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Annual Report of the Board of Registrars

The Town of Somerset Board of Registrars hereby report that residents eligible to vote in Elections and at Town Meetings in the year 2022 as of December 31, was 13,915. In the year 2022, there were three total elections, the Annual Town Election held on April 11, the State Primary Election held on September 6, and the State Election held on November 8. The Board of Registrars works closely with the Office of the Town Clerk to verify signatures on nomination papers and initiative petitions throughout the year. All election results were certified by the Board and reported to the State by the Town Clerk. In accordance with the Votes Act of 2022, in person early voting for the State Primary and State Election was conducted at the Town Office Building. Early vote by mail was also offered by the mandates of the Act and will be in place for all State Elections moving forward. The Votes Act also mandates early voting by mail for local elections unless the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing to opt out. Early in person voting for local elections is optional and a recommendation must be made to the Board of Selectmen by at least 2 registrars and then voted on by the Selectmen.

The total number of registered voters and voter turnout was as follows:

Annual Town Election – April 11, 2022

Registered Voters: 13,827

Voter Turnout: 2,565 (18%)

State Primary Election – September 6, 2022

Registered Voters: 13,918

Voter Turnout: 3,222 (23%)

State Election – November 8, 2022

Registered Voters: 14,038

Voter Turnout: 7,741 (55%)

Following the Annual Town Census taken during the month of January, the Town's population was 17,452. Voter registration sessions were held as required by Massachusetts General Laws prior to Elections and Town Meetings. We would like to remind residents and voters that the On Line Voter Registration is allowed by the Secretary of State's office, as well as automatic voter registration upon visiting any State Agency inclusive of the Registry of Motor vehicles. The Town Clerk's office has provided a locked and secured drop box for depositing and election related materials outside of the Town Office Building, as required by amendments to the Massachusetts Election Laws.

The following Town Meetings were held during the year 2022:

Special Town Meeting – February 14, 2022
Annual Town Meeting – May 16, 2022
Special Town Meeting – May 16, 2022
Special Town Meetings – August 22, 2022
Special Town Meeting – October 17, 2022

As required by MGL, all election results and actions taken at Annual and Special Town Meetings were permanently recorded in the Office of the Town Clerk.

The Board would like to remind residents that election information including results, campaign finance reporting, and upcoming elections is available on the Town's website. The Board of Registrars works in conjunction with the Office of the Town Clerk to comply with Massachusetts General Laws related to elections and voter registrations.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Vale-Turner (R)
Barry Sullivan (D)
Joseph R. Costa (R)
Dolores Bence, Clerk (D)

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