (Walpole Charter 2-6 A)

Obtain **Nomination Papers**. Circulate for signatures for registered voters that reside in your precinct. Be sure to submit more than the required number (25) for certification so you do not fall short in the event of signatures not certified.

All signatures must be legible and written substantially as registered. The law allows a voter to insert or omit a middle name or initial and still have the signature deemed valid. Do not use nicknames or initials in place of full names. Married women should sign “Helen Smith” not “Mrs. John Smith.” A **sample sheet** is provided in your candidate packet when you take out nomination papers as well.

It is wise to have a street listing with you to verify the exact form of registration and/or to verify that the resident is a voter in your Precinct. As a candidate, you are entitled to one free copy of a list of registered voters (this is NOT the street list book).

- Review **List of Streets within your Precinct**.
- Political Signs**

Section 7.8 (a) of Walpole Zoning By Law states that Temporary Signs *shall not exceed 40 square feet in surface area*. We advise that you note that Political signs should only be placed on private property and only with the permission of the property owner.

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**

No Campaigning is allowed within 150 feet of the entrance to the polling locations (this area is clearly marked at each Polling Location with white paint). Prohibited actions include: holding any campaign sign; handing any person literature intended to influence the voter’s action at the polls; 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 rule.

Hopefully, this information will assist you in effectively, efficiently and correctly running for office in Walpole.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Best of luck!

Danielle M. Sicard