

Recordings

The Department issued 98 Business Certificates during the year.

Passports

After having served as a Passport Acceptance Agent for over 12 years, the Town got out of the passport business at the end of April 2011. This was due to a change in policy of the U.S. State Department, which now prohibits organizations which issue birth certificates from simultaneously serving as Passport Acceptance Agents. Since 1999, the Town has processed 4,928 passport applications, which generated \$115,780 in revenue for the Town's general fund.

Miscellaneous

During the year, the staff swore in new committee and board appointees and posted 863 public meetings. Meeting postings are available on the bulletin board in the Town House lobby, on a digital monitor in the Police Department lobby on Walden Street (available 24/7) and for view on the Town's web site at www.concordma.gov. During the course of the year, the Office provided information to staff, boards and committees, and citizens on the issues of the Open Meeting, Public Records, Conflict of Interest, and Campaign & Political Finance Laws. State legislative action during 2009 made several significant changes to these laws which took effect between December 2009 and July 2010, with regulations adopted and amended several times since that time. The Town Clerk's Office is involved in administering and implementing many of these changes. Among the new initiatives are mandatory ethics training for Town and School employees and committee/board members; the elimination of Saturdays in the computation of 48-hour notice for meeting postings; requirement that agendas be posted and made available for all public meetings; expanded requirements for the contents of meeting minutes; and the requirement that some campaign finance filings be posted on the Town's website. During the year, several inquiries were referred to the appropriate State authorities for formal determinations and rulings.

Department staff prepared and recorded 54 new cemetery deeds during the year, and continued to maintain the cemetery deed, burial permit, and lot records. Thirteen raffle permits were issued to community non-profit

organizations. Staff notarized numerous documents as a public service to our customers. Four staff members have been appointed by the Governor's Office to serve as "Commissioners to Qualify," which authorizes staff to administer the Oath of Office to individuals appointed as a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace in Massachusetts. We continued to receive and process routine genealogical requests, referring the more complex ones to the Library Archivist.

During 2011, the Town Clerk's Office turned over \$111,030 in general revenue to the Town, with gross receipts at \$115,122. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions (978-318-3080). Visit the Town's web site (www.concordma.gov), or contact us via e-mail at TownClerk@concordma.gov.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Susan W. Cannon, Chair
Elaine A. DiCicco
Anita S. Tekle, Town Clerk

The four-member Board of Registrars consists of two members from each of the major political parties—three members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, plus the Town Clerk. Board member Shirley Osepchuk died in October after a brief illness, and will be missed by all. She served for many years as an Election Officer prior to becoming a member of the Board.

Voter Registration

The Town Clerk's Office continued to utilize the State's Voter Registration Information System for voter registration. This system connects Concord with Town Clerk offices across the State to avoid duplication of voter registrations, and allows residents to register to vote or change their address or party affiliation at the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

During the year when we encountered petition signers who were not registered voters in Concord (and therefore could not be certified as signers), we mailed voter registration forms to them, resulting in an excellent return. We also continue to do this with younger residents when they reach voting age at 18, with good results. The Office registered 668 new voters during the year, ending the year with 12,300 voters. In addition, 697 voters were deleted, 121 switched parties during 2011, and 454 were placed on Inactive Voter status due

to either not returning a census form, or information that we received that they no longer live in Concord. The number of registered voters by political party and designation is listed elsewhere in this report.

Census

As has been done for the past several years, the Town Clerk’s Office printed and prepared the census forms in-house, instead of using an outside vendor, resulting in a considerable cost savings. The forms were distributed to residents in late December. The January 2011 population per the Town Census was 15,627.

Town Caucus—January 31, 2011

Turnout was the lowest in over 20 years, with only 31 in attendance. One individual was nominated each for Town Moderator, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee. Although no one was nominated at the Caucus for the five-year vacancy on the Concord Housing Authority, three individuals came forward in the week following and gathered enough signatures to have their names placed on the ballot. All are to be commended for their willingness to run for office and serve the Town in these volunteer capacities.

Annual Town Election — March 29, 2011

There was one contested race at the Annual Town Election for the Concord Housing Authority vacancy, as noted above. One individual ran uncontested for each of the positions for Town Moderator, Board of Selectmen and School Committee. Voter turnout was the lowest in recent years for a contested race--only 6%.

Annual Town Meeting—April 25, 26 and 27, 2011

The Annual Town Meeting featured 58 Warrant Articles (including 8 submitted by petition) and was attended by 547 registered voters at the first session; 843 at the second; and 514 at the third and last session. During the course of the three nights of Town Meeting, 1,147 different voters were in attendance (9.5% of the registered voters in Concord). Of those in attendance, 53% were present at one session; 27% at two sessions; and a dedicated 19% were present for all three sessions. An excerpted copy of the Annual Town Meeting minutes is available elsewhere in this Report.

Special Town Meeting—April 27, 2011

A Special Town Meeting was held within the Annual Town Meeting to address 6 Warrant Articles (including one by petition) and was attended by 514 registered voters. An excerpted copy of the Special Town Meeting minutes is available elsewhere in this Report.

Special Town Meeting—November 7, 2011

A Special Town Meeting was called by the Board of Selectmen in November primarily to address the request for funds to design and construct a new regional high school on the current high school campus. There were three articles on the Warrant (including one by petition), and the meeting was attended by 1,664 voters—second highest attendance on record for one session of Town Meeting. An excerpted copy of the Special Town Meeting minutes is available elsewhere in this Report.

TOWN PROFILE			
<u>Population</u> (as of Jan. 1, 2011)	-15,627	Political Party Affiliation	
Adults (age 17 or over)	-12,373	As of December 31, 2011	
Population by Age Group:		<u>Recognized Parties in MA</u>	
Under 20 years	4,038	Democrat	4,333
20-29 years	1,383	Republican	1,747
30-39 years	941	Green-Rainbow	22
40-49 years	2,209	Unenrolled (formerly Independent)	6,159
50-59 years	2,808	<u>Political Designations</u>	
60-69 years	2,011	Libertarian	38
70 years and over	2,237	World Citizens Party	1
TOTAL	15,627	TOTAL	12,300

Special Town Election—November 15, 2011

A Special Town Election was held in November to consider one debt exclusion ballot question for a Concord-Carlisle High School building project. The ballot question was in accordance with the vote taken under Article 1 of the November 7 Special Town Meeting, which approved a debt authorization of \$92,578,524 for this project. Turnout was moderate, with 35% of registered voters participating.

Redistricting

Every ten years, following completion of the federal census, the Board of Registrars is required to redistribute its population into precincts of roughly equal size. This process began in the fall of 2010, and was completed in June 2011. Concord's new federal population figure (including the prison population) is 17,668 (vs. 16,993 in 2000). Most of the growth from 2000 is due to the increased prison population. The prison was undergoing renovations during 2000, so the prison population was lower than normal at that time (1,044 in 2000 vs. 1,551 in 2010). The net gain in non-prison population

during the ten-year period from 2000 to 2010 is 168. Even though prisoners in Massachusetts are not eligible to vote, precinct population is based on residents, not voters. Therefore, about 1,000 households were affected by the re-precincting at the end of 2011. The new precincts are effective January 1, 2012 and affected households were notified.

Nomination Papers/Initiative Petitions

During the year, we certified 120 signatures on eight Annual Town Meeting petitions; 223 signatures on one April Special Town Meeting petition; 201 on one November Special Town Meeting petition; 190 signatures on nomination papers for Concord Housing Authority; 425 signatures on nomination papers for candidates on the Presidential Primary ballot; and 403 signatures on various State Initiative Petitions.

TOWN OF CONCORD
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION--MARCH 29, 2011
OFFICIAL RESULTS

PRECINCTS	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Voters Participating	112	161	156	141	172	742
Registered Voters	1,838	2,682	2,514	2,410	2,564	12,008
% of Voters Participating	6.09%	6.00%	6.21%	5.85%	6.71%	6.18%
Moderator for 1 Year -- Vote for 1						
Blanks	17	18	34	14	21	104
Eric E. Van Loon	94	143	121	126	151	635
Write-Ins	1	0	1	1	0	3
TOTALS	112	161	156	141	172	742
Selectman for 3 Years-- Vote for 1						
Blanks	21	28	41	18	24	132
Jeffrey S. Wieand	91	133	115	121	147	607
Write-Ins	0	0	0	2	1	3
TOTALS	112	161	156	141	172	742
School Committee for 3 Years-- Vote for 1						
Blanks	19	27	40	16	23	125
Pamela M. Gannon	93	134	116	125	149	617
Write-Ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	112	161	156	141	172	742
Concord Housing Authority for 5 Years-- Vote for 1						
Blanks	3	9	7	3	4	26
Anita B. Barker	22	28	56	22	43	171
Stephen R. Newbold	48	69	46	46	47	256
K.C. Winslow	39	55	47	70	78	289
Write-Ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	112	161	156	141	172	742

TOWN OF CONCORD
SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION--NOVEMBER 15, 2011
OFFICIAL TALLY
PRECINCTS

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTALS	% Margin
Registered Voters	1,866	2,754	2,543	2,458	2,620	12,241	
Total Votes Cast	666	919	946	869	835	4,235	
% of Registered Voters	35.69%	33.37%	37.20%	35.35%	31.87%	34.60%	

QUESTION 1 -- New Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Debt Exclusion

Shall the Town of Concord be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, the amounts required to pay the Town's allocable share of the bonds issued by the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of designing, constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new District High School and alternative physical education center, to be located at 500 Walden Street, Concord, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

BLANKS	0	2	0	1	1	4	
YES	552	789	852	681	698	3,572	84%
NO	114	128	94	187	136	659	16%
TOTALS	666	919	946	869	835	4,235	

TOWN MEETING VOTER PARTICIPATION 1997-2011

Year	# Nights	STM = Special Town Meeting		Total Unduplicated Attendance	% Registered Voters in Attendance
		Highest One Night Attendance	Total Duplicated Attendance		
2011 STM (Nov)	1	1,664	1,664	1,664	13.6%
2011 STM (Apr)	1	514	514	514	4.3%
2011 ATM	3	843	1,904	1,147	9.5%
2010 ATM	4	528	1,926	946	7.9%
2009 ATM	3	539	1,382	802	6.7%
2008 ATM	3	816	1,509	925	7.7%
2007 STM (Nov)	1	1,283	1,283	1,283	11%
2007 STM (June)	1	1,819	1,819	1,819	15.8%
2007 STM (Apr)	1	565	565	565	4.9%
2007 ATM	3	1,390	2,402	1,568	13.6%
2006 ATM	5	888	2,537	1,297	11.0%
2005 ATM	3	816	1,616	1,032	9.0%
2004 ATM	4	1,330	3,524	1,977	17.2%
2004 STM (Mar)	1	405	405	405	3.5%
2003 STM (Aug)	1	883	883	883	7.9%
2003 ATM	6	912	3,109	1,368	12.2%
2002 ATM	4	930	2,321	1,215	10.5%
2001 ATM	5	1,277	3,416	1,727	15.0%
2001 STM (Jan)	1	448	448	448	3.9%
2000 STM (May)	1	923	923	923	7.9%
2000 ATM	4	925	2,613	1,290	11.0%
1999 ATM	4	960	2,375	1,299	11.6%
1998 ATM	4	355	1,391	628	6.2%
1997 STM (Oct)	2	1,242	1,541	1,265	13.0%

Notes:

STM Oct 1997 – Mattison Land Acquisition (Conservation Land)

STM May 2000 – Visitor Center

STM Jan 2001 – Benson Land Acquisition (Well Site)

STM Aug 2003 – Town & School Budgets

STM Mar 2004 – Ammendolia Land Acquisition

STM April 2007 – Emerson Annex Condo Acquisition

STM June 2007 – High School Playing Fields

STM Nov 2007 – Willard School Construction & Rail Trail

STM Nov 2011 – New High School Design & Construction

CONCORD VOTER TURNOUT HISTORY

ELECTION	TURNOUT	% of VOTERS
November 15, 2011—Special Town Election (CCHS Debt Exclusion)	4,235	35
March 29, 2011—Annual Town Election (Housing Authority contest)	742	6%
November 2, 2010—State Election (Gubernatorial)	8,765	72%
September 14, 2010—State Primary	2,660	22%
June 8, 2010—Special Town Election (CCHS Feasibility Study)	2,259	19%
March 23, 2010 —Annual Town Election (Moderator contest)	2,112	17%
January 19, 2010— Special State Election (US Senator Vacancy)	8,783	73%
December 8, 2009—Special State Primary (U.S. Senator Vacancy)	4,401	37%
March 31, 2009—Annual Town Election (CCHS Debt Exclusion)	2,644	22%
November 4, 2008—General Election (Presidential)	10,582	86%
September 16, 2008—State Primary	2,350	20%
April 1, 2008—Annual Town Election (no contests)	574	5%
February 5, 2008—Presidential Primary	7,598	63%
November 14, 2007—Special Town Election (Willard School)	3,362	29%
October 16, 2007—Special State Election (Congressional Vacancy)	4,587	39%
September 4, 2007—Special State Primary (Congressional Vacancy)	2,945	25%
March 27, 2007—Annual Town Election (No contests + CCHS Debt Exclusion)	1,494	13%
November 7, 2006—State Election (Gubernatorial)	8,473	72%
September 19, 2006—State Primary (Gubernatorial)	4,089	35%
June 6, 2006—Special Town Election (Town & School Overrides)	1,994	17%
March 28, 2006—Annual Town Election & Willard Design Override	3,907	34%
June 7, 2005—Special Town Election (Town & School Overrides & Debt Exclusions for Willard & CCHS)	3,359	29%
March 29, 2005—Annual Town Election (no contests)	425	4%
November 2, 2004—General Election (Presidential & CPA)	10,205	86%
September 14, 2004—State Primary	1,288	11%
September 14, 2004—Special Town Election (Selectmen Vacancy—no contest)	1,267	11%
June 8, 2004—Special Town Election (Town & School Overrides)	5,351	46%
March 2, 2004—Annual Town Election	5,361	47%
March 2, 2004—Presidential Primary	5,123	45%
September 23, 2003—Special Town Election (School Overrides)	4,112	37%
May 13, 2003—Special Town Election (Town & School Overrides)	4,359	39%
March 25, 2003—Town Election	2,890	26%
November 5, 2002—State Election (Gubernatorial)	8,444	73%
September 17, 2002—State Primary (Gubernatorial)	4,449	39%
June 19, 2002—Special Town Election (Alcott School Debt Exclusion)	3,699	32%
May 14, 2002—Special Town Election (Town & School Overrides)	3,875	33%
March 26, 2002—Town Election	3,002	26%
June 12, 2001—Special Town Election (Town & School Overrides)	6,288	54%
March 27, 2001—Town Election	1,991	17%
November 7, 2000—General Election (Presidential)	9,742	83%
September 19, 2000—State Primary	837	7%
March 7, 2000—Presidential Primary	6,895	59%
March 7, 2000—Town Election	6,994	60%
October 26, 1999—Special State Election (State Rep)	3,356	30%
September 28, 1999—Special State Primary (State Rep)	2,650	24%
June 10, 1999—Special Town Election (School Override)	4,804	43%
March 30, 1999—Town Election	1,772	16%
November 3, 1998—General Election (Gubernatorial)	7,527	68%
September 15, 1998—State Primary (Gubernatorial)	3,364	31%