



**TOWN OF HANOVER**  
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*Catherine Harder-Bernier*  
*Town Clerk*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2023

Town Clerk Catherine Harder-Bernier, after consultation with members of her election staff and the State Elections Division, today offered the following information for voters.

“Voters who are new to the voting process in Massachusetts, or even long-time Hanover residents who vote regularly, may be surprised when election workers who are friends or neighbors ask for their street address and full name prior to giving them a ballot. Voters are therefore advised that it is actually state law that requires poll workers to ask for everyone’s street address and name, said Harder-Bernier.”

According to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 54, Section 76, “Each voter desiring to vote at a polling place shall give his name and, if requested, his residence to one of the officers at the entrance to the space within the guard rail, who shall thereupon distinctly announce the same. If such name is found on the voting list, the election officer shall check and repeat the name and shall admit the voter to the space enclosed by the guard rail and...such voter shall be given one ballot.”

“In Hanover we try very hard to make our election experience user-friendly and welcoming. Voting is an important cornerstone of our democracy, but let’s be honest, it is also an enjoyable social experience. Please know that any formalities that are imposed upon the voter are for good reason, including state laws, which must be followed. We try to balance the competing interests and look forward to warmly greeting everyone on Election Day,” said Harder-Bernier. “My staff appreciates your understanding in the meantime!”, she added.

If you have further questions or need more information about the voting process, don’t hesitate to contact Town Clerk Catherine Harder-Bernier at (781) 826-5000, x1079 or [catherine.harderbernier@hanover-ma.gov](mailto:catherine.harderbernier@hanover-ma.gov).

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