



## **Board of Registrars**

Date: June 25, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMldu2tqDMuGNTGfIQ65jldU68dyIWbIEuo>

### **Agenda**

- 1. Discussion and Vote: process for recount**
- 2. Vote: date for recount**

**Town of Arlington**  
**Office of the Town Clerk**  
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Arlington, MA 02476



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MEMO

TO: Board of Registrars  
FROM: Juli Brazile, Town Clerk  
DATE: June 24, 2020  
RE: Considerations for Scheduling Recount

There are three phases to plan:

- Orientation for workers and observers
- Organizing the ballots into stacks of 50
- Counting the ballots

I have been doing research on best practices for the number of counting tables and the layout. Town Hall would be the most convenient facility, however that may change as we plan the layout. The goal is to maintain a six-foot space between the workers at the counting tables and the observers designated by each of the candidates. Based on the number of ballots, other clerks have suggested that we staff eight counting tables, then we have to arrange additional tables for the Registrars, staging tables to hold the ballot packs before they are brought to the counting tables, plus seating for attorneys representing any of the candidates.

Each candidate can have one observer for each of our workers, so up to sixteen agents. I believe we can set up counting tables that allow for proper spacing for 5 people to observe each ballot reader and tally clerk. Since there are 5 candidates on the ballot in Precinct 17 and 3 candidates on the ballot and two write-ins with significant numbers of votes in Precinct 6, we will be able to accommodate the observers. What is not yet clear is whether Town Hal is large enough to manage the six-foot spacing.

We can consider organizing the ballots on one day and returning the next day to count them. This may allow us to have fewer people in the building at any one time. We also need to plan for some breaks for food during the counting, but we can't provide food or allow multiple people to eat in the same room. If we stagger breaks by team then only a few people would be trying to eat at the same time.

The balcony in Town Hall provides space for observers from a campaign not being counted. Starting with the recounts of the Town Meeting races in Precincts 6 and 17 lets some of those candidates or observers leave the building and then observers for the Select Board race could be brought into the counting area.

Considerations for setting the date: having time to find workers, avoiding the holiday weekend for July 4<sup>th</sup>, and whether there is time for a 4<sup>th</sup> Registrar to be appointed as recommended in the Election Recounts Guide from the Elections Division. Finally, we may want retain outside counsel who has experience with recounts since some of the procedures outlined could be confusing when we are recounting multiple races and two precincts twice.