

[Home](#) > [Wayland Town Crier](#) > [Local News](#) >  [RSS Feed](#)

Override passes election, faces TM

By **Katie Liesener**/ Staff Writer
Thursday, April 27, 2006

In the highest local election turnout in over 30 years, 63 percent of Wayland voters cast their ballots at the polls Tuesday on a pending \$2.1 million override and in four contested races for different town boards.

A 55 percent majority of Wayland voters approved the override, which will have to gain a majority again at annual Town Meeting starting tonight in order to pass.

"I think people were probably concerned about the potential effects of cuts on the budget if the override didn't pass," said Selectman Bill Whitney. "Forty-five percent didn't vote for the override, which is a clear signal we need to look for new revenue sources, curtail spending, and try to avoid overrides in the future."

Whitney and fellow incumbent Douglas Leard were re-elected to their three-year seats on the Board of Selectmen in the election. The challenger - and only override opponent of the three - Mark Santangelo, lost.

The only precinct in which a majority of the voters voted against the override was also the only precinct in which Santangelo came in second - Precinct 2 in southern Wayland, near the Natick and Framingham lines.

"I think my not supporting the override was the primary reason I wasn't elected," Santangelo said. "I'm disappointed, but I think I had a good campaign and tried to get a message out there. A fair amount of people agreed with me; a majority didn't."

Resident Bill Hoke said he voted for the override because of the schools.

"If I supported the override when our kids were in school, I should support it when they're not," he said.

David Osborn, a father of two, came from coaching soccer to reach the polls just before they closed at 8 p.m. to vote in support of the override.

"I'm really trying to support the school system," he said. "I think it's divided along age lines. I don't know what the dividing point is, but if you have kids in school, you're probably for it."

Wayland voters also approved a debt exclusion override for replacement of the Happy Hollow School roof, repairs of Town Building, a new fire truck, and repairs to the library roof, by a two-thirds margin. The question requires another simple majority at Town Meeting to pass.

In other races, Daniel Mesnick beat out two opponents for a five-year term on the Planning Board; Anette Lewis and Shawn Fennelly won three-year terms on the Board of Road Commissioners in a tight four-person race; and challenger Jeffrey Cohen beat incumbent Thomas Maglione for a three-year term on the Board of Assessors.

"I'm thrilled. Surprised, pleasantly," Mesnick said of his win. "I know I worked hard and a lot of people in Wayland helped me out. It's not about me at the end of the day. It's about the issues Wayland supports."

While police received reports of stolen political signs from yards in the past couple weeks, they reported no problems at the polls Tuesday.

Prior to this year's vote, the highest recorded voter turnout in Wayland was the 57 percent showing in 1968.

To 20-year veteran Town Clerk Judy St. Croix, the turnout formula is simple.

"The issues bring out the people," she said.

In Wayland, the people came out in droves not only as voters, but as campaigners. As the polls neared closing at Town Building, with rain falling steadily and darkness approaching, the people stationed in shifts to hold signs in support or opposition to the override and in support of different candidates, refusing to seek shelter inside as long as their political opponents still held their signs.

Deirdre Maxted, who held a red-and-white No Override sign, came straight from work, had not eaten, and refused an umbrella as the rain picked up.

"I want them to see my smile," she said.



In a highly politicized election season, a voter takes a look at all the campaigners out Tuesday afternoon as she heads to the polls at Town Building. (Staff photo by Allan Jung)

Herald Interactive Tools



[Recent articles](#)



[E-mail article to a friend](#)



[View graphic version](#)



[Get RSS feed](#)








[Search site](#)



[Sign up for home delivery](#)

Recent articles

-  [Articles go quickly to finish Town Meeting](#)
-  [Voters switch retiree health plan](#)
-  [Shawl Ministry spreads warmth](#)
-  [Towns differ on herbicide treatments](#)
-  [Giving a voice to legal immigrants](#)

Today's most read Town Online articles Updated 3:00 PM ET

1. [Cars ignite in NRHS parking lot](#)(3214)
2. [Chairmen of the Board](#)(496)
3. [Couple dies in Swampscott murder-suicide](#)(470)
4. [York: A huge conflict of interest](#)(354)
5. [Arts calendar](#)(341)

Search the site



Enterprise-level broadband service provided by [Expedient: America's Largest All-Ethernet Network](#)

Wireless broadband service provided by [Towerstream](#)

[[contact us](#)] :: [[print advertising](#)] :: [[online advertising](#)] :: [[Browser Upgrade](#)] :: [[Jobs](#)]

Order Home Delivery Online: [Weekly papers](#) [Daily papers](#) or call **1.800.982.4023**

© Copyright of CNC and Herald Interactive Advertising Systems, Inc.
No portion of townonline.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)
bh.heraldinteractive.com: 0.219477:Wed, 26 Apr 2006 21:28:14 GMT