

EMAIL BULLETIN SENT TO ALL TOWN/CITY CLERKS ON MAY 4, 2010

RE: Primary Election Date, Independent Candidates and JP Candidates

Good Afternoon Town/City Clerks:

As you are all aware, the 2010 Primary Election date has been changed to August 24th. Because this date has moved, the major party candidate filing deadlines have been changed to no earlier than May 10, 2010 and no later than Thursday, June 17, 2010. Town Clerks who are Representative District Clerks must accept state representative candidate petitions and consent forms (do not accept a petition unless there is also a consent form signed by the candidate) and after reviewing the petition to ascertain that there are 50 signatures, fax the consent form to the Elections Division at 802-828-5171.

There is a bill awaiting signature by the Governor that would change the deadlines for the filing of petitions and consent forms for independents and minor candidates to the same filing period and deadlines as for major parties. Do not accept independent candidate petition and consent forms or statements of nomination for minor party candidates for any office **EXCEPT Justice of the Peace**. Independent candidate petition and consent forms and minor party statements of nomination of ALL candidates **EXCEPT Justice of the Peace** must be filed with the Elections Division in Montpelier.

The bill awaiting signature also changes the filing deadlines for Justices of the Peace as follows:

#### **Justices of the Peace**

The moving of the Primary also caused the legislature to need to move the caucus and filing deadlines for candidates for the office of Justice of the Peace (JP). We are providing this information to you because independent candidates for JP and parties that nominate JP candidates are required to file the appropriate forms with your office. Candidates can either be nominated by a major or minor town party committee, or if a political party has not formally organized, any 3 members of the party can organize and nominate, or candidates can file a candidate petition of nomination and consent form as an "Independent."

#### **Independent Candidates for JP:**

Candidates who would like to be on the general election ballot as an independent for the office of JP must file a petition and consent form with their town clerk between the dates of Monday, May 10th and Thursday, June 17, 2010. Their petitions need to have the signatures of 30 voters or 1% of the voters on your checklist.

#### **Nomination of JPs by Town Party:**

The town committees of major and minor political parties in each town, on or before Tuesday, August 3, may meet in caucus and nominate candidates for justice of the peace. The committee shall give notice and shall file the statements required not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 27, 2010. After August 3, town committees of major and minor political parties that have not held a nomination caucus may meet and nominate candidates, but all nominations must be received by the town clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 27, 2010. (There are different procedures for caucusing before August 3 and hold a meeting after August 3.)

Please post a notice in your office about these deadlines for Justice of the Peace so that interested candidates can become aware of the deadlines. If you have any "independent JPs currently serving it would be a courtesy to call the JPs to alert them to the early deadline of June 17, 2010 for independent candidates for JP.

Thank you

Melanie Hodge

Elections Administrator