

**VOTE** from page 1

a “fee and a violation of the 24th Amendment.”

Gomez took the stand after, detailing his history as a Puerto Rican and his father’s reluctance to teach him English. “He didn’t want me, my sister, and my brother to come to the mainland because of his life experience,” Gomez expressed during his address. He stated that his father felt isolated on the mainland, unable to integrate with greater society due to segregation laws. “My dad is Puerto Rican. So he was not allowed to go to the white clubs or he wasn’t allowed to go to the African-American clubs either because he was Puerto Rican, right?”

Gomez echoed many of his companion’s statements and advocated same-day voting registration. He brought attention to polling locations, a logistic controlled by local government, and motivated citizens to engage in both regional and national elections. One major bullet point of his speech was the concept of polling locations, a measure controlled by the city counselors. Gomez expressed concern that some towns didn’t have enough locations. “It’s your local elected officials who establish where you’re going to vote,” said Gomez as he encouraged attendees to reach out to ensure their area had proper coverage. “That’s why it’s really important for you to be in touch with your local elected officials, because they make so many decisions that can change your life.”

Tara Jacobs, the Massachusetts Governor’s Council, brought attention to her own position as well as the responsibilities that come with it. Jacobs mentioned that most



**MHC Votes Events Coordinator Keira Gillin presides over the event.**

citizens had no idea that her position even exists, let alone what she does in the position. Throughout her speech she enumerated her responsibilities, which include “judicial nominations,” “to provide advice and consent to the governor,” and to “give advice and consent on the parole board members when they’re nominated.”

Jacobs also mentioned that she was a key member in the Truth campaign prior to her current role, a \$5 billion advertising campaign designed to “shift teen attitudes towards tobacco and smoking.” She finds that much of her public outreach revolves around informing the public about the existence of her position, educating them on its impact and importance within the state. Jacobs stated that her position is important because it “matters who are judges are.”

“It matters the kinds of people who are serving on our parole board,” Jacobs said during her speech. “Who those people are directly affects the kinds of results we get from our courts, the kinds

of sentences that happen, whether people get diverted or incarcerated or a creative solution that affects them and the root causes of why they’re in court.”

South Hadley Select Board member Rene Sweeney was the last speaker for the event. Sweeney reflected on the other speakers’ comments and emphasized getting involved with the local community. They stated the importance of local government work and mentioned the role doesn’t always involve what the populous expects.

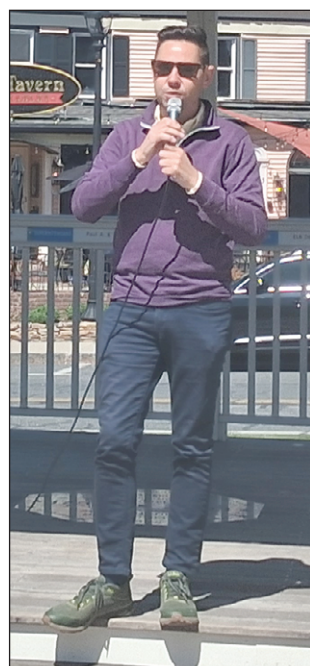
“People are surprisingly passionate about trash pickup,” Sweeney commented. “But I’m proud every time I’m able to help a resident see and connect with the infrastructure of the community.”

Sweeney concluded their time by encouraging interested citizens to run for local positions so that they can be the person that upholds the values they want to see in the community. They mentioned that location positions were the “nuts and bolts of government” and that such service is “a great experience.”



**South Hadley Select Board member Rene Sweeney talks about getting involved in local politics.**

Community questions fielded by representatives concerned mail-in voting rights and state funding initiatives given recent funding deficits. The event is hoped to be the first of many pub-



**Senator Jake Oliveira makes an impassioned speech about protecting voting rights.**

lic forum offerings by MHC Votes, as reported by organization senator Bailey Dillon. “I really hope to continue having conversations with the community and the school,” said Dillon. “I think putting



**Governor's Council Tara Jacobs emphasizes the role of local government in citizens' lives.**

direct energy towards bringing the students off campus into our communities to have these conversations, to have those discussions with our local community members is really, really important.”



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

**MHC Votes organizational members pose with local and state government officials after the event.**

# Legal Notices

**Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission**

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026** to be held at 1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:30 pm -NOI-** filed by Eversource Gas of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for the proposed gas main installation under existing roadway. Work will occur within 200-foot Riverfront Area, the 100-foot buffer zone and BLSF. All impacts will be temporary; no permanent impacts are proposed to Morgan Street and known as map (N/A Linear Project within roadway ROW) in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code:** 282-289-421 or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this “NOI” are available for inspection during

regular business hours at the Selectmen’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission’s web page at [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov).

William Shaheen, Chair  
Granby Conservation Commission  
05/01/2026

**Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission**

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday May 12, 2026** \*1 Library Lane-Carnegie Building-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:30 pm “RDA”** filed by Patrick O’Connor, owner a to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, and/or any Municipal Wetlands ordinance or bylaw of the Town of Granby with regards to property located on 50 Taylor Street and known as Map 8-C Lot A16, in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1

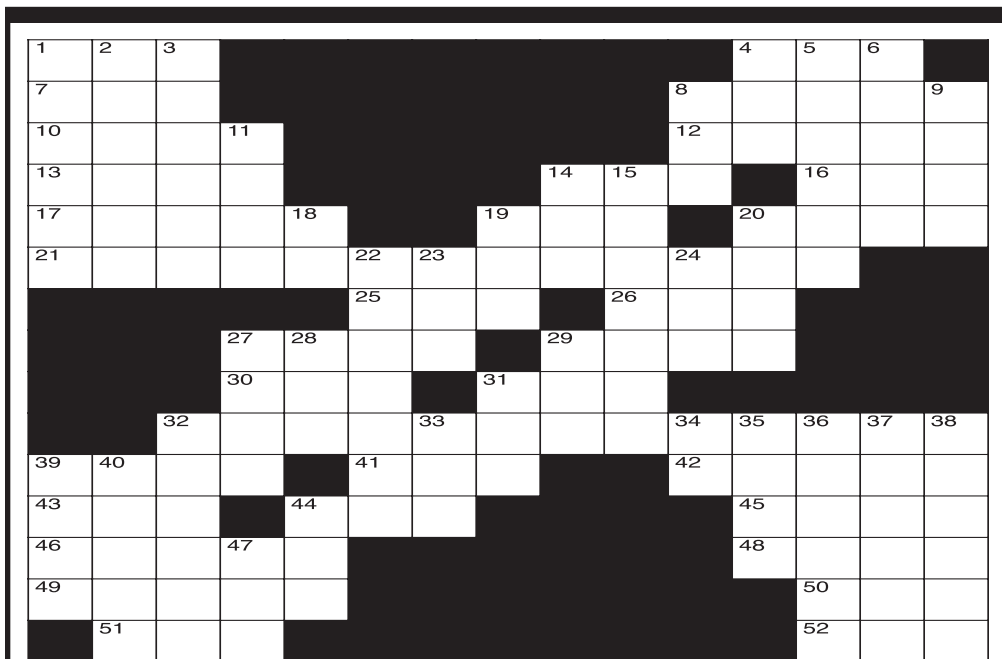
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William Shaheen, Chair  
Granby Conservation Commission  
05/01/2026

## NOTICE

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Purchase
  - 4. British news organization
  - 7. Midway between northeast and east
  - 8. Language specialist group
  - 10. Fancy automobile
  - 12. Small loop or series of loops
  - 13. Exploiter
  - 14. Don’t know when yet
  - 16. Group of languages
  - 17. One who’s finished
  - 19. After B
  - 20. Angled
  - 21. A place to adopt pets
  - 25. Swiss river
  - 26. Young boy
  - 27. Unexciting comedian Vidale
  - 29. American
  - 30. Peyton’s little brother
  - 31. Corporate higher-up
  - 32. “All in the Family” star
  - 39. Strike something forcefully
  - 41. Up in the air (abbr.)
  - 42. Clay earth pigments
  - 43. Means to record brain activity
  - 44. Small constellation
  - 45. Embraces
  - 46. Brief description
  - 48. Exclude
  - 49. White (French)
  - 50. Insect
  - 51. A major division of geological time
  - 52. Soviet Socialist Republic
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Type of whale
  - 2. In tune
  - 3. A citizen of Yemen
  - 4. Actress Ling
  - 5. One who supports
  - 6. Circus performer
  - 8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
  - 9. Quantitative fact
  - 11. Utah city
  - 14. Where a golfer begins
  - 15. Attendant
  - 18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
  - 19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
  - 20. Benedictine monk
  - 22. Not turbulent
  - 23. Car mechanics group
  - 24. Buffer used in chemistry
  - 27. Fall heavily
  - 28. Pie \_\_\_ mode
  - 29. The Brits love it
  - 31. Children’s TV channel (abbr.)
  - 32. Jacksonville footballer
  - 33. Helps little firms
  - 34. \_\_\_ and behold
  - 35. A way to resemble
  - 36. Fingers
  - 37. Excessive indulgences
  - 38. You might be an “empty” one
  - 39. “How the West Was Won” writer
  - 40. European river
  - 44. They begin the alphabet
  - 47. The body’s messenger

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