

*Be a participant
in local affairs!*

LEARN ABOUT RUNNING FOR LOCAL OFFICE

PLAN A RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE

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TO RUN FOR A LOCAL OFFICE IN SOUTH HADLEY

You must be age 18 and a registered voter in South Hadley.

Nomination papers to be circulated for signatures are available from the Town Clerk about 3-4 months before the Annual Election.

At least 10 certified signatures from registered town voters in your precinct are required to run for Town Meeting Member.

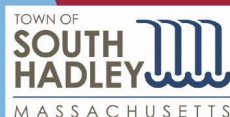
For other local offices a minimum of 50 certified signatures is needed.

Try to collect a good number of extra signatures, as an illegible signature or one that doesn't match the voter's registration details cannot be certified.

For more information about voting and elections in South Hadley: www.southhadley.org/elections

You can check or update your voter registration at: VoteInMA.com

2026 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
Tuesday, April 14, 2026



South Hadley
Town Clerk's Office
and Board of Registrars

www.southhadley.org/elections

CHECKLIST FOR RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN SOUTH HADLEY

www.southhadley.org/elections | Town Clerk's Office, 116 Main St, Rm M11, S. Hadley | 413.538.5030 x6183

A Candidate's Guide to Running for Town Election

- **Be sure you're registered to vote in South Hadley.** Check/update your registration at: VoteInMA.com
- **Review the "Terms Due to Expire List"** to see positions that will be on the ballot in the next Town Election. Do some research to learn if the seat will be open or if there is an incumbent who plans to run again. Read meeting minutes and attend some meetings to learn more about the work of the Board or Committee.
- **Review the Annual Town Election Calendar** and note the dates to obtain and return nomination papers. If you plan to run a write-in campaign, please let the Town Clerk know, so election workers will be prepared.
- **Obtain Nomination Papers from the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall**
Circulate papers for signatures from registered voters in South Hadley. All signatures must be legible and written substantially as registered. The law allows a voter to insert or omit a middle name or initial and still have the signature deemed valid, but signatures should not use nicknames or initials in place of full names. A married woman would sign "Helen Smith" not "Mrs. John Smith." You may collect signatures in municipal buildings in spaces that are regularly open to the general public for municipal business.
To certify a signature, the Clerk's office must be able to read the information, which must match the voter registration. Plan to submit *more* signatures than the required minimum to be sure you will not fall short.
Minimum Certified Signatures: 10 (in your precinct)—Town Meeting Member | 50—Town-wide Offices
- **Campaign Finance Activity**
State law requires an accounting of all money received or spent in the course of a political campaign. Candidates are required to submit regular campaign finance reports and to comply with the campaign finance laws and procedures. It is the responsibility of all those participating in political campaign financing in Massachusetts to become knowledgeable with the provisions of the campaign finance law and its regulations. Violations of the law carry serious penalties of fines, imprisonment or both.
Campaign Finance Guide: https://ocpf2.blob.core.windows.net/pdf/guides/muni_candidate_2012.pdf
If you anticipate raising or spending money, be sure to check with the Town Clerk for some general guidance.
- **Political Signs**
It is recommended that political signs only be placed on private property with the permission of the property owner and that they be out of the right of way, and not obstruct vehicle or pedestrian traffic.
MGL Ch 87, Section 9 allows for a fine of fifty dollars for affixing a notice, sign advertisement or other thing to a tree in a public way without obtaining written permission from the Tree Warden or Highway Department in the case of a state highway.
MGL Chapter 266, Section 126 allows for not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, plus the cost of removing such defacement for posting banners, announcements, notices or signs on utility poles. These can be safety hazards to vehicles and pedestrians, and interfere with proper operation of electric service.
- **Campaign Activities on Election Day**
On Election Day, at the polling place, political signs must be held by a person. No signs may be put into the ground, hung on fences or put on public property.
No Campaigning is allowed within 150 feet of the entrance door to the polling location, nor is any action intended to influence the action of a voter. Prohibited actions include: holding any campaign signs; circulating or distributing campaign materials; wearing any campaign buttons or identifying signage; soliciting a person's vote for or against a candidate or question on the ballot; or distributing stickers. Extended time talking with Election workers or other residents in the polling location after you have voted may appear to be campaigning. Vehicles displaying campaign materials are also prohibited within the 150 feet of entrance.

SOUTH HADLEY ANNUAL ELECTION

The annual election of Town officers is usually held on the second Tuesday in April each year.

The Selectboard may change the schedule to accommodate religious holidays, or a national or primary election, as long as the rescheduled date is within 60 days of the second Tuesday in April. The Selectboard must vote to make the change 90 days before to the election and inform the Town Clerk in writing.

Our Annual Town Election is non-partisan, so candidates are listed on the ballot with no party affiliation.

The Selectboard sets the location of the polls and the hours of opening and closing, which are:

All Precincts vote at South Hadley High School, 153 Newton Street/Rt. 116, South Hadley.

Polls are typically open on election day for in-person voting from 7am to 8pm (hours subject to change).

Prior to each election, sample ballots can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1088/Sample-Ballots>

For election and voting information: <http://www.southhadley.org/elections> | <http://www.voteinma.com>

Separate elections for Fire and Water Districts 1 and 2 are held the same day at South Hadley High School.

For sample ballots and other details, see: <https://www.shdistrict1.org> | <https://www.shdistrict2.org>.

TOWN-WIDE ELECTED OFFICERS

Moderator	1	Elected Official	3-year term
<i>Help plan and preside over Town Meeting, make appointments to the Appropriation Committee</i>			
Selectboard	5	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
<i>Chief administrative officers, appoint non-elected board/committee members, grant licenses, etc.</i>			
School Committee	5	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
<i>Meetings focus on the conduct of necessary school business, including budget hearings</i>			
Board of Health	5	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
<i>Responds and acts on any situation that may affect the health and safety of the general public</i>			
Board of Assessors	3	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
<i>Review sales each year to value all real and personal property, and submit for 5-year state certification</i>			
Planning Board	5	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
	1	Appointed Associate Member	
<i>Guide community growth/change through the Town Master Plan, Zoning ByLaws, site approvals, etc.</i>			
Municipal Light Board (SHELD)	5	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
<i>Set utility policy and oversee the operation of South Hadley Electric Light Department/Fiberspring</i>			
Housing Authority	4	Elected Members	staggered 5-year terms
	1	Governor-Appointed Member	5-year term
<i>Ensure the delivery and availability of affordable housing in compliance with all statutes/regulations</i>			
Public Library Trustees	9	Elected Members	staggered 3-year terms
<i>Provide an environment responsive to the recreational, educational, cultural needs of our library users</i>			

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS (Elected for each of the 5 Precincts in South Hadley)

8 per Precinct elected each year 120 Total Members (24 per Precinct) staggered 3-year terms
Members make decisions at Town Meeting about the Town budget, By-Laws, policies, other concerns

Town Moderator

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

1 elected official, 3-year term of office; 1 three-year seat on the ballot every three years

DUTIES:

All Town Meetings shall be called to order and presided over by the Town Moderator, who is authorized to speak on points of order and to decide each question of order, and has the duty to preserve order, decorum and civility in Town Meeting. Except where otherwise specifically provided by law or in Town bylaws, the Moderator shall be guided by the principles and rules of practice contained in the work entitled "Town Meeting Time, a Handbook of Parliamentary Law, Third Edition," by Johnson, Trustman, and Wadsworth, published by Little Brown, as further revised from time to time.

The Town Moderator helps with the mechanics of Town Meeting, attends planning sessions, and runs Town Meeting once a quorum is called. The Moderator also appoints individuals to fill any vacancies in the Appropriations Committee, and serves as a member of the Town Meeting Review Committee that is appointed every five years as per Town Bylaw 7-19.

MEETINGS:

- Annual Town Meeting to act on major issues is held each spring, generally on a Wednesday at 6:30pm.
- Special Town Meeting(s) to address additional issues may be called, most often scheduled in late fall.

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/shtownmtgs>
- South Hadley Agenda Center—Meeting Agendas and Minutes (all committees and boards) <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- Mass General Laws | Chapter 39, Section 14: Moderators <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter39/Section14>
Mass General Laws | Chapter 39, Section 15: Moderators—Powers and Duties <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter39/Section15>

Current Officeholder:

John Hine 3-year term Expires 4/2027

Selectboard

<https://www.southhadley.org/218/Selectboard>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

5 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; a third of the seats (1 or 2) are on the ballot each year

DUTIES:

As chief administrative officers of the town, Selectboard members are responsible throughout the year for implementing the decisions of Town Meeting. They are the town’s legal agent; the commissioners of highways, and sewers, and of police; the board of public welfare; and the license board, holding hearings on license applications for the sale of alcoholic beverages, storage of gasoline, etc. They draw up the warrant for every Town Meeting. They appoint most of the non-elected officials and boards but not the Committee on Appropriations. The chair shares in appointing special committees.

MEETINGS:

- First and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm, unless otherwise noted.
- Hybrid-online meeting format; in-person at the Senior Center Community Room or online via Zoom.
- Joint meetings, budget hearings, and other special meetings may also be scheduled.

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/shselectboard>
- South Hadley Agenda Center— See **Selectboard** Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- Selectboard Policies and Procedures <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/10281/Selectboard-Policy-as-of-March-21-2023>
- Selectboard Vision and Goals <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/114/Vision-Statement-and-Selectboard-Goals-PDF>

Current Officeholders:

Andrea Miles	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Nicole Casolari	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Carol Constant	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Jeff Cyr	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Renee Sweeney	3-year term	Expires 4/2028

School Committee

<https://www.southhadleyschools.org/community/school-committee12>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

5 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; a third of the seats (1 or 2) are on the ballot each year

DUTIES:

Meetings focus on the conduct of necessary school business. The Committee desires citizens of South Hadley to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operation and the programs of the South Hadley Public Schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public regarding the community's schools, and therefore, extends to citizens the privilege of addressing the Committee during its meetings in accordance with published rules and procedures to ensure the Committee's ability to conduct business in an orderly manner.

MEETINGS:

- First and third or fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted.
- Virtual meeting format, online via Zoom.
- Joint meetings, budget hearings, and other special meetings may also be scheduled.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

South Hadley Public Schools | <https://www.southhadley.org/288/School-Department>
Mark McLaughlin, Interim Superintendent

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/shschoolcommittee>
- South Hadley Agenda Center—See **Public Schools** Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- Collaborative for Educational Services—CES Board** (Hampshire and Franklin County Member Districts) <https://www.collaborative.org/about-ces/ces-board>

Current Officeholders:

Daniel Vieu	3-year term	Expires 4/2026	
Danielle Cooke	3-year term	Expires 4/2027	**CES Board Member from South Hadley
Jack Witkowski	3-year term	Expires 4/2027	
Jackson Matos	Partial term	Expires 4/2028	
Eric Friesner	3-year term	Expires 4/2028	

Board of Health

<https://www.southhadley.org/222/Public-Health>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

5 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; a third of the seats (1 or 2) are on the ballot each year

DUTIES:

The primary responsibility of the local Board of Health is to respond and act on any situation that may affect the health and safety of the general public. Most of our duties are contained within many statutes, including mandatory licensing and inspection programs in the areas of: Disease Prevention/Control State Sanitary Code Enforcement, Food Protection Laws and Regulations, Motels and Public Lodging Places, Environmental Protection, and a range of Miscellaneous items.

MEETINGS:

- Generally the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted.
- Hybrid-online meeting format; in-person at South Hadley Library-Trustees Room or online via Zoom.
- Central Pioneer Valley Health District (PHE grant), other joint or special meetings may also be scheduled.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

Public Health | <https://www.southhadley.org/222/Public-Health>

Sharon D. Hart, Public Health Director

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/boardofhealth>
- South Hadley Agenda Center—See **Board of Health** Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- South Hadley Bylaws—Chapter 300. Board of Health <https://ecode360.com/30821249#30821249>
- Board of Health Operating Authorities <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/9887/Area-of-Operations-and-Authority-Statutes>
- Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant Program <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/shared-services>

Current Officeholders:

Karen Pio	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Tony Judge	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Michael Rosner	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Charles Scott	3-year term	Expires 4/2028
Stephen Frantz	3-year term	Expires 4/2028

Board of Assessors

<https://www.southhadley.org/154/Assessors>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

3 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; 1 seat is on the ballot each year

DUTIES:

The assessors are required by Mass. Law to list and value all real and personal property. The valuations are subject to ad valorem taxation on the assessment roll each year. The "ad valorem" basis for taxation means that all property should be taxed "according to value", which is the definition of ad valorem. Assessed values in Massachusetts are based on "full and fair cash value", or 100% of fair market value. Assessors are required to submit these values to the State Department of Revenue for certification every 5 years. Fiscal 2020 was the most recent certification year for South Hadley. In the years between certification, assessors are required to do interim adjustments and maintain the values.

The Board of Assessors reviews sales and the market every year and thereby reassesses various areas of the town each and every year where the need is indicated. This is done so that the property taxpayer pays his or her fair share of the cost of local government, in proportion to the amount of money the property is worth, on a yearly basis rather than every 5 years. Assessed valuations are the basis for distribution of the town's annual property tax levy. The department also administers the motor vehicle and boat excise taxes.

MEETINGS:

- Meets second or fourth Mondays of the month at 9:30am, unless otherwise noted or there is a holiday.
- Virtual meeting format, online via Zoom.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

South Hadley Assessor's Office | <https://www.southhadley.org/154/Assessors>
Melissa Couture Ribold, Associate Assessor

RESOURCES:

- Assessor Responsibilities
<https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/13310/RunningForOfficeInfo-AssessorResponsibilities-0924>
- South Hadley Agenda Center—See **Board of Assessors** Meeting Agendas and Minutes
<https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts—The role of the assessor in municipal finance
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-role-of-the-assessor-in-municipal-finance>

Current Officeholders:

Kevin Taugher	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Lynn Masson	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Thomas Reidy	3-year term	Expires 4/2028

Planning Board

<https://www.southhadley.org/864/Planning-Board>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

5 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; a third of the seats (1 or 2) are on the ballot each year
1 appointed associate member, jointly appointed by the Planning Board and the Selectboard

DUTIES:

Planning and Conservation Department staff provide support to the South Hadley Planning Board—most of the Board’s support is from the Department staff. However, they also provide assistance to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Redevelopment Authority and other various boards, committees, and departments. The Director of Planning & Conservation Department is appointed by the Planning Board and reports to the South Hadley Town Administrator.

MEETINGS:

- Meets second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6:30pm, unless otherwise amended.
- Hybrid-online meeting format, online via Zoom and in-person at So. Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street, unless otherwise noted.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

Planning | <https://www.southhadley.org/1124/Planning>

Anne Capra, Director of Planning and Conservation

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/shplanningboard>
- South Hadley Agenda Center—See **Planning Board** Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts—Mass. General Laws, Ch. 40, Section 9 <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mass-general-laws-c40a-ss-9>

Current Officeholders:

Nate Therien	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Diane Supczak-Mulvaney	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
John Parenteau	Associate Member	Expires 2026 (appointed member)
Brad Hutchinson	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Rob Watchilla	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Robert Szklarz	3-year term	Expires 4/2028

Municipal Light Board

<https://www.sheld.org/pages/community/light-board-archive>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

5 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; a third of the seats are on the ballot each year

DUTIES:

A municipal utility like South Hadley Electric Light Department responds directly to the needs and input of local residents, not of anonymous shareholders. The Light Board sets utility policy, and oversees the operation of the South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) operations through the Department General Manager. SHELD is a municipally-owned light plant (MLP) providing electric services to citizens, as well as Fiberspring internet services in South Hadley and some other communities. As local elected officials, the Light Board is open to the input of South Hadley’s residents and business owners.

Light Board meetings are open to the public – your involvement is welcomed! Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month virtually through Zoom and begin promptly at 6:00 PM. The monthly link to the zoom meeting can be found on that month’s agenda. Agendas are posted to the Town’s website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

MEETINGS:

- Fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted.
- Virtual meeting format, online via Zoom.
- Other special meetings may also be scheduled.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) | <https://www.sheld.org>
Sean Fitzgerald, General Manager

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/sheld>
- SHELD Meeting Agendas and Minutes: <https://www.sheld.org/pages/community/light-board-archive/>
- Public comment policy at meetings:
<https://www.sheld.org/uploads/SHELD-Public-Comment-Policy.pdf>
- South Hadley Electric Light Department: <https://www.sheld.org/>
- Massachusetts municipally-owned electric companies:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-municipally-owned-electric-companies>

Current Officeholders:

John Hine	3-year term	Expires 4/2026	
Ron Coutu	3-year term	Expires 4/2027	
Tom Terry	2-year term*	Expires 4/2027	*elected to complete a partial term
Paul Dobosh	3-year term	Expires 4/2028	
Darren Hamilton	3-year term	Expires 4/2028	

Housing Authority

<http://www.southhadleyhousingauthority.com/Home.aspx>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

4 elected members (exclusive of the member selected by the Governor/Commonwealth of Massachusetts), each elected for 5-years.

DUTIES:

The Housing Authority works to ensure the delivery and availability of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local statutes and regulations. The Housing Authority is committed to ensuring that each employee of the authority is provided with necessary training and supervision to accomplish their assigned responsibilities and to promote our housing mission.

MEETINGS:

--Generally meets on a Monday or Tuesday at mid-day, unless otherwise noted.

(Few recent meeting agendas, no minutes posted at South Hadley Agenda Center)

--In-person meetings at Lathrop Village Community Center.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

South Hadley Housing Authority | 69 Lathrop Street, South Hadley; 413-531-3194
Bridgette O’Leary Sullivan, Executive Director

RESOURCES:

- Housing Documents and Resources: <https://www.southhadley.org/278/Housing>
- South Hadley Agenda Center—See **Housing Authority** Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- Massachusetts Training Manual for Local Housing Authority Board Members <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/07/va/lha-board-training-manual-2014.pdf>

Current Officeholders:

John Duda	5-year term	Expires 4/2026	(elected 2021)
Matthew Brunell	5-year term	Expires 4/2026	(elected 2021) – Tenant Member
Annie Perez	5-year term	Expires 4/2029	(elected 2024)
Christine Blaney	5-year term	Expires 4/2030	(write-in 2025) – Also Governor’s Member

ONE VACANCY

Public Library Trustees

<https://www.southhadley.org/315/Public-Library>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

9 elected members, staggered 3-year terms of office; a third of the seats are on the ballot each year

DUTIES:

South Hadley Public Library serves as a safe community gathering space where all library patrons are welcomed with dignity and respect. The library’s collections, programs, and services will reflect both the town of South Hadley and the world at large. The library will collaborate with community partners to provide a comfortable environment that is reflective and responsive to the recreational, educational, and cultural needs of our library users. The South Hadley Public Library building which opened in 2014 operates as the main library of a two-library system, with Gaylord Memorial Library operating as a branch library. Under the direction of the elected Trustees. The library is a member of the [CW MARS library consortium](#), allowing library card holders to use and access materials and information from libraries across the state.

MEETINGS:

- First Monday of each month at 7:00pm, unless otherwise noted.
- In-person at South Hadley Public Library.
- Other special meetings may also be scheduled.

DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION:

South Hadley Public Library | <https://www.southhadley.org/315/Public-Library>
Joe Rodio, Library Director

RESOURCES:

- South Hadley Agenda Center— See **Public Library** Meeting Agendas and Minutes <https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>
- South Hadley Public Library (main website and master event calendar): <https://www.shadleylib.org>
- Gaylord Memorial Library (branch library website): <https://gaylordlibrary.org>

Current Officeholders:

Susan Obremski-Crowther	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
David Morrell	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Gillian Woldorf	3-year term	Expires 4/2026
Mitchell Resnick	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Lanette Sweeney	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Timna Tarr	3-year term	Expires 4/2027
Gail Scanlon	3-year term	Expires 4/2028
Jennifer Couturier	3-year term	Expires 4/2028
Kelly Woods	3-year term	Expires 4/2028

Town Meeting Members

<https://www.southhadley.org/192/Town-Meeting>

MEMBERSHIP and TERM:

120 elected members (24 members per precinct); Captains are selected for each precinct
Staggered 3-year terms of office; 8 seats per precinct are on the ballot each year.

DUTIES:

The 120 elected Town Meeting members from our five precincts serve as the South Hadley Town Meeting; sixty-one elected members make a quorum to conduct the business of the town at an annual or special town meeting. The Annual Town meeting is typically held on the second Wednesday of May. A Special Town Meeting is often held in the fall to complete items on the town budget and handle other business.

The Annual Town Meeting, as in all New England towns, is the heart of town government in South Hadley. This meeting is essentially a legislative session, at which the policies and the budget for the ensuing year are voted. Town Bylaws may be added or changed. Other actions affecting the town may be taken. Schools, highways, sewers, and recreation are some of the areas of daily life controlled by the budget decisions made here, which in turn affect the property tax rate. Zoning questions often come up for consideration.

MEETINGS:

- The Annual Town Meeting is held the second Wednesday in May at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted.
- Members normally convene in-person, with livestream for local viewers via SHCTV15.com.
- Recent meetings have been held at PVP Charter School Auditorium; the location is subject to change.
- A Special Town Meeting for other business is also normally scheduled each year, often in the fall.

RESOURCES:

- Meeting Video Archive: <https://vimeo.com/channels/shtownmtgs>
- Warrants and Minutes Archive: <https://www.southhadley.org/849/Warrants-Minutes-and-Decision-Letters>
- Budget and Town Meeting Documents: <https://www.southhadley.org/679/Budget-Town-Meeting-Documents>
- Budget Books Archive: <https://www.southhadley.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=40>

Current Officeholders: <https://www.southhadley.org/780/Members>

TO RUN FOR ELECTION AS TOWN MEETING MEMBER:

- You must be age 18 and a registered voter in South Hadley.
- Nomination papers are available from the Town Clerk about 3-4 months before the Annual Election. At least 10 certified signatures from registered town voters IN YOUR PRECINCT are required. Try to collect 5-10 extra signatures, as any signatures that don't match registration details can't be certified.
- While policy could change, at this time Members whose terms are ending receive a postcard from the Town Clerk they may return to indicate if they wish to be on the upcoming ballot for re-election, or not.

For more information, visit the Town Clerk's election pages: www.southhadley.org/elections

ABOUT TOWN MEETING

www.southhadley.org/192/Town-Meeting

The New England colonies began the practice of holding Town Meetings to discuss and decide on community matters in the in the 1600s. There are two types of town meetings: Open and Representative. Open town meetings where townspeople come and directly vote on issues are held in towns with less than 6,000 people. Representative town meetings are held in towns with more than 6,000 people, like South Hadley, where Townspeople elect representatives (with a number based on population) to vote for them. Town meetings are still used in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The Annual Town Meeting serves as a legislative session to vote on policies and the budget for the year. As an event, it is a gathering of a town's eligible voters, and is referred to as "the Town Meeting." As an entity, it is the legislative body for towns in Massachusetts, and is referred to simply as "Town Meeting." So, you may say, "I went to the Town Meeting. Town Meeting approved the budget."

Citizen's Guide to Town Meetings

[www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/cis/download/Guide to Town Meetings.pdf](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/cis/download/Guide%20to%20Town%20Meetings.pdf)

Running for election as a Town Meeting Member can be a good starting point for residents who would like to be more involved in and better understand Town Affairs. Each of South Hadley's five precincts has 24 Town Meeting Members, for a total of 120 elected members. Members serve staggered 3-year terms, with eight seats on the ballot each year for every precinct. In carrying out their duties to confirm the annual budget and consider town policies, Members learn a great deal about how our town works and its finances.

The **Annual Town Meeting** is usually held the second Wednesday evening in April. A **Special Town Meeting** is often scheduled later (or earlier) in the year to address zoning, bylaw changes, or other concerns.

The budget and articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant are prepared over several months with input from Town Departments, the Capital Planning Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Planning Board and others (www.southhadley.org/210/Preparation). For proposed bylaw or zoning changes, the Town Clerk must forward information to the Office of the Attorney General for prior review and approval.

Over the winter and spring, joint 'multi-board' meetings among the Selectboard, School, Appropriations, and Capital Planning Committees provide budget insight (www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter). Anyone can attend a meeting in person at the Senior Center or via Zoom. Recordings are available at: shctv15.com.

Before the Town Meeting, the Town Administrator emails meeting details, reports, and the Warrant to Members. The Warrant is published at least 7 days before Town Meeting. Budget reports and videos are also posted online (www.southhadley.org/679/Budget-Town-Meeting-Documents). If additional information about Warrant articles would be beneficial, the Town Administrator may also offer an online information session for Members the week before Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting Warrant begins with a vote on the Consent Calendar, a group of 'housekeeping' articles, authorizing the Town and its representatives to borrow funds in anticipation of revenue, make banking agreements, accept federal/state grants and highway funds, pay officer salaries, make expenditures from revolving funds, enter into contracts, and to raise and appropriate operating budget funds on behalf of the Town.

These are followed by the budget for the coming fiscal year (for example, FY25 runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), other financial items, and business. Members cast their votes with electronic vote tabulators and results are promptly shown on the main screen. Thanks to a good preparation process, the Annual Town Meeting business is normally completed in one evening.

TOWN MEETING BUSINESS: A Sampling

<https://www.southhadley.org/849/Warrants-Minutes-and-Decision-Letters>

In addition to budget and ‘housekeeping’ items, many of the proposals before Town Meeting affect how our town will look and function; some actions are small, while others might be more far-reaching. These may include Bringing the Town’s Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw allowing additional small housing units on existing single-family lots into compliance with a new statewide ADU law, and possible changes to residential and business zoning along the Routes 202 and 33 Corridor that might allow for new kinds of housing and business uses.

November 13, 2024 Special Town Meeting actions included:

- Members voted down amendments to Flexible Development Bylaws intended to encourage more housing grouped around common open areas to help preserve open space.
- Changes were approved to Bylaws regarding unhitched trailers on public ways, property maintenance, and enforcement, while an animal impoundment provision failed to pass.

May 8, 2024 Annual Town Meeting actions included:

- Members voted to appropriate \$2,069,465 for a feasibility study for Mosier Elementary School.
- Article 24 offered proposed amendments to the Nuisance Bylaw, adding a definition of an ‘unreasonable noise,’ removing a section on property maintenance, and adding a new enforcement mechanism. After discussion and failure to pass modified wording* for the noise definition, or protocols for discarded furniture, the article was tabled. The Bylaw Review Committee will consider changes.

**Any proposed wording modifications to Warrant articles must be submitted in writing to the Moderator for a vote of the Members.*

- Approval of Article 25 to add an enforcement mechanism to our bylaws for bylaw, rules, and regulations violations; and Article 26 to place a lien on property for unpaid municipal charges and fees.
- Approval of Article 27 to allow multifamily residences within the Business A-1 Zoning District.

November 15, 2023 Special Town Meeting actions included:

- Amended the FY24 Operating Budget for an Assistant Principal position to better serve student needs.
- Approval, as amended, of a local room occupancy excise, followed by approval of local Option Community Impact Fees; 100% of any funds received for affordable housing and public infrastructure.
- Approval for the Selectboard to establish a senior tax work-off program effective FY25 for a maximum reduction of the property tax bill of \$2000, with an option those physically unable to do services for the town may someone work in their place.

May 10, 2023 Annual Town Meeting actions included:

- Approval to create a General Bylaw to register and license residential Short-Term Rental Units (like Airbnb), along with an amendment to the zoning bylaw to insert the definition for a Short-Term Rental, a schedule to establish in which districts they may be permitted, and standards for permitting.
- Approval, after spirited discussion, to amend Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and establish districts where and how an additional small living spaces may be permitted on an existing lot, along with new standards and details for permitting.
- Denied a zoning change from Residence A-1 to Business A on parcels at the corner of Rts. 33 and 202.

2026 MASSACHUSETTS STATE PRIMARY and STATE ELECTION (Mid-Terms)

OFFICES SCHEDULED FOR ELECTION	TERM	OFFICE HOLDER (as of 0425)	ELECTED
US Senator in Congress	6 years	Edward Markey	2020
Governor	4 years	Maura Healey	2022
Lieutenant Governor	4 years	Kim Driscoll	2022
Attorney General	4 years	Andrea Campbell	2022
Secretary of the Commonwealth	4 years	William Galvin	2022
Treasurer	4 years	Deborah Goldberg	2022
Auditor	4 years	Diana DiZoglio	2022
US Representative in Congress 1st Congressional District	2 years	Richard Neal	2024
Governor’s Councillor District 8	2 years	Tara Jacobs	2024
State Senator in General Court Hampden, Hampshire, Worcester	2 years	Jacob Oliveira	2024
State Rep in General Court 2nd Hampshire District	2 years	Homar Gómez	2024
District Attorney Northwestern District	4 years	David Sullivan	2022
Register of Probate Hampshire County	6 years	Mark Ames	2024 (partial term)

Statewide Ballot Measures (may be on the State Election ballot)

History, 1919 to 2024: <https://electionstats.state.ma.us/elections/search/date:2024-11-05>

Petition and Ballot Question Types: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/types-of-petitions-and-ballot-questions>

2022 STATE ELECTIONS (Previous Mid-Terms)—South Hadley Results

State Primary Election September 6, 2022

<https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/9900/State-Primary-Results-September-6-2022-PDF>

State Election November 8, 2022

<https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/10121/StateLocal-Election-Results-November-8-2022-PDF>

Statewide Election Data and Results

Search 2024 and preceding years:

<https://electionstats.state.ma.us/elections/search/date:2024-11-05>

Voter Turnout Statistics History:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/research-and-statistics/voter-turnout-statistics.htm>

Early & Mail Voting Stats:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/research-and-statistics/early-voting-statistics.htm>

Board and Committee Appointments

<https://www.southhadley.org/692/Board-Vacancies>

In addition to elected offices, there are a number of local Boards and Committees whose members serve the community as volunteers. The South Hadley Selectboard interviews and appoints resident to open positions every few months. Interview meetings for those who have applied are usually held in February, June, and October.

Appropriations Committee	https://www.southhadley.org/371/Appropriations-Committee
Bike/Walk Committee	http://www.southhadley.org/bikewalk
Board of Registrars *	https://www.southhadley.org/689/Board-of-Registrars
ByLaw Review Committee	https://www.southhadley.org/374/Bylaw-Review-Committee
Capital Planning Committee	https://www.southhadley.org/381/Capital-Planning-Committee
Commission on Disabilities	https://www.southhadley.org/1016/Commission-on-Disabilities
Conservation Commission *	https://www.southhadley.org/299/Conservation-Commission
Council on Aging Board	https://www.southhadley.org/324/Council-on-Aging
Cultural Council *	https://www.southhadley.org/385/Cultural-Council
Historical Commission	https://www.southhadley.org/402/Historical-Commission
Historic District Study Committee	https://www.southhadley.org/871/Historic-District-Study-Committee
Human Rights Commission	https://www.southhadley.org/1374/Human-Rights-Commission
Master Plan Implementation Comm.	https://www.southhadley.org/223/Master-Plan-Implementation-Committee
Planning Board (1 appointed assoc.)	https://www.southhadley.org/864/Planning-Board
Recreation Commission	https://www.southhadley.org/301/Recreation-Commission
Sustainability & Energy Commission	https://www.southhadley.org/533/Sustainability-Energy-Commission
Tree Committee	https://www.southhadley.org/662/Tree-Committee
Trustees of the Firehouse Museum	https://www.southhadley.org/544/Trustees-of-the-Old-Firehouse-Museum
Zoning Board of Appeals *	https://www.southhadley.org/343/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals

** Some Boards have both regular and associate members, and there are special requirements for a few positions.*

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN APPOINTMENT

<https://www.southhadley.org/FormCenter/Selectboard-4/Application-for-Appointment-to-Board-Com-44>

Applicants for Board and Committee appointments must be age 18 and registered to vote in the Town of South Hadley. Submit an online application (at the link above) to describe why you're interested and what experiences you have that may be useful in that role. You may apply for more than one vacant position. Applicants will be invited to come to the Selectboard's next scheduled interview meeting.

Terms and duties vary. For more information, please visit the web pages above for groups you are interested in for information about their meeting schedules and what they do. Consider attending some meetings, either in person or on Zoom, and reading some meeting minutes to learn more about their work:

<https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/>.