



TOWN OF BELMONT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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ELLEN O'BRIEN CUSHMAN
TOWN CLERK

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April 11, 2025

To : Mark Paolillo, Candidate for Moderator and Recount Petitioner representing
the Petitioners
Michael Crowley, Candidate for Moderator

I herein notify you that the Board of Registrars of the Town of Belmont has ordered a Recount of Belmont Precincts 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 for the office of Moderator at the April 1, 2025 Town Election. The recount has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 1 PM in Conference Room #2 of Belmont Town Hall, located at 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA, and continuing on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 9 AM at the Auditorium of Belmont Town Hall, located at 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA.

April 16th – Ballot Blocking

The recount will begin with ballot blocking on April 16th. The ballots, which are currently stored in a secure location, will be delivered to a member of the Board of Registrars in said Conference Room 2. That member will witness the unsealing of the containers and the removal of the ballots for the purpose of separating all of the voted ballots into groups of 50 ("blocks"). During the voted ballot blocking process, no votes will be counted or tallied, nor ballots examined for votes; the ballots will simply be counted into blocks of 50, assigned a Block Number for the appropriate Precinct, and be placed in blocks back into secured containers and affixed with numbered locks. You, along with your counsel if desired, are welcome to observe this process; please notify me if you intend to attend. Members of the public may also observe the blocking from behind a guardrail. When the blocking is complete, the recount will then be in recess until April 17th, when it will resume in the Auditorium at 9 AM for the recounting of the votes.

April 17th – Tallying

On April 17th, we will conduct the actual recounting of the votes. In accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 54, section 135, you, Moderator Candidates Michael Crowley and Mark Paolillo, have the right to be present and to witness the recount, each accompanied by counsel, if desired. Additionally, you may also be represented by "agents," appointed by you or counsel in writing, sufficient in number to provide one agent for each officer or clerk counting or checking ballots. You, your counsel, and properly

designated agents shall have the right to observe and inspect ballots, tally sheets and other papers used in the recount and to watch every individual act performed in connection therewith.

The Town of Belmont plans to have 17 teams of two people—one reading and one recording votes cast—in addition to one Tally Clerk and four to six Ballot Runners present. Therefore, each candidate may have up to **35** (total # of people which is the number of reading/recording teams x 2, plus an observer for the Tally Clerk) agents present and participating in the recount proceedings at any one time. You may submit a list with more than 35 names if you have agents that may not be able to participate in the entire proceeding, though agents may only replace each other in between the counting of precincts and in a manner that complies with the direction of election workers. In order to facilitate the timely commencement of the recount, please provide a list of the names of your agents, in writing, no later than 9 AM, April 16, 2025.

In order to assure an orderly recount, the following rules will be in effect:

- The only people who will be allowed to handle ballots and other election materials are recount workers and the members of the Board of Registrars. While agents may ask for a closer look, they may not touch the ballots or other election materials.
- Disorderly conduct and/or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Anyone creating a disturbance shall be warned once, then ejected and not allowed to return.
- Agents must be silent to allow recount workers to count ballots without distraction. However, Agents may challenge a decision of the recount workers as to how to count a particular ballot by raising a hand and stating “I object” or a similar statement. At that time, the tallying at that table must pause, and both candidates and their counsel (if present) will convene at that table. If the candidates can agree on a determination for the ballot, that determination will be recorded, and tallying will continue. Otherwise, a Ballot Runner will take the ballot which is the subject of objection to the Board of Registrars for their final determination.
- Only you or your attorney may present arguments to the Board of Registrars regarding ballots to which objections are raised during the tallying process.
- Decisions of the Board of Registrars on any protested ballots will be final.

Be advised that only authorized persons, you, your attorney and previously designated agents will be permitted to enter the designated Recount Area. The general public may observe the Recount from outside of the designated Recount Area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk
Member of the Board of Registrars of Voters

cc: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Elections Division

Enclosure: Secretary of Commonwealth of MA Recount Guide