



TOWN OF STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

RUNNING FOR TOWN OFFICE

as a

Write-in or Sticker Candidate

INTRODUCTION

If you are considering running for a town office after the deadline has past for filing nomination papers for either town-wide office or Town Meeting Member, the statutes allow the voters to write-in or place stickers for as many seats that are to be elected for every office.

Sometimes there are vacancies for an office where no candidate or candidates have filed nomination papers for the election. These seats can be filled with write-in or sticker nominees.

This brochure explains the requirements for running on a write-in campaign in the Stoughton Town elections.

Town Wide Office:

The number of write-in votes required to be elected for a town-wide office needs only to be the majority of votes cast, unless otherwise determined by statute or by-laws or policies established by the Registrars of Voters. The winner is required to sign an acceptance of nomination before being sworn in to office.

Town Meeting Representative:

To be elected by a write-in vote for Town Meeting Representative you must receive a minimum of 12 write-in votes from the registered voters of your precinct. You will then be required to return a letter of acceptance to the Town Clerk within three days of notification of election. Failure to return the letter of acceptance on time will signify that the seat will remain vacant until filled by a caucus of the precinct.

Write-in / Sticker Candidate

1. You must be registered to vote in the Town of Stoughton.
2. Check with election officials to ascertain what offices are to be on the ballot and the date of the election.
3. If you are running for Town Meeting Representative, ask for a precinct map for your precinct and a "Street List" of residents of the precinct or a registered voters list.
4. Be sure that you have correct information on the type of voting machines being used and specifications for write-in/sticker voting.
5. If you distribute flyers or post cards announcing your candidacy, make sure that your name and address are exactly the way you are registered to vote. Repeat the directions for "Direct Write-in" as shown in this brochure.
6. If you purchase stickers, make sure the printer follows exact specifications for "Sticker Campaign" as on this flyer.

PRECINCT CAUCUS

The Town Charter allows vacancies in Town Meeting occurring between the Annual Town elections to be filled by a precinct caucus. No vacant town meeting seats can be filled less than two weeks before a town meeting. Precinct caucuses held immediately after the Annual Town Election may draw the names of candidates from unsuccessful write-in votes. Caucus chosen Town Meeting Representatives serve until the next annual Town election and are not entitled to have the word "Re-election" if they had not been elected by a ballot vote.

Stoughton Local Elections

◆◆◆ Running for office as a sticker or write-in candidate

First, check with local election officials about any particular local technicalities involved, and **NOTIFY** officials of your **INTENTION** to run as a write-in or sticker candidate. They can inform precinct officials to carefully count all write-ins or stickers.

Informing the public of your candidacy will be your primary activity. Voters are being asked to extend themselves beyond the customary voting practices and should be informed of the procedures they must follow so that their votes are valid.

All write-in or sticker votes should include the correct name and address of the candidate(s), but courts have decided that a vote should be counted whenever the intent of the voter can reasonably be determined, even if the voter omits the candidate's address or makes a mistake in the name or address.

There are special requirements that apply to state primary and general elections. This information is available from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Elections Division.

If you are running with others for the same office as part of slate or group, consult with the other candidates and the local voting authority to find what mechanical limitations of the voting

system and type of ballot used. This information you will need to have when you inform voters of how to write-in on the ballot. A single sticker can be used on paper ballots and on optical scan ballots.

◆◆◆ Scanner (Accu Vote)

Direct Write-in

If a scanner voting system is used in your community the techniques for a write-in campaign are similar to those used for paper ballots. The voter writes in the name and address of the candidate with no political party or other designation, in the space provided below the list of candidates for that office. The voter can **FILL IN THE OVAL** to the **RIGHT** of the **NAME**. Although, this is not necessary for the vote to be valid.

Do not write anywhere else on the ballot. There may be some limitations as to whether a ball point pen, pencil, marker can be used to write-in. Ask the election officer.

Example of Direct Write-in Vote:

TOWN MEETING REPRESENTATIVE	
	Vote for not
THREE (3) YEARS	more than SEVEN
Adam Smith	2 Apple Ln (Write-in) ●
George Washington	50 Mt. Vernon street (Write-in) ●

Based upon brochure, "Running for Office as a Sticker or Write-in Candidate" from Secretary of the Commonwealth, Election Division. For more information Contact the Secretary at One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA 02108 Telephone 1-800-462-VOTE

Sticker Campaign

If you wish to run a sticker campaign where a scanner system is used, **YOU MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The sticker for an individual candidate should be 2 1/4" long by 1/4" high to fit within space on ballot. *Metallic surface stickers cannot be used.*
2. The name of the candidate shall be printed in black ink exactly as it appears on the voting list, in CAPITAL Letters in letters from 1/8 to 1/4" in height.
3. Voters should be instructed how to affix the sticker, depending on whether it is self-adhering or needs to be moistened. Sticker directions may be attached to a card, which may also contain information about the candidate.
4. Voters should be instructed to place the sticker in the spaces provided beneath the list of candidates for that office. Voter is not required to fill in the oval next to the line with a write-in name or sticker.
5. Stickers must not be distributed inside the polling place or within the building in which the polling place is located or less than 150 feet from the entrance to the polling place.
6. When and where a scanner system is used, a slate of candidates may run on a single sticker. A Slate sticker may be of a size to accommodate the entire slate, multiply the 1/4" height by the number of candidates and follow the preceding instructions.

Example of printed sticker:

JOHN JONES 50 Peach St., Stoughton