

Have you ever thought of running for elected office here in Belmont? If you're a registered voter, there are many opportunities open to you

The Town of Belmont's elected government consists of an Executive branch, comprised of seven independently elected multi-member Boards, Commissions and Committees and two elected full-time employees (Town Treasurer and Town Clerk) and a Legislative branch called the Representative Town Meeting, comprised of one Moderator, some of the town-wide elected officials and 288 elected Town Meeting Members (36 from each of our eight voting precincts).

Each year seats in these elected bodies are open for election; sometimes an incumbent will choose to run for re-election but no one holds or owns a seat without running for election; each open seat must be won. Typically the term for these Town-wide officials is three-years, however the Housing Authority is a five year term and the Moderator is a one year term. Town Meeting Member terms are for three years, unless there is an early resignation by a Town Meeting Member, leaving a vacancy for the remainder of the original member's three year term. Town Meeting is the body that votes on the budget and all of our General and Zoning By-Laws.

Getting your name onto the ballot is relatively simple:

- Appear in person at the Town Clerk's office, present your identification, complete the nomination form and take the appropriate number of nomination papers
- Circulate the papers among your friends, acquaintances and neighbors or complete strangers, making sure to confirm with the signer that he/she lives in Belmont and is a registered voter. If you're running for Town Meeting, be especially careful to collect signatures only from voters of your precinct.
- When collecting signatures, allow for drop-offs such as non-voters, voters of another precinct or illegible signatures.
- For Town-wide offices, collect at least 60 signatures of Belmont registered voters to be certain you'll have enough to make the necessary 50 certified signature minimum.
- For Town Meeting Member, collect at least 32 signatures of Belmont registered voters only from your precinct to be certain you'll have enough to make the necessary 25 certified signature minimum.
- By mid-January the Town Clerk's office will post the list of partial term vacancies for Town-wide office and Town Meeting Member seats that will appear on the Annual Election Ballot.
- **By 5pm on the Deadline (usually mid-February)**, turn in the signed nomination papers to the Town Clerk (acting as a member of the Board of Registrars) for certification of the signatures
- Nomination papers are certified in the order they are received.
- Once the signatures are certified by the Town Clerk and the minimum has been met, your name will appear on the ballot for the Annual Town Election and you'll be notified by email or phone.
- Educate yourself on the campaign finance laws for the Commonwealth of MA (see the Town Clerk's website for resources). This will help you decide how to fund your campaign and if necessary, select your campaign committee. If required to file campaign finance reports, set calendar reminders for eight days before the election and thirty days after, as well as January 20th next year.
- If you choose to form a campaign committee, organize it by filing with the Town Clerk
- Begin campaign activities and pay attention to campaign finance report deadlines and laws governing campaigning and election day activities.

The Town Clerk's webpage http://www.town.belmont.ma.us/Public_Documents/BelmontMA_Clerk/index contains information and links for precinct maps, campaigning, campaign finance, names of voters, election day activities and prohibitions, etc. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at 617-993-2600 or send an email to townclerk@belmont-ma.gov. Minutes of the individual Boards,

Commissions and Committees are also accessible through the Town's website www.belmont-ma.gov to help educate the public and candidates about the activities of the governmental body.

Town-wide Offices

Moderator
Board of Selectmen
Board of Assessors
Board of Cemetery Commissioners
Board of Health
Housing Authority
Members of the School Committee
Town Clerk
Trustees of the Public Library

Annual Town Election Ballot

1 person for one year
1 member for three years
1 member for five years (appears four out of five years)
2 members for three years
1 person for three years
2 members for three years

Representative Town Meeting

Town Meeting Members

12 members in each of eight voting precincts