

FAQ Stiles Town Clerk and Treasurer Appointed versus Elected

Q. Why is the Stiles Town Board pursuing the conversion of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions from elected to appointed?

A. There are multiple reasons why the 2024 Stiles Town Board has made the decision to recommend converting the individual Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions from Elected to Appointed.

1. Increase the Labor Pool available to fill the positions
 - a. As Elected Positions, they **MUST** be filled by Registered Voters of Town of Stiles. This means that there is an extremely limited pool of possible candidates.
2. Ability to ensure that these critical roles are filled by qualified candidates
 - a. As Elected Positions, they cannot be required by the board to hold specific qualifications or obtain training (unless required by state law-such as election training for clerks).
 - b. This issue has become critical as the positions have become more complicated, more regulated, and requiring a much higher level of technical capability.
3. Ability to retain successful people even if they move out of the township
 - a. There is a steep learning curve for these positions, and there is a significant impact to the town every time the position changes hands.

Q. What does this change mean for ME as a resident?

A. The impact to you personally will vary depending on how involved you currently are in the government of the Town of Stiles. In general, here is what will change:

1. The Stiles Town Board will take over the direct responsibility to ensure that the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are successfully performing their job duties and acting in the best interests of the Town of Stiles.
 - a. If someone becomes aware of/experiences any misconduct in office or neglect of job duties, they can notify the Stiles Town Board and the issue can be immediately addressed rather than having to go through a legal electoral process.
2. The Stiles Town Board will take over the direct responsibility to ensure that the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions are filled by qualified candidates to best serve the Town of Stiles and its residents.

3. Instead of approving the Town Clerk & Town Treasurer salaries at an elector meeting (typically April Annual Meeting), you will be approving it as part of the annual budget during the November Budget Special Meeting.
4. You will no longer see Town Clerk and Town Treasurer on the spring election ballots going forward, only the Town Chairman and Town Supervisors.