



The City of **WORCESTER**

City Clerk Department

Nikolin Vangjeli, City Clerk

Stephen A.J. Pottle, Deputy City Clerk

Requirements to Hold Local Office

★You must be a registered voter in Worcester.

★**Councilor At-Large:** Any voter is eligible to hold the office of councilor at-large; if he/she shall have resided in the city for a period of at least one year.

★**District Councilor:** A district councilor at the time of his/her election shall be a voter of the district from which he/she is elected and shall have resided therein for a period of at least one year.

★**School Committee:** Any voter is eligible to hold the office of school committee member, provided, however, that he/she shall have resided within the city for one year immediately prior to the election.

★Request nomination papers from the offices of the Board of Election Commissioners, Room 208, City Hall.

Nomination Papers

Signature Requirements:

District Councilor: 100

Councilor At-Large or School Committee: 300

Before circulating nomination papers for signatures, fill in all required information on the front and back of the nomination papers: The name of the candidate, residential address, candidate signature, justice of the peace or notary public signature.

Signatures on Nomination Papers

Procedures: To be certified, all signatures on nomination papers must be legible and signed in person, with the address at which the voters are registered. Voters must use street addresses, and not mailing addresses such as PO Box numbers.

District Boundaries: Signatures that are not in the correct City Council District cannot be counted.

How Voter's Name Should Be Written: The law allows a voter to insert or omit a middle name or initial. A married woman should sign "Helen Smith" not "Mrs. John Smith." Do not use nicknames or initials in place of given names. To avoid legal objections it is wise to consult a voting list, if available, and sign as registered. The law directs local election officials to certify the signature if they can reasonably determine the identity of the voter from the form of the signature. Voter info is searchable @ www.worcesterma.gov, then "**Where do I vote?**"

Collect Extra Signatures: Candidates are encouraged to collect at least 20% more signatures than required because some may be disallowed either in the certification process or through challenges.

Campaign Finance Activity

Chapter 55 of the Massachusetts General Laws covers all aspects of campaign finance law for state and local elections. The Office of Campaign and Political Finance has prepared comprehensive guides on campaign finance activities as they relate to local candidates, political action committees (PAC's), ballot questions committees, and public employees. For more information, contact Worcester Elections at (508) 799-1134 or OCPF at (617) 979-8300. You can also visit the OCPF website at <http://www.ocpf.us/>.

Reporting Contributions and Expenditures: The Office of Campaign and Political Finance is responsible for receiving and maintaining records for Depository Candidates and Committees (Mayor and City Council). The Worcester Election Office is responsible for receiving and maintaining records for School Committee Candidates.

Keep Complete Records: All candidates and political committees must record money or other things of value received from all sources, and all expenditures and disbursements must be reported and detailed records kept. Laws relating to campaign contributions and expenses are quite detailed and explicit and must be followed carefully.

2021 Municipal Election Calendar

Tuesday, February 2nd, 8:45 am **First day & hour to access nomination papers @ the offices of the Board of Election Commissioners, Room 208, City Hall.**

Tuesday, May 11th, 5:00 pm **Last day & hour for submitting nomination papers to the Board of Election Commissioners for certification of signatures.**

Thursday, May 20th, 5:00 pm **Last day & hour to file a withdrawal or objections to nomination of candidates with the Board of Election Commissioners.**

Wednesday, Aug. 25th, 8:00 pm **Last day & hour to register to vote in the Preliminary Election.**

Tuesday, Sept. 14th **Preliminary Election, Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.**

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 5:00 pm **Last day & hour to decline nomination for election to Mayor, Council, or School Committee and for submitting non-binding public opinion advisory questions for certification of signatures.**

Wednesday, Oct. 13th, 8:00 pm **Last day & hour to register to vote in the Municipal Election.**

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd **Municipal Election, Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.**

Office Hours

**Monday 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM,
Tuesday - Friday 8:45 AM - 4:15 PM**

Additional Information

Niko Vangjeli, City Clerk
Phone: 508-799-1134
Email: VangjeliN@worcesterma.gov