



Abington Town Clerk looks forward to good turnout in Nov. 2 election

By **Mikaela Slaney**
Wicked Local Abington

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Geoff Diehl and one other person recommend this. [Undo](#)



Abington — During the state election on Tuesday, Nov. 2, Abington voters will help make some big decisions, including who will be the next state representative of Plymouth's 7th District, a race for U.S. Congress and a number of other county and statewide races as well as four ballot questions.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Town Clerk Linda Adams said she expects a solid turnout at the election.

"Absentees are running pretty strongly so it should be a pretty good turnout," Adams said.

In the race for a seat as State Rep. of the 7th Plymouth District, which includes Abington, East Bridgewater and Whitman, the candidates are incumbent Democrat Allen McCarthy of East Bridgewater and Republican Geoff Diehl, of Whitman. There is no independent candidate.

McCarthy, 40, has held the 7th Plymouth District seat for four years. He is married with two children and is a general law attorney.

McCarthy's father is former Massachusetts state representative and senator, Robert McCarthy. McCarthy is a graduate of East Bridgewater High School, Boston College, and Boston College Law School, and served as an assistant district attorney and civil litigation attorney for many years before his election in November of 2006.

Diehl, 41, is married with two children. He works as an account executive for a New Bedford sign company and co-owns a dance studio in Hanson. Geoff Diehl was born in Bethlehem, PA, to parents who taught him the value of hard work, education and honesty. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout by the age of 16, graduated from Lehigh University with a double major, worked in advertising and television.

"We've had sign holdings every day and we're planning to have them every day from now until Election Day and the enthusiasm is showing from each thumbs up from cars that pass by, that's for sure," Diehl said Tuesday night.

If elected as state representative, the first bill he plans to introduce would make local aid a fully fully-funded mandate, Diehl said.

Currently it's "discretionary spending," Diehl added, "Which is what causes police, firemen and teachers to have to wonder about their jobs every year."

If elected, Diehl said he plans to continue using his current campaigning address in Whitman, 529 Washington St.

"I plan to make my campaign office a district office so the people of the district can come bring their concerns to me and I can work as a full-time legislator to represent the true needs of the towns," Diehl said.

Meanwhile, McCarthy said he too has been out campaigning and speaking with voters.

"It's been very busy and hectic but we've had a great response, I think it's been an active time," McCarthy said. "We've been all over the place, doing visibility, we're getting the mail pieces out there, it's crazy and hectic but we're one week away and we feel pretty good,"

As state representative, McCarthy said his most important role is promoting economic development in his towns, and creating jobs. He said he is pushing forward a tax credit for film production at South Field, and is inviting members of the film industry to tour the area where studios may be built

He stressed fighting for local aid has also been a priority for him.

"Obviously it's been very difficult during this recession that we're in, fighting for local aid, but we try to do our best in maintaining funding for the town but obviously it's been very difficult," he said.

Recently, during the campaigning process, McCarthy said republican supporters have sent out a negative piece of mail that misrepresents him.

"I'm not naïve to it, I understand it," McCarthy said. "It shouldn't be about that it should be about the issues, but other than that it's been great campaigning."

Diehl said he is aware of negative mail pertaining to McCarthy, though he denied involvement in its release.

"The Mass GOP had sent out something about his voting record, and that is the extent of what I know," Diehl said.

The incumbent team of Democrats Gov. Deval Patrick and Lt. Gov. Tim Murray, is being challenged by Republican Charlie Baker and Richard Tisei,

Independent Tim Cahill, who will run without a running mate, and Green/Rainbow party candidates Jill Stein and Rick Purcell.

In the race for congress, 10th Congressional District, candidates include Democrat William Keating, Republican Jeff Perry, and Independents Maryann Lewis, James Sheets, and Joe van Nes.

Keating is the current Norfolk County District Attorney, Perry is a State Rep. in East Sandwich, Lewis, a Scituate resident, previously served as State Rep. for the 11th Norfolk District, and also served as assistant District Attorney in Suffolk County. James Sheets served on the Quincy City Council for 11 years, state rep. for two terms and Mayor of Quincy for 12 years. Joe Van Nes has not served as an elected official.

Ballot questions

Also on the ballot this week, voters will be asked to weigh in on four ballot questions.

Question 1 will ask voters whether to remove the sales tax on alcoholic beverages, as of Jan. 1, 2011. If voters approve the question, the state sales tax on alcohol would be removed. A no vote would mean no change would take place.

Question 2 asks voters whether to repeal Chapter 40B, the state's affordable housing law. The law allows qualified companies to purchase land within a town and build government-subsidized housing, which includes low to moderate income units. Voting 'yes' would repeal the law, and 'no,' would cause it to remain in place.

Question 3 asks voters to decide whether to reduce the current state sales and use tax rates from 6.25 percent to 3 percent, as of Jan. 1, 2011. A 'yes' vote would reduce the rates to 3 percent, and a 'no' vote would leave the rates at 6.25 percent.

Question 4 asks voters whether a charter study commission should be created to study the present government structure of Plymouth County, and to consider and make findings concerning the form of government and make recommendations there on. If voted yes, a committee will be formed to study the current government structure of Plymouth County who will give suggestions, if any changes need to be made. If voted no, there will be no committee formed and government structure will remain the same.

Plymouth County races

The following are the races for positions within Plymouth County.

In the race for Plymouth County District Attorney, Timothy Cruz is the incumbent. A Republican, Cruz is running for reelection against John Shea, a Democrat.

Republican Joseph McDonald Jr. is running unopposed for Plymouth County Sheriff.

For county commission, Democrat Timothy McMullen is running against Republican Sandra Wright.

For the Plymouth county charter commission, Caitlin Cavanaugh and Richard Flynn are both running.

Additional statewide races include the following.

Democrat Martha Coakley is running for reelection as attorney general, and her opposition is Republican James McKenna.

In the Secretary of State race, incumbent Democrat William Francis Galvin is being opposed by Republican William Campbell, and James Henderson, an unenrolled candidate.

Running for state treasurer are Democrat Steven Grossman and Republican Karyn Polito. The current treasurer, Tim Cahill, is running as an Independent for governor.

There are three candidates in the state auditor's race, Democrat Suzanne Bump, Republican candidate Mary Connaughton, and Green/Rainbow candidate Nathanael Alexander Fortune.

Democrat Christopher Iannella is running for reelection as councillor and Republican Jacquolyn Payne-Thompson is running against him.

Democrat Thomas Kennedy is up for reelection and is running unopposed for senator in general court.

Reporter Kelly Anne Clinton Contributed to this article.

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