

Cities, towns get same amount for early voting

Registrars say process not 'logical'

By Brianna Gurciullo
STAFF WRITER

In about two months, registrars of voters across the state will run early in-person voting for the first time.

Cities and towns — no matter their size — will have up to \$10,500 in grant funding from the state to help defray the costs of offering early voting for the April 2 presidential preference primary.

"There was no differential in big cities versus small towns, so that's what we're working with," Stamford Deputy Democratic Registrar Monica DiCostanzo told the city's Board of Finance.

Stamford isn't alone in questioning the rationale for the uniform funding.

Providing a flat amount to every town "isn't the most logical method of allocating the funds, but it's certainly the easiest," said Fred DeCaro, the Republican registrar of voters in Greenwich.

So why the flat funding?

Stamford state Rep. Matt Blumenthal, D-Stamford, who co-chairs the General Assembly's Government Administration and Elections Committee, said the \$10,500 amount was based on an estimated cost of operating one early voting location.

"We'll be continuing to monitor feedback from municipalities around the state about implementation," Blumenthal said, noting that the legislature will be in session until May this year. "If issues do arise, we'll be prepared to address them."

Early voting will take place March 26, 27, 28 and 30 for the presidential primary, which is being held four weeks sooner than in the past. Municipalities with at least 20,000 residents may designate multiple early-voting sites, but Stamford, for example, plans to only use one location — the Stamford Gov-



Tyler Sizemore/Hearst Connecticut Media

Cities and towns will have up to \$10,500 in state grant funding to help defray the costs of offering early voting in the April 2 presidential primary.

ernment Center.

"We've never done this before," DiCostanzo told the Stamford Board of Finance. "Running one is, we believe, sufficient at this point in time, and obviously we'll take it from there."

Early voting will also be available for the Aug. 13 primary election for other federal and state offices and for the Nov. 5 general election. The Secretary of the State's office is advocating for more election funding from the General Assembly, including an adjustment to Connecticut's biennium budget, said Director of Communications Tara Choze.

Connecticut voters approved a referendum in 2022 to change the state's constitution so lawmakers could institute early in-person voting. The General Assembly then passed legislation allowing early voting to start this April.

Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas announced this month that four Republican candidates — former President Donald Trump, Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis and Ryan Binkley — qualified for the presidential primary. DeSantis dropped out

of the race last week.

President Joe Biden and three other candidates — Dean Phillips, Marianne Williamson and Cenk Uygur — qualified on the Democratic side.

Municipalities can put their \$10,500 grants toward costs such as labor, printing, facilities, voter education, equipment and supplies.

Since it is the first time registrars are overseeing early voting, DeCaro said "there will be inefficiencies and excess costs because we don't know what the volume is and no one wants to be caught flat-footed." For example, registrars will likely print more ballots that they will end up needing, he said.

Early voters will be entered into a state computer system while they are voting to ensure that none of them vote again on Election Day, the Greenwich registrar said. It is a new process for registrars, who must go through training before early voting begins.

Norwalk's Democratic registrar of voters, Stuart Wells, described early voting as "in-person absentee balloting, without the application form."

"The bigger issue is that early voting means a lot of extra work for registrars around the state, without any compensation," Wells said in an email. "Most registrars are part-time employees of their town or city, and being required to work extra days will result in the loss of income from their other jobs."

State law calls for 25 days of early voting this year — four days for the presidential preference primary, seven days for the August primary and 14 days for the general election.

Wells said he believes the additional required work days will lead to "the loss of a lot of experienced registrars" this year and in the future.

"It's not like democracy work is high-paying in the first place," Wells said.

As of this past November's municipal election, Stamford, Norwalk and Greenwich were in the top 10 in terms of municipalities with the most registered voters.

Stamford had 70,977 registered voters — more than any other city or town in Connecticut, according to data on the Secretary of the State's website.

Bridgeport, the only city in the state with a population larger than Stamford, had 69,687 registered voters as of the November election.

Norwalk had 56,009 registered voters as of the most recent election, and Greenwich had 38,905, putting them in fourth and 10th place in the state, respectively.

For each of the last two presidential elections, about 80 percent of Stamford's voters turned out. Greenwich's turnout was slightly over 85 percent in 2016 and 2020, while Norwalk averaged about 76 percent.

DeCaro said it is difficult to predict how many voters may vote in person early.

As part of a study for Connecticut's Secretary of the State's office, the Center for Election Innovation & Research received data from 20 states that offered early in-person voting for the 2016 presidential election. The research center found that the percentage of voters who voted early in person ranged from 4 percent to 66 percent. In half of the states, 20 percent to 50 percent of voters cast ballots in person ahead of time.

Stamford's registrars started the current fiscal year with a \$1.4 million budget, with \$205,000 allocated specifically for the presidential primary. When they presented their office's request to city representatives last April, Corelli and Malloy said they didn't include an amount for early voting because lawmakers were still working out the details of how the state would implement it at that time.

Corelli and Malloy told Hearst Connecticut Media that they are now working on their office's budget for fiscal year 2024-25, which includes the August primaries and the November election. Mayor Caroline Simmons will release a proposed budget for the entire city in March.

Includes prior reporting by staff writer Alex Putterman.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on February 5, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., both virtually and in person in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room, 494 Main Street, Manchester, Connecticut, to hear and consider the following petitions:

HILLIARD MILLS LLC – Inland Wetland Permit (IWP-0054-2023) – Changes to previously approved PZC plans at 640 & 642 Hilliard Street and 370 Adams Street, Industrial and Rural Residential zones, for renovation of buildings 5 & 6 and various site improvements.

AYR WELLNESS – Special Exception (PSE-0057-2023) – Special exception under Art. II, Sec. 24.02.01(n) for a cannabis retail use at 185 Spencer Street, General Business zone.

At this hearing interested persons may be heard, either in person or virtually via Zoom, and written communications received. This meeting will be shown live on Cox Channel 16 and streamed live at <http://www.channel16.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch/?channel=1>. Individuals who wish to speak at or attend the virtual meeting must complete a Request to Attend Virtually form, available at <https://manct.us/meeting>, by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. These individuals will need to join the Zoom meeting and will be allowed to speak when directed by the Chairman. Zoom meeting information will be sent to individuals who complete a Request to Attend Virtually form. Only individuals who complete a Request to Attend Virtually form will be allowed to join the Zoom meeting. A physical location and electronic equipment will be provided for the public to use if a written request is received at least 24 hours in advance, via email to pzccomments@manchesterct.gov, or by mail to the Planning Department, 494 Main Street, P.O. Box 191, Manchester, CT 06045-0191.

Individuals may also submit comments in writing to the Planning and Economic Development Department via email to pzccomments@manchesterct.gov, or by mail to the Planning Department, 494 Main Street, P.O. Box 191, Manchester, CT 06045-0191. All written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be presented and recorded as part of the hearing.

A copy of this petition is in the Planning and Economic Development Department, Lincoln Center Building, 494 Main Street, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Information about this application will be available online at <https://Manchesterct.gov/pzc> by the Friday before the hearing.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Eric Prause, Chair

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

The Enfield Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their regular meeting on Thursday February 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT concerning the following:

PH# 3088ZA - Application to amend the Zoning Regulations to allow the use of Elderly Housing in HR-33 Zone under Table 4.20 and add new subsection under Section 4.40.3- Housing for the Elderly; Felician Sisters of North America Real Estate Trust, Applicant;

PUBLIC NOTICES

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
TOWN OF SOMERS, CONNECTICUT**

Pursuant to Public Act 95-283, the Somers Board of Assessment Appeals will meet for the purpose of hearing Appeals on the October 1, 2023 Grand List. The Board will meet on the following dates:

March 6, 2024 at 5:00 pm in the Assessor's Office to review appeals
March 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the lower conference room
March 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the lower conference room (if needed)

The application for appeal is available in the Assessor's Office or on the Town of Somers website and must be completed and returned to our office by February 20, 2024. Applicants will be notified of the date and time of their appointment. Please bring any documentation to support your appeal to your scheduled hearing appointment. Walk-ins will not be permitted.

Dated at Somers, CT this 25th day of January, 2024.

Francis W. Devlin, Jr., Chairman
Board of Assessment Appeals
Town of Somers

LIQUOR PERMITS

LIQUOR PERMIT

NOTICE of Application
This is to give notice that I, Hui Rong Chen, 101 Hideaway Lane, Hamden, CT 06518
Have filed an application placarded 01/29/2024 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 235 QUEEN ST STE 5 SOUTHINGTON CT 06489-1915
The business will be owned by: New Noble Japanese Steakhouse Inc.
Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment
Objections must be filed by: 03-11-2024 Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/remonstrance> for more information
NEW NOBLE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE INC.

**Great Ads! Great Results!
Call 203-333-4151**

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

LJPFLV EQIR SNJV: SNFLF JV

QI NTLA. RF VNKYY HFS

SNFLF VIOF XKA. — K.K.

ABSOLUTELY FREE

KODAK 5200 Carousel slide projector. Stack loader, projector screen, Etc. Free items. 860-989-2551

HEATING AND FIREWOOD

Firewood Seasoned dry, Oak and Hardwood Good condition for home heating 1/2 cord. \$90 860-796-6132

FIREWOOD: \$390.
2 cords delivered Seasoned 860-228-2003

For Sale: Firewood Cord, split, seasoned. \$145 U/P/U 860-515-9537

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Solid oak Coffee and Sofa table Like New: Sofa Table: 48wx24dx28h; coffee table: 52wx17dx16h \$200 each OBO 2036614462

FRIDGIAIR COUNTERTOP

Microwave, 1100w/1.6 cubic ft new-never been opened box. \$150, 860-837-4248

Amish made Oak desk & hutch like new. Measurements: Desk: 44Lx25dx30h; Hutch: 44Lx12dx26h \$500 OBO 2036614462

SONMAN CARRIER for three bicycles using trailer hitch. Key Locks included. \$ 100. 860-995-0702

Honda Generator EU7000i Electric start, fuel injection, used twice, like new, \$4500 860-324-7566

COFFEE BEAN SACKS 2.5ft. x3 nice design made of burlap material, \$7/ea. 860-649-8821

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

SONMAN CARRIER for three bicycles using trailer hitch. Key Locks included. \$ 100 860-995-0702

SNOW BLOWER-TORO 8HP, 26" cut, elect. start, runs great, moving-\$450 OBO; 860-508-6980

Battery and electric powered automatic sub pump \$300. Call Lou 860-208-5170

MERCH FOR

SPACE bronze fin never open W, 8.5in D, \$60, 860-1

Brother Tj Exceller Amazon w But 1 w 860-64

2 Norman bells, in bc items, \$11 1334

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 38 Volcanic rock
1 Sprees
5 Signs a lease
10 Gumbo vegetable
11 Wards off
13 African roarer
14 Fine point
- DOWN** 39 Suit to —
40 Did kitchen work
41 Walkers, on signs
15 Car price reducer
17 "— little teapot ..."
18 Softball game setting
19 Chiding sound
20 Battleship letters
21 Foot part
22 Baling need

- 1 Sudden shocks
2 Director Kurosawa
3 Pun response
4 Saharan hill
5 Hams' needs
6 News item
7 Tennis need

	2	3
10		
13		
15		
18		
22	23	24
26		
28		
33		
35		

- 25 Louvre location
26 Ready to pick
27 Supply with staff
28 Hoppy pint, for short
29 Balloon ballast
33 Signing need
34 Vienna's nation