

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Members: Elizabeth A. Erb, *Chair* **Barbara L. Suriner**, *Town Clerk*
 Doreen P. Aleshevich *Elections Administrator*
 Judith M. Ladd *Supervisor, Board of Registrars*
 Barbara L. Suriner, *Clerk*

In 2004, we conducted Special Registration Sessions prior to the March 2 Presidential Primary; the May 3 Annual Town Meeting and the May 10 Annual Town Election; the March 22, June 28, and September 27 Special Town Meetings; and prior to the September 14 State Primary and November 2 Presidential/State/School Election. Also, Special Registration Sessions were held by Assistant Registrar Kathryn Sanders at WRHS just prior to graduation and the fall Presidential Election. T

he Board registered and processed 850 new voters plus address changes on existing active and inactive voters, checked several thousand signatures for certification on the 3 Initiative Petitions/Public Policy Questions and 29 Nomination Papers in circulation in 2004; and deleted 614 inactive/moved voters. Our computerized program enabled us to complete this arduous task in a timely and efficient manner, transmitting totals to the Secretary of State automatically. Annual Town Election nomination papers, which will place candidates directly on the May 9, 2005, Annual Town Election ballot, will be available February 1 at the Town Clerk's office. The deadline for submission of papers to the Board of Registrars is 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2005, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 53, §.6. A Special Registration Session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on April 12, the last day to register to vote at the May 2 Annual Town Meeting and May 9 Annual Town Election. All registration sessions are held in the office of the Town Clerk. The place of voting will remain at the Community House for both precincts as there is a ramp and parking for the handicapped located at the rear of the building.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that when signing a nomination paper or a petition, please keep the following in mind: 1. Sign only if you are a registered voter. 2. Sign your name and your residential address (no post office boxes are allowed). 3. If you have poor penmanship, print your name in the same box with your signature as an undistinguishable signature cannot be verified. 4. Do not sign your spouse's name or any name other than your own. Also, if you move, please inform the Town Clerk so that we will change our records and notify you of any precinct changes. If any of your family members are not registered to vote, please encourage them to do so.

We are currently online with the Secretary of State, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and all cities and towns in Massachusetts as part of a computerized Central Voter Registry, the first in the nation. Since 1997, we have used VRIS exclusively for both census and voter registration functions. Mail-in voter registration forms are available at the Post Office, the Library, Wahconah Regional High School, the Council on Aging, as well as at the Town Clerk's office.

Frank A. Slowick of 22 Central Avenue, who was born January 19, 1901, continues to hold the distinction of being our oldest living resident.

We thank Dalton residents for their excellent response in returning the local census forms mailed January of each year. The majority of citizens return in a prompt and cooperative manner which we greatly appreciate, allowing us to achieve the highest possible level of accuracy.

Statistical figures as of December 31, 2004, are as follows:

REGISTERED VOTERS (Active Status)

Democrats	1,334	(29.68%)
Republicans	615	(13.68%)
Libertarian	25	(0.56%)
Green Rainbow	11	(0.25%)
Inter. 3rd Party*	4	(0.09%)
Unenrolled	2,505	(55.7%)

*(Political Designation)

TOTAL ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS	4,353
TOTAL INACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS	141
TOTAL POPULATION	7,017