



TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

150 CONCORD STREET ◻ MEMORIAL BUILDING ◻ FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702-8325

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Town Clerk Mulvey Announces Early Voting in Two Locations

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016—Framingham, MA—Framingham Town Clerk Valerie Mulvey announced today that Framingham will be offering early voting hours in Nevins Hall at Town Hall, 150 Concord Street, between 8:30AM and 5:00PM weekdays from Monday October 24, 2016 through Friday November 4. Additionally, for public convenience, Mulvey has expanded those hours to Saturday October 29 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. She has also added a remote early voting location on the other side of town.

While not required by law, Mulvey has opted to offer the Saturday hours and the remote location to make it easier for all town residents to participate in the early voting process. For the same two weeks, early voting will be available at the new McAuliffe branch library on Water Street Tuesday through Thursday between the hours of 10:00AM and 2:00PM. Those hours were determined due to budget constraints and the dangerous traffic situation that could be caused if the hours were to overlap with the drop-off and pick-up of students at the Hemenway Elementary School which is across the street.

While many communities will not be offering a remote location and some will not be offering Saturday hours for early voting, Mulvey said, "Framingham is a large community with over 38,000 voters. I think it is very important to provide voting convenience for our residents. These days people work more hours, have longer commutes, and other stressors that make getting to the polls between 7:00AM and 8:00PM on a single day more and more difficult. It's our obligation as public servants to meet their needs."

This is the first year that early voting is legal in Massachusetts. "Anything we can do to increase voter participation is good for the Commonwealth and the country," said Mulvey.

Prior to the enactment of this new law early voting was restricted to absentee balloting which has narrow eligibility criteria for voters and makes it difficult for increasingly busy residents to exercise their right to vote. Absentee voting will continue to be available utilizing the existing process and applications are available at the Town Clerk's office or at the following link:

https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee_ballot.pdf

The new process is going to require Mulvey and her staff to be extremely nimble for a few weeks. "This is going to be labor intensive for my staff; we will need to efficiently accommodate voters while at the same



time continuing with the transactions of a very busy Clerk’s office. It will all be worth it however, if people are able to participate in the process who otherwise may have been excluded.”

Town departments are supplying labor and a location to make the remote voting a reality. “I really want to thank Library Director Mark Contois for being so generous and accommodating with his department’s beautiful new space. Additionally, Police Chief Ken Ferguson has offered assistance to transport the ballots back to Town Hall each afternoon. And as always I am indebted to Director of Capital Projects and Facilities Management Jim Paolini and his staff for all they do to make every election in town run smoothly,” Also assisting in the planning efforts were Town Manager Bob Halpin and Selectman Chairman Cheryl Tully Stoll. “This has been a great collaboration of town officials to serve our residents,” Mulvey concluded.

The last day to register to vote in the Presidential Election is October 19, 2016 at the Town Clerk’s office. Voter registration ends at 8:00 PM.

EARLY VOTING HOURS

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	HOURS
MON	Oct 24	Nevins Hall	8:30AM – 5:00PM
TUE	Oct 25	Nevins Hall McAuliffe Library	8:30AM – 5:00PM 10:00AM – 2:00PM
WED	Oct 26	Nevins Hall McAuliffe Library	8:30AM – 5:00PM 10:00AM – 2:00PM
THR	Oct 27	Nevins Hall McAuliffe Library	8:30AM – 5:00PM 10:00AM – 2:00PM
FRI	Oct 28	Nevins Hall	8:30AM – 5:00PM
SAT	Oct 29	Nevins Hall	10:00AM – 3:00PM
MON	Oct 31	Nevins Hall	8:30AM – 5:00PM
TUE	Nov 1	Nevins Hall McAuliffe Library	8:30AM – 5:00PM 10:00AM – 2:00PM
WED	Nov 2	Nevins Hall McAuliffe Library	8:30AM – 5:00PM 10:00AM – 2:00PM
THR	Nov 3	Nevins Hall McAuliffe Library	8:30AM – 5:00PM 10:00AM – 2:00PM
FRI	Nov 4	Nevins Hall	8:30AM – 5:00PM

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