



**Town of Dighton**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
979 Somerset Avenue  
Dighton, MA 02715  
Tel: (508) 669-6431  
Fax: (508) 669-5667

April 13, 2020

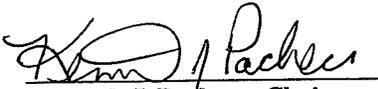
Sue Medeiros, Town Clerk  
Town of Dighton  
979 Somerset Avenue  
Dighton, MA 02715

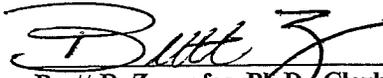
Dear Ms. Medeiros,

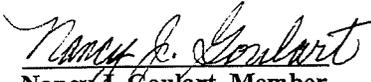
This letter is to inform you that the Board of Selectmen, at their meeting of April 8, 2020, voted to change the date for the Annual Town Election to Saturday, June 6, 2020.

If any further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

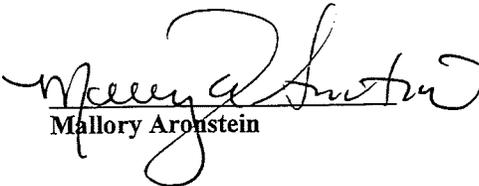
**Board of Selectmen**

  
Kenneth J. Pacheco, Chairman

  
Brett R. Zografos, Ph.D., Clerk

  
Nancy J. Goulart, Member

**Town Administrator**

  
Mallory Aronstein

# SPECIMEN BALLOT

Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot.

FINE NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.



## OFFICIAL BALLOT ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION DIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS APRIL 11, 2020

*Suzanne Medeiros*  
TOWN CLERK

### INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name and address on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

#### SELECTMAN

FOR THREE YEARS Vote for ONE

**KENNETH J. PACHECO**   
1860 Milk Street Candidate for Re-election

**DAVID ROSA**   
323 Lincoln Avenue

(Write-in)

#### TOWN MODERATOR

FOR ONE YEAR Vote for ONE

(Write-in)

#### BOARD OF ASSESSORS

FOR THREE YEARS Vote for ONE

**ERIC J. EASTERDAY**   
1769 Wheeler Street

**DAVID ROSA**   
323 Lincoln Avenue

(Write-in)

#### DIGHTON-REHOBOTH REG. SCHOOL DIST. COMMITTEE

FOR THREE YEARS Vote for NOT  
MORE THAN TWO

**ELIZA M. COUTURE**   
176 Center Street Candidate for Re-election

**JANICE M. TERRY**   
66 Walker Street Candidate for Re-election

(Write-in)

(Write-in)

#### PLANNING BOARD

FOR FIVE YEARS Vote for ONE

**JEFFREY CARVALHO**   
2124 Tommy's Way

(Write-in)

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE

FOR THREE YEARS Vote for ONE

**RONALD J. O'CONNOR**   
594 School Street Candidate for Re-election

(Write-in)

#### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER

FOR THREE YEARS Vote for ONE

**SUZANNE P. COTE**   
562 Hart Street Candidate for Re-election

(Write-in)

#### SEWER COMMISSIONER

FOR THREE YEARS Vote for ONE

**ROBERT J. WOODS, JR.**   
158 Chase Street

(Write-in)

#### DIGHTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

FOR FIVE YEARS Vote for ONE

**ALICE E. SOUZA**   
1679 Elm Street Candidate for Re-election

(Write-in)

Chapter 45  
of the Acts of 2020

T H E C O M M O N W E A L T H O F M A S S A C H U S E T T S

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court

AN ACT GRANTING AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND INCREASE VOTING OPTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY TO RESPOND TO COVID-19..

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith provide for the rescheduling of elections as a result of the governor's declaration of emergency to respond to COVID-19 and to increase voting options, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding section 9 of chapter 39, sections 26 and 28 of chapter 51 and chapters 53 and 54 of the General Laws or any other general or special law or by-law to the contrary, a city or town with a municipal caucus or annual or special municipal election scheduled between the effective date of this act and May 30, 2020, may postpone such municipal caucus or municipal election in accordance with this act.

The select board, town council, board of registrars or city council of the city or town may vote on any day prior to the date of their scheduled municipal caucus or municipal election to postpone the municipal caucus or municipal election to a date certain on or before June 30, 2020. Such rescheduled caucus or election shall be held in accordance with all applicable election laws except as otherwise provided in this act.

(b) The select board, town council or city council of a city or town postponing a municipal caucus or municipal election pursuant to this act shall, following consultation with the local election official and the chief operating officer of the municipality as to logistics and feasibility, vote to reschedule the municipal caucus or municipal election. A copy of this act, the vote of the select board, town council or city council and a sample ballot shall be placed on the official municipal website not later than 20 days before the date to which the rescheduled caucus or election has been postponed. Notice of such action shall be provided to the public in other ways reasonably calculated to enable eligible voters to learn of the rescheduled election date and to cast ballots therein. The notice may include, but shall not be limited to, a "reverse-911" call, municipal list-serve notifications, advertisement on local cable television or issuance of a press release sent to local news media.

(c) Consistent with section 107 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, an incumbent elected official whose term would have expired at a municipal annual town election if the election was not postponed pursuant to this act shall continue to serve in the official's position until a successor is elected and qualified.

(d) If this act does not take effect until after the date of a scheduled municipal caucus or municipal election during the state of emergency declared by the governor pursuant to executive order 591, declaration of a state of emergency to respond to COVID-19, the actions of the board of selectmen, town council, city council and local election officials to postpone a municipal caucus or municipal election shall be ratified, validated and confirmed as if this act had been in place prior thereto.

SECTION 2. The last day to register to vote for any annual or special municipal or state election postponed pursuant to this act or otherwise postponed in response to COVID-19 shall be 10 days before the date to which the rescheduled election has been postponed; provided, however, that the board of registrars shall hold a registration session on that date not less than from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The voting list to be used at such rescheduled election shall include all eligible voters registered as of that date.

SECTION 3. The caucus or election materials, including, but not limited to, absentee and official ballots, prepared for a municipal caucus or any annual or special municipal or state election postponed pursuant to this act or otherwise postponed in response to COVID-19 and bearing that date shall be used for the rescheduled caucus or election to the extent practicable. If additional ballots are required to be printed, the ballots shall be identical in form to those prepared for the original caucus or election.

SECTION 4. Absentee ballots cast in connection with the original election date for any annual or special municipal or state election postponed pursuant to this act or otherwise postponed in response to COVID-19, whether returned before the original election or otherwise, and received by the local election official before the close of polls on the date of the rescheduled election, shall be processed in accordance with applicable law; provided, however, that any voter who chooses to vote in person on the date of the rescheduled election may do so if their absentee ballot has not yet been counted. Completed applications to vote by absentee ballot in the rescheduled election shall be accepted by the board of registrars until 12:00 noon on the last business day before the rescheduled election.

For an election held on or before June 30, 2020 any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 in response to a declared state of emergency or from guidance from a medical professional, local or state health official, or any civil authority shall be deemed to be unable by reason of physical disability to cast their vote in person at a polling location.

SECTION 5. (a) Notwithstanding section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, any eligible voter may vote early by mail for any annual or special municipal or state election held on or before June 30, 2020.

(b) Any qualified voter wanting to early vote by mail may file with their local election official an application for an early voting ballot. Any form of written communication evidencing a desire to have an early voting ballot be sent for use for voting at an election shall be given the same effect as an application made in the form prescribed by the state secretary. Local election officials shall send early voting by mail ballots to those who have applied as soon as ballots are available. No application shall be deemed to be seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the local election official before noon on the last business day before the date on which the rescheduled election is held.

(c) Local election officials may substitute absentee ballots for early voting ballots for those voters requesting to vote early by mail in municipal elections. An early voting ballot or absentee ballot substituted for an early voting ballot, along with an envelope bearing an affidavit as set forth in section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws, shall be provided to each qualified voter who participates in early voting by mail.

(d) The local election officials shall cause to be placed on the voting lists opposite the name of a qualified voter who participates in early voting the letters "EV" designating an early voter.

(e) The counting of early voting ballots shall be consistent with section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws and implemented regulations to the extent practicable. All envelopes referred to in this section shall be retained with the ballots cast at the election and shall be preserved and destroyed in the manner provided by law for the retention, preservation or destruction of official ballots.

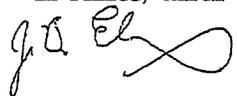
(f) All early voting ballots voted by mail shall be received by the town clerk before the hour fixed for closing the polls on the date on which the rescheduled election is held. Early voting ballots cast under the authority of this section shall be processed at the polls in a manner consistent with that set forth in said section 25B of said chapter 54.

House of Representatives, March 23, 2020.

Preamble adopted,

 Speaker.

Preamble adopted,

In Senate, March 23, 2020.  
 , President.

House of Representatives, March 23, 2020.

Bill passed to be enacted,

*Paul J. Donato* Speaker.

In Senate, March 23, 2020.

Bill passed to be enacted,

*J.B. Egan*, President.

*March 23*, 2020.

Approved,

at *4* o'clock and *57* minutes, P. M.

*Charles D. Bass*

Governor.