



ELECTION BULLETIN

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT 2002

To: Town Clerks

From: Kathy DeWolfe, Director of Elections and Campaign Finance
Melanie Jacobs, Elections Administrator

Date: May 16, 2003

Re: **Implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA 2002) in Vermont**

In October 2002 a new federal law was passed to improve the administration of elections. There are a number of changes to our procedures in Vermont that must be made to conform to this law. Legislation is now pending in the General Assembly to make changes to Vermont law to conform to the federal law. Some of the changes will need to be made now, others must be done by January 1, 2004, and others by January 1, 2006. (We will be requesting a waiver to change the deadline for the statewide voter checklist to January 1, 2006.)

Our office will send you detailed Election Bulletins to explain the necessary changes as each change is put into effect. When the state legislation passes, we will send a summary to each clerk. We will also revise and update the Elections Perspective Manual and the Vermont Election Law Booklet. We expect it will take longer than usual due to the number of changes, but we anticipate distributing these revised publications this fall.

For those Clerks who have not been able to attend a HAVA workshop, we have enclosed a summary prepared by Secretary Deb Markowitz. If you want more detail, you can look at the HAVA web pages on the Secretary of State website at <http://www.sec.state.vt.us>.

We have also enclosed two copies of the Draft Vermont State Plan to implement HAVA that we are required to publish and make available to the public. We have published notices in the daily newspapers in Vermont that a copy of the draft plan can be obtained from each town clerk's office as well as our office. The plan can also be read on the HAVA web pages or downloaded from the site.