

NOTICE TO VOTERS For Local Elections

CHECKLIST: Posted at town clerk's office by February 5, 2017. If your name is not on it, then you must register to vote.

SAMPLE BALLOTS POSTED: Saturday, February 25, 2017.

EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You can request early absentee ballots at any time during the election year. The latest you can request ballots for the Annual Town and School Meeting is the close of the town clerk's office on March 6, 2017. You or a family member can request early absentee ballots in person, in writing or by telephone. An authorized person can request ballots for you in writing.

Ways of voting early or absentee:

1. Vote in town clerk's office before March 6, 2017.
2. Voter may take the ballot(s) out of the clerk's office for himself or herself and return in the same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
3. Have ballot mailed to you and return it to the clerk's office before Town Meeting Day or to polling place before 7 p.m. on Election Day.
4. If you are sick or disabled, you may ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or the day of election.

Identification Required for First Time Registrants by Mail: If you have never voted in Vermont before and you registered individually by mail, you must provide identification before you can vote a regular ballot; current valid photo I.D., or a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing your name and current address.

Any Voter who wants assistance for any reason may bring the person of his or her choice (except employer or union representative) into the voting booth to help or may ask assistance from two election officials.

Voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place may have a ballot brought to a car outside the polls by two election officials.

Any U.S. citizen and resident of a Vermont town or city is entitled to vote regardless of race or physical disability.

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted an application: Explain the situation to your town clerk or presiding officer and ask that your name be added to the checklist today. The town clerk or presiding officer will investigate the situation and then either have you complete a sworn affidavit and then add your name to the checklist or explain why not.

If the town clerk or presiding officer cannot determine that you are entitled to be added to the checklist on Election Day, you may appeal to a superior court judge, who will give you a decision on Election Day.

THE LAW PROHIBITS THE FOLLOWING – DO NOT:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's eligibility to vote.
- Socialize in a manner that will disturb other voters inside the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten, or intimidate a person to vote for a candidate.
- Hinder or interfere with the progress of a voter going into or from a polling place. Vermont law provides that a person cannot campaign within a polling place, but does NOT specify any number of feet that campaigners need to be away from the polls outside. The presiding officer will set reasonable rules for where campaigners can stand.

The Election Officials at the polling place are here to serve you.

If you have any questions, or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

If you do not understand something, or you believe a mistake has been made that has not been corrected, or you have a question that cannot be answered to your satisfaction at the polling place:

**Call the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State
1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683)
(Accessible by TDD)**

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may call the Election Division at 800-439-8683 or (802)828-2464. You may also file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 26 Terrace Street, Montpelier, VT 05609-1101.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office, the County State's Attorney or the Vermont Attorney General.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800)253-3931.

VOTING PROCESS – INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS

- Go to the entrance checklist table, give your name, and if asked, your street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- Take the ballot from the election official and enter a voting booth. Once inside the voting booth, mark your ballot for each race.
- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval or make a cross (X) in the box to the right of the candidate(s) as directed on your ballot. **Do not vote for more candidates than the “Vote for not more than #” for each race or office. If you vote for more than the “Vote for not more than #,” your vote will not count for that race.**
- WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank “write-in” lines on the ballot and either write in the name or paste on a sticker, **then fill in the oval or make a cross (X) in the box.**
- **If you make a mistake or change your mind, DO NOT try to erase. Return your spoiled ballot and ASK an election official for a new ballot. If you make a mistake again, you may ask for another ballot and you may want to ask for assistance. Each voter may have up to 3 ballots.**
- Go to the exit checklist table, if any, and state your name. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- To cast your voted ballot, either insert your voted ballot into the tabulating machine, or in a hand count town, fold your voted ballot and insert it into the ballot box.
- Leave the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.
- All voters who are in line at the polling place at 7 p.m. will be permitted to vote. No voter can enter the polling place to vote after 7 p.m.