



# ELECTIONS BULLETIN

## PRIMARY ELECTION DATE CHANGED TO AUGUST 24, 2010

To: All Town and City Clerks

From: Kathy DeWolfe

Date: April 19, 2010

Our office would like to extend our thanks for the hard work (and time) that every town and city put into completing the 2010 Town Meeting Day Survey. As you know, the 2010 Town Meeting Day Survey was sent as an email link to the online tool Survey Monkey. We did encounter some problems with some email providers but we still received fast and complete responses – thank you!

We have heard from eleven towns that have newly elected clerks: Benson, Chelsea, Guildhall, Halifax, Hancock, Irasburg, Peru, Royalton, St. Albans City, Troy and Wells. We will provide Statewide Voter Checklist (HAVA) training on **Monday, May 17, 2010 from 1 to 3 p.m.** at our Montpelier office for the newly elected clerks and new assistant clerks. Please respond to Melanie at [mhodge@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:mhodge@sec.state.vt.us) by April 30<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend this training session.

There have been some changes to the State and Federal Election Laws and they are highlighted below:

**The Primary Election Date has been changed to August 24, 2010:** Please mark your calendars with this new date. We will send you a revised elections calendar in the next few weeks with all of the corrected petition dates. The legislature is still working on a bill to finalize filing deadlines.

**Absentee Ballots for the Primary Election:** There has been a change to the federal law which now requires absentee ballots to be available 45 days in advance of any statewide election. Clerks will receive primary election ballots by Monday, July 12, 2010, which is when early voting begins for the primary election.

**Absentee Ballot Request for one year only for all voters:** Federal law has removed the four year absentee ballot request for military and overseas voters. All voters must make a new absentee ballot request every year.

**Major Party Candidate Petitions and Consent Forms:** The petitions and consent forms for major party candidates can be filed between the dates of Monday, May 10, 2010 and Thursday, June 17, 2010. We will send a separate bulletin to the clerks who are a representative district clerk with more details.

**Checklist Updating:** Now is a good time to make sure that your voter checklist is as accurate as possible, which means challenging and purging voters. While the Board of Civil Authority is required to review the voter registration checklist at least once in every odd numbered year to determine which voters no longer reside in your town or city, the BCA can also authorize the town clerk to send challenge letters to voters when they have reason to believe that the voter moved out of town. We are also recommending that clerks view their checklist to see if you have a large number of voters that are in one of the other statuses (ie Drivers License Not Verified, SSN Not Verified, No Oath, etc.) and possibly send all of those voters challenge letters. **This needs to be done prior to May 24! (90 days before the primary election.)**

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