

Town of Truro
Office of the Town Clerk

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Truro Part-Time Resident Tax Payers' Association

PO Box 324

Truro, MA 02666

Via Email: tprta@tprta.org

To the Board of the Truro Part-Time Resident Tax Payers' Association:

This is a letter for you to share with your members. I also write this as an open letter to be shared with the public in both an intent to reach all of your members and to keep all Truro residents informed.

I have been made aware of an August 6, 2023 email that was sent to some of your members. The email was sent by Regan McCarthy to Eileen Breslin, Tom Bow, David Daglio, Pamela and Ronald Fichter, Tony Garrett, Mark Hammer, Catherine Haynes, Frank Korahais, Gail Pisapio, Caroline Smith, Peter Sullivan, Peter Weiler and Steve Wynne, copying the Truro Part-Time Resident Tax Payers' Association email address. Unfortunately, this email gave your members misinformation and instructed them to register to vote incorrectly.

Let me be clear: Anyone can move to Truro, become a resident, live here in their primary domicile and register to vote. We welcome them and especially, their involvement in local government. What someone cannot do is live their full life somewhere and register to vote in a different town or city. If someone spends the majority of their time in a city or town and they are invested in that community in ways, for example, such as working there, sending their children to school there, filing taxes there and being affiliated with a religious organization there, then that is where they should vote. That is their community and where they should be weighing in on local matters.

The email that you sent to your members advised them that they could register to vote in Truro even if it is not their primary domicile. This is not correct. More than that, you also advised them that they could switch back to the town or city that they were previously registered in. Specifically, you told them that they could change their voter registration after they have voted in Truro on the matters that your association would like to have a say on. Capriciously changing your registration between municipalities is not appropriate and frankly, is not right. In fact, it does a disservice to the community that someone should be voting in.

Specifically, your email contains the following language (sic):

“Our top goal is to get 200 “part-timers” to register to vote in Truro within the period required BEFORE Fall special Town Meeting”

“Register in Truro if you can, even if only for the next year”

“You can change it again in the future”

“You can also split your household votes if there are tax implications at your current primary address”

My obligation as Town Clerk is to ensure we have a fair Town Meeting and Election process. This past Friday, October 13, 2023, the Town posted a notice reminding the public about how to register to vote properly with links to additional information, which can be found on social media and the Town web site:

<https://www.truro-ma.gov/home/news/town-conveys-concerns-regarding-residence-for-voting-purposes-1>

I have attached that notice to this correspondence and I urge you, as board members of the Truro Part-Time Resident Tax Payers’ Association, to read that notice and the additional information we provided and share it with your members.

Elisabeth Verde

Town Clerk

Cc: Truro Select Board

Town Manager Darrin Tangeman

Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark