

2013

## Election/Town Meeting Updates

### **April 30, 2013-Special State Primary & Annual Town Election**

On April 30, 2013 at St. Rose of Lima Hall between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Topsfield residents will have the opportunity to cast ballots for the Special State Primary to advance the final candidates who seek the office of Senator in Congress as well as for the Annual Town Election.

For the Special State Primary, voters enrolled in the Democratic or Republican party will be given the ballot of their respective party. Unenrolled (commonly known as Independent) voters may select either ballot.

Locally, there is a single contested race to fill a one-year term for Park & Cemetery Commissioner. There are no questions on the ballot, which may be viewed on the town's website.

Absentee ballot applications may be filed up until noon on April 29th. Up until that time, absentee ballots may be cast in office during regular business hours and on April 24<sup>th</sup> until 8:00 PM. Only those who qualify may request absentee ballots; Massachusetts is not an Early Voting state.

Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive information relating to absentee voting can be found at the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>

### **May 7, 2013-Annual/Special Town Meeting**

In accordance with our by-laws, the Topsfield Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 7, 2013. As noted above, the Annual Town Election will precede the Annual Town Meeting this year only in order to save money and potentially reduce voter fatigue that could have resulted from holding two elections (Special State Primary & Annual Town Election) within a 9 day period.

The Annual Town Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at the Proctor School. A Special Town Meeting will also be held that evening and commences exactly at 7:30 PM. Topsfield residents who qualify but are not yet registered to vote may attend a special Voter Registration Session being held on April 24, 2013 until 8:00 PM, which is the deadline for registering to vote at the Annual Town Meeting. Non-voters are always welcome at Special/Annual Town Meetings, but will be required to sit in a designated area.

### **June 25, 2013-Special State Election**

On June 25, 2013 at St. Rose of Lima Hall between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM, Topsfield residents will have the opportunity to cast ballots to elect a new Senator in Congress. A special Voter Registration Session will be held on June 5, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Town Hall. Those who qualify and need to cast absentee ballots could do so at this time, taking advantage of the evening hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Topsfield Town Clerk ([clerk@topsfield-ma.gov](mailto:clerk@topsfield-ma.gov)/978-887-1505) with any questions.