



# ELECTIONS BULLETIN

**To:** City and Town Clerks  
**From:** Kathy DeWolfe, Director of Elections  
**Re:** 2009 Election Law Changes  
2009 Town Clerk's Guide  
**Date:** June 24, 2009

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**Town Clerk's Guide:** We have enclosed a 2009 edition of the Guide to Vermont Town Clerks, Treasurers and County Clerks. PLEASE remove the 2008 version of this document from your **VT Election Guides Binder** and insert the new publication in your binder. The Guide is also always available on our website (as a PDF and Excel document).

**Vermont election laws enacted in 2009:** We have enclosed revised pages for you to update your Vermont Election Law Booklet (distributed in June 2008) in section 3 of your Vermont Election Guides Binder. Many of the changes this year were small "housekeeping" revisions that were requested by either our office or local municipalities. In brief, the changes are:

1. 17 V.S.A. §1904(a) – Minor changes were made to the formula for the composition of the political party representation on the legislative apportionment board.
2. 17 V.S.A. §2103(22) – The definition of a political committee was repealed from the general definitions at the beginning of Title 17 because the definition is included in Chapter 59, Campaign Finance, section 2801(4). (You only want the definition to be one place in the statutes so when it is revised it only has to be revised in one place.)
3. 17 V.S.A. §2454(a) and (b) – This section was amended at the request of several cities so that election officials are no longer required to reside in the ward or district in order to work as an election official in the polling place for a voting district.
4. 17 V.S.A. §2532a. The automatic "sunset" was removed so that mobile polling stations can be used in future elections.
5. 17 V.S.A. §2588. This section was revised to add a separate subsection to provide specific instructions for towns that use vote tabulating machines that will allow the posting of the printer results tapes from the optical scan tabulators as "unofficial incomplete results."
6. 17 V.S.A. 2602a(b) – When the law was revised to have ballots transported to county courts by election officials for recounts following the 2006 statewide recount, one reference to state police was inadvertently left in. Now the sections all consistently refer to "two election officials who are not members of the same political party."
7. 17 V.S.A. §26021 – This section was revised so that a candidate who petitions for a recount can request that the recount be conducted by optical scanner instead of by the hand count procedures for a recount.
8. 17 V.S.A. §2647 – The section on incompatible offices was revised by adding a section (b) so that when a school district uses an independent public accountant it will no longer be a statutory conflict for a school board member to have a spouse who serves as an auditor.
9. 17 V.S.A. §2685 – This section was revised so that a candidate who petitions for a recount can request that the recount be conducted by optical scanner instead of by the hand count procedures for a recount.
10. 17 V.S.A. §2803(f) - The Secretary of State may now require that the forms for campaign finance filings and mass media reports be filed in a digital format.

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