

PRIMARY ELECTIONS 2012

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 is the New Hampshire primary election – the first in the nation. Andover's polls in the Andover Elementary/Middle School will be open from 8 AM to 7 PM.

Registered voters with a party affiliation can vote in their party's primary. Unaffiliated voters can select one of the two parties' ballots on which to cast their vote. People who are not registered voters can register at the polls on January 10 and vote after registering.

Democratic Ballot

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE:	
Randall Terry	Pugwash, West Virginia
Aldous C. Tyler	Wabash, Wisconsin
John Wolfe, Jr.	Chattanooga, Tennessee
Ed Cowan	Morristown, Vermont
Bob Ely	Lee-Tweed, Alaska
Craig "Tax Freeze" Freis	Lee-Eliot, California
Bob Greene	Mountain View, California
John D. Haywood	Durham, North Carolina
Robert B. Jordan	Garden Grove, California
Barack Obama	Chicago, Illinois
Cornelius Edward O'Connor	West Palm Beach, Florida
Edward T. O'Donnell, Jr.	Wilmington, Delaware
Darcy G. Richardson	Jacksonville, Florida
Vermin Supreme	Portland, Massachusetts

Republican Ballot

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE:	
Joe Story	Jacksonville, Florida
Linden Swift	Portland, Maine
James A. Vestermark	Taylor Mill, Kentucky
Vern Wuensche	Houston, Texas
Michele Bachmann	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bear Betzler	Providence, Pennsylvania
Timothy Brewer	Cleveland, Ohio
Herman Cain	McDonough, Georgia
Mark Callahan	Evansville, Oregon
Hugh Cort	Birmingham, Alabama
Randy Crow	Watauga, North Carolina
L. John Davis, Jr.	Grand Junction, Colorado
Keith Drummond	Fort Worth, Texas
Newt Gingrich	Wichita, Florida
Stewart J. Greenleaf	Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania
Christopher V. Hill	Prosser, Kentucky
Jon Huntsman	Salt Lake City, Utah
Gary Johnson	Centerville, New Mexico
Fred Karger	Laguna Beach, California
Jeff Lawman	Orry, New Hampshire
Benjamin Linn	Midvale, New Hampshire
Andy Martin	Chicago, Illinois
Michael J. Meehan	St. Louis, Missouri
Ron Paul	Lake Jackson, Texas
Rick Perry	Austin, Texas
Joe Robinson	Naugatuck, Massachusetts
Buddy Roemer	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Mitt Romney	Berkshires, Massachusetts
Kevin Robash	Wichita, Kansas
Rick Santorum	Grand Falls, Virginia

Wanted: Candidates For Town Boards & Committees

By Dennis Fenton
Andover Board of Selectmen (retired)

Dennis Fenton, a long-time member of the Board of Selectmen, wrote these words in 2009 when he decided to retire from the Board. With his permission, we're re-running this to encourage people to consider becoming a candidate.

First, the fact that you are busy is not a legitimate excuse! Everyone can use that one, but it's the town's well-being that is at stake, so we all have to find time to do the things that are really important to us.

What background should you have to run for a Town office? There's no one right answer to that question. George Upton, for example, took an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Selectman before the moving van was completely unloaded when he came to Andover. He went on to win re-election. George only had on-the-job training, which is the hard way.

Other Town officers have taken different paths. All these folks had one thing in common as a part of the community – they wanted to give something back to Andover.

A Good Candidate

What makes a good candidate? The first item on any candidate's agenda should be what is good for the majority. When a new problem arises, the solution is not the easy way out, but what serves our town the best.

As a member of a Town board or

committee, you are one of the overseers of our town whose job it is to manage the town's resources and problems. When a vote is taken, be supportive even if you might like something a little different.

Your main charge is to have needed services provided to the town at a reasonable cost. An important tool available to you in pursuit of that goal is the Budget Committee. Their job is to review all budgets in town and present the budget to be voted on at Town Meeting, School District Meeting, and the meetings of the various precincts.

The Budget Committee takes the prejudice out of an individual budget as they look at the big picture. It is important that we all, boards and citizens, listen very closely to the story they tell each year as they attempt to keep our tax rate at a manageable level.

Share Your Talents

To all you good folks out there: You are not too busy to make a commitment to share your many talents. Being a member of a Town board or committee is not a thankless job. People appreciate your willingness to serve, and you will be surprised how many times you are told this.

I don't know who will sign up, but you are out there. This is for your town. It is all worthwhile. Good luck!

The filing dates for candidates to file with the Town Clerk are Wednesday, January 25, through Friday, February 3,



Alternatives from page 1

(December 2011) and pay \$300 a month toward your 2012 tax bill, then when the 2012 tax bill arrives in your mailbox in November 2012, its bottom line would be just the difference between the \$3,600 you'd paid in over the course of the year (12 months x \$300 per month) and the actual amount of your 2012 tax bill.

If taxes go up in 2012, you'd owe just the difference between your 2011 bill and your 2012 bill by December 1.

If taxes go down in 2012, you could either let your overpayment "ride" to apply to your 2013 tax bill, or you could ask the Tax Collector to write you a check for the overpayment.

Monthly payments of \$300 per month are just an example, of course. You could plan your payments to only prepay about half of your annual tax bill, if that works better for you. In fact, you could pick any amount that works for you.

And it doesn't have to be monthly payments. Weekly, quarterly, bi-monthly, semi-annually – it's entirely up to you. And if you get halfway through the year and have to stop prepaying, or change the prepayment amount, no problem! You're not locked into anything, and every dollar you have pre-paid still "counts."

Automatic Payments

Prepayments aren't handled any dif-

ferently by our office than your regular annual tax bill (except there's no yellow tax bill to bring with you or send with your check). Just write the Map, Lot, and Sub numbers on your check, and we'll take care of the rest.

With many banks now offering free online banking and free online bill payment, some Andover taxpayers are not only making prepayments, but are doing so without bothering to write checks – they've simply set up automatic payments on whatever schedule they like, and the bank takes care of the rest.

Easier On You, Easier On Taxes

If you choose to send prepayments, it will not just make things easier for you next November. It will also help keep down next year's tax bills, because every dollar you send during the year helps reduce the need for the Town to borrow money in anticipation of the year-end tax receipts. Borrowing costs money, of course, so the less we have to borrow, the better.

If easing the tax bill scramble next year appeals to you, I hope some of the ideas above are helpful. Just keep in mind – this isn't a "program," there's nothing to sign-up for, nobody to notify, no commitments to make. You're in control – you set the amount, you set the schedule, and you decide whether to keep to the schedule or not. If that sounds good to you, now would be a great time to give it a try!



Just Listed!

Andover



- ◆ Near Proctor Academy
- ◆ 3 Bedrooms, 2 ½ Baths
- ◆ Built in 2000
- ◆ Town Water
- ◆ Move In Condition



\$ 259,000



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