

Notice of Special Meeting & Agenda  
Town of Branford  
Board of Ethics  
Monday June 28, 2021, 7 p.m. EST  
ZOOM MEETING ONLY

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82418435087?pwd=Y3pEWjV0UDlsOEw2TmVWREQ4S3QrQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1843 5087

Passcode: 989461

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82418435087#,,,,\*989461# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,82418435087#,,,,\*989461# US (New York)

**AGENDA**

1. At the Request of the Republican Registrar of Voters to review and provide opinion on whether or not a currently elected member of the Branford Representative Town Meeting can serve without conflict of the Branford Code of Ethics as an Assistant Registrar. (See attached .pdf request).
2. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted on 6/16/2021,

Kyle M. Nelson  
Chairman, Board of Ethics  
Town of Branford

**Attachment:** VoterRegP1@branford-ct.gov\_20210616\_105144.pdf (Request from Republican Registrar of Voters to Board of Ethics)

# TOWN OF BRANFORD

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

P.O. BOX 150, BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT, 06405

Democrat  
Daniel J. Hally



Republican  
Darren A. Lawler  
Phone: (203) 483-3998  
[www.branford-ct.gov](http://www.branford-ct.gov)

Lisa Arpin  
Branford Town Clerk  
1019 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

June 15, 2021

ATTN: Board of Ethics

Dear Sirs: I am looking to appoint a member of the town RTM as my Deputy Registrar of Voters. According to CT General Statute **Sec. 9-192. Deputy registrar. Registrar vacancy. Assistant registrars. Special assistant registrars.** Each registrar of voters immediately after his election shall appoint a deputy registrar of voters to hold office during his pleasure and may, at any time, fill any vacancy in said office. He shall file with the town clerk a certificate of each such appointment and the town clerk shall record the certificate with the records of town meetings. Each deputy registrar of voters shall assist his principal when required, discharge his duties in his absence or inability to act and, in case of the death, removal or resignation of such principal, shall become registrar of voters and appoint a deputy, and shall file with the town clerk a certificate of such appointment, which shall be recorded with the records of town meetings. If a vacancy exists in the office of registrar of voters in consequence of a refusal or failure to accept the office or a failure of the registrar to appoint a deputy registrar, the town committee of the same political party as the registrar of voters who so refused, failed to accept or failed to appoint, or other appointing authority specified in local party rules shall fill such vacancy by the appointment of some suitable person, who shall belong to the same political party as the registrar of voters who so refused, failed to accept or failed to appoint. Each registrar of voters in any town may, as needed, appoint and employ not more than four assistant registrars of voters for each voting district therein, who shall serve at the pleasure of the registrar of voters and assist such registrar in the performance of his duties, and, for purposes of any admission session held pursuant to section 9-19b or subsection (a) of section 9-19c, as many special assistants as are necessary to carry out the duties of such session. Such registrar shall file with the town clerk a certificate of each such appointment, which shall be recorded with the records of the town, and shall appoint such other assistants as are necessary for the performance of duties required by sections 9-12 to 9-45, inclusive, on election day and the six days preceding. Unless otherwise provided by subsection (b) of section 9-19b, in the absence of either registrar of voters, his deputy or any of his assistants, except special assistants, shall have all the powers conferred, and may perform any of the duties imposed, upon such registrar by any of the provisions of the statutes. Each deputy, assistant or special assistant registrar shall be an elector of the municipality in which he is appointed. Each deputy registrar shall also, at the time of his appointment and during the six months immediately preceding his appointment, be an enrolled member of the same party as the registrar who makes such appointment.

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Regarding the possibility of a conflict of interest, CT Gen Stat § 9-210 states: No selectman shall hold the office of town clerk, town treasurer or collector of town taxes during the same official year, nor that of judge of probate for the district within which such town is located; no town treasurer shall hold the office of collector of town taxes during the same official year; nor shall any town clerk or selectman be elected a registrar of voters; and no registrar of voters shall hold the office of town clerk. No assessor shall act as a member of the board of assessment appeals. No member of the board of finance of any town shall hold any salaried town office unless otherwise provided by special act. If any registrar of voters is elected to the office of town clerk or selectman and accepts the office, he shall thereupon cease to be a registrar; and, if any town clerk or selectman is elected registrar of voters, the election shall be void; and in either of said cases the selectmen shall forthwith appoint another registrar by a writing signed by them and filed with the town clerk; but the person so appointed shall be a member of the same political party as that to which the person so elected belongs.

I have written the Secretary of State's office twice to confirm that I can appoint a member of the RTM and both times I was given the green light by Secretary Merrill's Head Attorney Ted Bromley. The RTM member is even willing to recuse themselves on any votes regarding the Registrars of Voters office during an RTM meeting. Even though it is not required, I will make sure that the RTM member will not be involved with the setting up of their district's tabulators and memory cards. If there is an issue at the RTM member's polling place on election day, I will go with Registrar Dan Hally or his Deputy Jeff Rowan to resolve the problem. Lastly, at last week's annual Spring Conference of the Registrar of Voters of Connecticut (ROVAC), I asked if my appointed Deputy Registrar had to be approved by my town's Human Resources Department? I was informed by the Moderators that Registrars of Voters are elected officials not town employees and that our Deputies are an extension of the Registrar.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Darren "Howie" Lawler  
Registrar of Voters  
Town of Branford