



April 7, 2025

Q1 2025 Town Clerk update:

- **Elections:** Town meeting on March 4th saw 977 voters, a 32% voter turnout rate.
 - Of these voters, 253 (25.9%) voted early or absentee; this is just about the same percentage of absentee ballots we've had since 2021 (the four-year average is 25.3%, standard deviation is 1.14).
 - Since 2017 the average turnout in a non-presidential-primary year is 32.7% (SD = 3.41).
 - We had only 41 ballots with write-in votes on them, so the volunteer counters were done by 8:15pm.
 - The highlight of the election was showing off the "I Voted" designs of MCS second through sixth graders. The winning design from each grade (as voted on by a different grade) was made into a sticker, and these were handed out at the exit. All submitted designs were displayed on the walls of the gym. I've been in contact with Jillian Van Ells, the MCS librarian who spearheaded the effort, and we plan to do this again next year. I'm also hoping to put together a children's ballot, which will be counted by PTO volunteers. More on that later this year!
 - There was a question at the March 26th Selectboard meeting about paying poll workers. Some towns pay their election workers, either using gift cards for gas or food, or at minimum wage (or more!). For Town Meeting, we had 38 volunteers work a total of 102 hours. If we paid them at minimum wage, we would have spent \$1,409.02 in wages (not to mention the drain on Barrie's time for processing all these contractors). At present I have no plans to pay the poll workers, since we have more volunteers than I'm typically able to use in an election. I do buy the volunteers food during each shift, which I believe amounted to about \$400 for Town Meeting. I can work with Barrie on creating a new line item for this in the next budget cycle.
 - The State is rolling out new elections software in May, with trainings at the end of April. Clerks are thankful this is happening in a year with no statewide or federal elections, as it gives us plenty of time to familiarize ourselves with the system before another busy election year in 2026.
- **Training:**
 - **IIMC Region 1 in Nashua:** This three-day conference focused on crisis communication, media relations and municipal law, and included a case study

presented by the Lewiston Town Clerk about the 2023 Lewiston shooting. This conference provided education points toward my Certified Municipal Clerk designation.

- **Preservation 101:** Judy and I are slogging through this 10-session course, catching up on the recorded sessions as we have time.
- **Next up:** VMCTA Spring Trainings in Danville and West Rutland in April, IIMC annual conference in St. Louis, MO in May (maybe) and the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute and Academy in July.
- **Recording:**
 - Between January 1st and March 31st, Judy recorded 152 instruments totaling 505 pages.
 - Recording brought \$7200 in revenue to the town (\$5,288 in recording fees that go to the General Fund and \$1,912 for the Restoration fund).
 - Researchers spent 19 hours in our office and produced 502 copies (that includes both online downloads and in-person copies).
- **Other activities:**
 - **Dogs:** At end of day 4/1 we had issued 409 out of an expected 575 licenses.
 - **Scanner update:** Our new scanner arrived at the end of March and Judy, Pam, and I received a short training on 4/2. I'm looking forward to having time to start scanning later this month.
 - **Preservation Assessment:** The Northeast Document Conservation Center visited in early February and performed a preservation assessment of the contents of the vault. This was paid for by the Preservation Assistance Grant I received from the National Endowment for the Humanities last year. We should get the write-up from this assessment shortly, and it will help inform which items in the vault should be a priority for digitization.