# Registrars of Voters

## Rebecca Wonneberger

Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters are Election Administrators and are responsible for:

- Upholding Connecticut State Laws regarding the election and voter registration process, conducting all elections and referenda, training election workers,
- Keeping voters informed through the news and the town's website,
- Maintaining and programming ballots and vote tabulators
- Maintaining voter records. and registering voters
- Staying current on legislative changes regarding voting and voter registration. We are also required to take an 8-class certification course and pass a final exam to become Certified Registrars. There are currently about 6,980 active voters in East Haddam, which is an increase of about 17% (1200 voters) since 2015.
- On average the Registrars work 15 hours per week learning new State and Federal laws, maintaining voter lists, completing continuing education credits, attending 2 multi-day conferences per year, planning elections and educating staff. Additionally, Registrars are required to attend monthly ROVAC (Registrar of Voters Association of CT) meetings, and monthly meetings with the Secretary of State's office.
- Registrars are legally liable for any irregularities involving voter registration and/ an election or referendum, regardless of their involvement.
- Based on these responsibilities, we are requesting a base salary of $21,525 each and the ability to be paid hourly as needed for 18-hour Election Days, and 9-13 hour Early Voting Days. To appropriately compensate registrars for the work and legal responsibilities, we are requesting an additional $17,000 be added to the salary budget to accommodate these things. Registrars do not get insurance or pension benefits from the town of East Haddam.

| Position | Status | Budgeted Hours | Elected/Union/Non-Union |
|---|---|---|---|
| Registrars (2) | Elected | n/a | Elected |
| Deputy Registrars (2), Moderators, | | | |
| Election Workers | Hourly | 1,400 to 2,200 per year, as needed | |

# Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Major Service Level Accomplishments

In FY25/26 we administered a Municipal Election with 14 days of Early Voting, and 3 Referendums, processed an average of 35 changes (additions, removals, and updates) each week to our voter registration files, completed the annual Canvass of voters, and the ERIC cross-checking of voter registrations in other states to avoid duplicates, attended 2 multi-day ROVAC conferences, reorganized our storage room to accommodate 7 new Vote tabulators and associated equipment. Trained poll workers and moderators on the equipment and learned about it ourselves. Our workload has increased substantially over the past 2 years. We are hoping that it will stabilize going forward. It is hard to predict that though.

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Major Service Level Accomplishments & Goals

- To conduct referendums as needed - if the budget fails in May, 2026, we will conduct others as needed until it passes, and other referendums as needed.
- To conduct a State primary, if needed, on 8/11/2026 with 7 days (80 hrs) of Early Voting

- To conduct a State election on November 3, 2026, with 14 days  (134 hrs) of Early Voting.  At least one Registrar is required to be present during all Early Voting hours, plus a moderator, and 2 poll workers, a minimum of 4 people. We must also accommodate Curbside voting, which requires 2 poll workers of different parties. At the end of each Early Voting day, we must  reconcile who voted that day with the Voter Registration System that issues the ballots. Early voting ballots are stored in dated, sealed envelopes, with their daily reports, in a locked fireproof cabinet in the Registrars' office at the end of the day. They are transferred to the town clerks vault, checked in, and stored in a locked ballot box until being processed on Election Day.
- To supervise Absentee voting at Chestelm for the State election
- To process weekly voter registrations and address changes in the online DMV and voter registration systems. Register voters in person in the Registrar's Office, and conduct several special in person voter registration sessions in the Registrars office. Have a special voter registration session at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in the spring of 2026.
- Perform the annual canvass of voters in January 2026
- Complete ERIC cross-checking of voter registrations to ensure accuracy of voter rolls and prevent duplication of registrations in other states.
- Facilitate ongoing training for moderators, assistant registrars, and poll workers.
- Prepare the Annual Budget, and the Annual Town Report
- Write quarterly articles for East Haddam Events Magazine
- Respond to FOIA requests for Voter lists and "Who voted" information.
- Update Emergency Plan for Voting and Early voting as required by the Secretary of the State.
- Attend Spring and Fall multi-day ROVAC conferences, which include the required annual training hours for Registrars
- Attend monthly county ROVAC meetings in person and monthly Zoom meetings with the Secretary of the State to stay current on legislative changes and Secretary of State directives.
- To train all staff to use the new Total Vote Voter Registration system and the new DS300 Vote Tabulators.

## Additional Budget Information FY 2026-2027

The salary/pay increases are due to the extra time needed to organize and staff Early Voting, and to handle the additional work required by the new vote tabulators. The other increases are due to the extra cost of maintaining 7 tabulators instead of 3 and meeting other statutory requirements that we do not control.

# Expenditures by Expense Type FY2026-2027

**Costs for Early Voting & Elections – we plan on at least 4 Voting Events/year.**

**FY25/26 -** 4 Voting Events:

7/22/2025 Budget Referendum #2, passed, 9/16/2025 Referendum (3 questions), passed

11/4/2025 Municipal Election with 14 days of Early Voting, May 2026 Budget Referendum

**Early Voting 14 days (November)**

2 checkers for 12 days @ 9 hrs/day = 216 hrs x 16.94 = $3659.04

2 checkers for 2 days @ 12 hrs/day = 48 hrs x 16.94 = $ 813.12

2 Registrars for 12 days @ 9 hrs/day = 216 hrs x 25 = $5400.00

2 Registrars for 2 days @ 13 hrs/day = 52 hrs x 25 = $1300.00

**Early Voting staff costs $11,172.16**

**Election Day (November)**

2 moderators @ 22 hrs (16 + 6) = 44 hrs x 22.45 = $ 987.80

4 Registrars @22 hrs (16 + 6) = 88 hrs x 25 = $2,200.00

6 checkers @16 hrs = 96 hrs x 16.94 $1,626.24

4 AB, EV, SDR ballot counters @ 4 hrs = 16 hrs x 16.94 $ 271.04

3 floaters 16 hrs x 16.94 $ 271.04

2 Tabulator Tenders 16 hrs = 32 hrs x 16.94 $ 542.08

1 Ballot Clerk 15 hrs x 16.94 $ 254.10

**Election Day staff costs $ 6,152.30**

**Early Voting staff costs $11,172.16**

**Supervised AB Voting Chestelm (4 x 4hrs x 25) $ 400.00**

**Total November Election Staffing costs $17,724.46**

**Early Voting 7 days (Primary)**

2 checkers for 5 days @ 9 hrs/day = 90 hrs x 16.94 = $1,524.60

2 checkers for 2 days @ 12 hrs/day = 48 hrs x 16.94 = $ 813.12

1 Registrar for 5 days @ 9 hrs/day = 45 hrs x 25 = $1,125.00

1 Registrar for 2 days @ 13 hrs/day = 26 hrs x 25 = $ 650.00

**Early Voting staff costs $4,112.72**

**Primary Day**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 moderator @ 22 hrs (16 + 6) = 22 hrs x 22.45 = | $ 493.90 |
| 2 Registrars @22 hrs (16 + 6) = 44 hrs x 25 = | $1,100.00 |
| 4 checkers @16 hrs = 64 hrs x 16.94 | $1,084.16 |
| 1 floater 8 hrs x 16.94 | $ 135.52 |
| 1 Tabulator Tender 16 hrs x 16.94 | $ 271.04 |
| 1 Ballot Clerk 15 hrs x 16.94 | $ 254.10 |
| **Primary Day Staffing costs** | **$2,844.82** |
| **Early Voting staff costs** | **$4,112.72** |
| **Total Primary Election Staffing Costs** | **$6,957.54** |

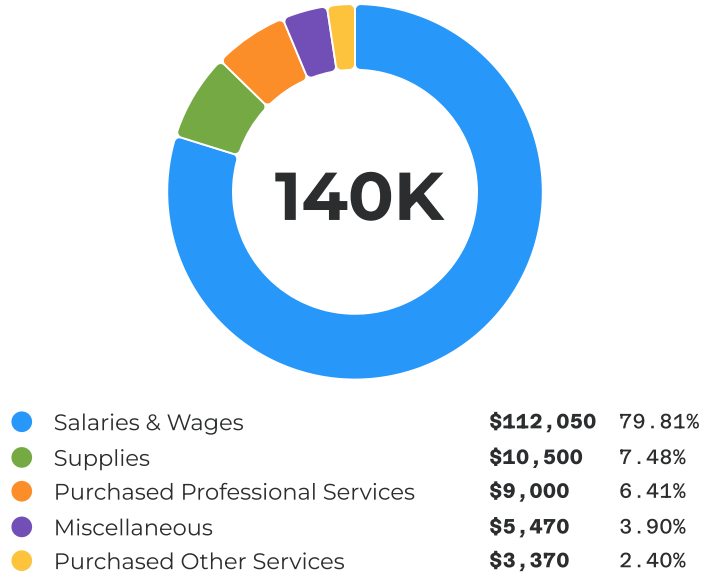
**Referendum Costs (no Early Voting)**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 moderator @ 22 hrs (16 + 6) = 22 hrs x 22.45 = | $ 493.90 |
| 2 Registrars @22 hrs (16 + 6) = 44 hrs x 25 = | $1,100.00 |
| 4 checkers @16 hrs = 64 hrs x 16.94 | $1,084.16 |
| 1 floater 8 hrs x 16.94 | $ 135.52 |
| 1 Tabulator Tender 16 hrs x 16.94 | $ 271.04 |
| 1 Ballot Clerk 15 hrs x 16.94 | $ 254.10 |
| **Referendum Staffing costs** | **$2,844.82** |

# Registrars of Voters Financials

## Expenditures by Object Summary

### FY27 Expenditures by Object Summary




### Expenditures by Object Summary

| Category | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Actual | FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget | FY 2027 Budgeted | FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted ($ Change) | FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted (% Change) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Salaries & Wages** | | | | | | |
| REGULAR EMPLOYEES | - | - | - | $17,000.00 | $17,000.00 | - |
| PART TIME/SEASONAL EMPLOYEES | $23,192.59 | $23,974.28 | $41,763.00 | $52,000.00 | $10,237.00 | 24.51% |
| ELECTED OFFICIALS | $17,479.72 | $21,935.17 | $42,000.00 | $43,050.00 | $1,050.00 | 2.50% |
| Registrars of Voters | - | - | $42,000.00 | $43,050.00 | $1,050.00 | 2.50% |
| **Total Salaries & Wages** | $40,672.31 | $45,909.45 | $83,763.00 | $112,050.00 | $28,287.00 | 33.77% |
| **Purchased Professional Services** | | | | | | |
| VOTING MACHINE SETUP | $4,897.30 | $3,291.00 | $6,805.00 | $9,000.00 | $2,195.00 | 32.26% |
| **Total Purchased Professional Services** | $4,897.30 | $3,291.00 | $6,805.00 | $9,000.00 | $2,195.00 | 32.26% |
| **Purchased Other Services** | | | | | | |
| POSTAGE (ENVELOPES) | $775.47 | $856.37 | $1,620.00 | $1,620.00 | - | 0.00% |
| ADVERTISING/LEGAL NOTICES | $1,046.87 | $336.00 | $1,500.00 | $1,750.00 | $250.00 | 16.67% |
| **Total Purchased Other Services** | $1,822.34 | $1,192.37 | $3,120.00 | $3,370.00 | $250.00 | 8.01% |
| **Supplies** | | | | | | |
| SUPPLIES | $828.86 | $502.84 | $1,000.00 | $1,000.00 | - | 0.00% |
| OTHER SUPPLIES | $8,702.10 | $6,320.70 | $9,500.00 | $9,500.00 | - | 0.00% |

| Category | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Actual | FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget | FY 2027 Budgeted | FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted ($ Change) | FY 2026 Approved 2025-2026 Budget vs. FY 2027 Budgeted (% Change) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Supplies** | $9,530.96 | $6,823.54 | $10,500.00 | $10,500.00 | - | 0.00% |
| **Miscellaneous** | | | | | | |
| DUES AND FEES | $170.00 | $270.00 | $1,000.00 | $1,800.00 | $800.00 | 80.00% |
| CONFERENCE | $1,355.90 | $3,002.90 | $1,500.00 | $3,670.00 | $2,170.00 | 144.67% |
| **Total Miscellaneous** | $1,525.90 | $3,272.90 | $2,500.00 | $5,470.00 | $2,970.00 | 118.80% |
| **Travel Reimbursement** | | | | | | |
| TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT | - | $206.50 | - | - | - | 0.00% |
| **Total Travel Reimbursement** | - | $206.50 | - | - | - | 0.00% |
| **Total Expenditures** | **$58,448.81** | **$60,695.76** | **$106,688.00** | **$140,390.00** | **$33,702.00** | **31.59%** |