

**Board of Registrars**

Lucia Foley

April Bellafiore

Sarah B. Gmeiner, Town Clerk

**Board of Registrars Meeting Minutes**Date/Time: **Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 10:30am**

Town Clerk's Office M11, South Hadley Town Hall, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, MA

Present: Lucia Foley, April Bellafiore, Sarah Gmeiner

**Old Business**Town Election Planning—Tuesday, April 26, 2026

- Look to share information about running for process/timeline to run for local office, elections, and voting on social media such as Facebook, which has groups focused on local affairs and schools.
- In-person hours for the Town Election, which are set by the Selectboard, are currently 7am to 8pm (13 hours), for a total of 14.5 hours in staffing costs with setup and breakdown. Unlike statewide elections, which must be open for voting from 7am to 8pm, local election hours may vary by community.
- As Town Election turnout is typically lower than other elections and shorter hours could produce some savings, encouraging Early Voting in the Town Election at the Town Clerk's Office with an Absentee Ballot might offer an opportunity to reconsider in-person polling hours for local elections. In-person Early Voting at the Town Clerk's Office needs no additional staffing, and provides hard copies of ballots cast. The early voting period for the Town Election is set locally.
- April hopes to do school information sessions for 8th graders and high school students, many of whom are turning 18 and very interested in voting this year.

State Primary and State Election Planning

- A new state MA VRIS database is being launched this year.
- Polling hours and mandatory early voting periods are set by state law.
- While the state furnishes ballots, cities and towns pay election day costs for statewide elections. With a large number of ballot questions anticipated in the November election, a two-page ballot is likely.
- Early Voting and Advanced Processing costs are refunded by the state.
- The MA State Primary Election will be September 1, 2026; the MA State Election is November 3, 2026.

**Tentative date for next meeting:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 10:30am