



ELECTIONS BULLETIN

To: City and Town Clerks
From: Kathy DeWolfe, Director of Elections

Re: **Reminder: Blast Email notifications**
Election Pointers and Summary of 2007 and 2008 Election Law Changes
2008 Elections Procedures
2008 Election Laws
2008 Campaign Finance Guide
2008 Town Clerk's Guide
2008 Absentee Tracking User Guide and CD

Date: June 30, 2008

Reminder: All state offices are being encouraged to provide information using email rather than expensive mailings through the USPS. All town clerks must have an active email address in order to use the state voter registration checklist. Our Elections Division will be using town and city clerk email addresses to notify you of important deadlines. Please check your email at least once each week.

You will NOT receive all of our updates and information on hard copy—you must read your emails.

We have enclosed 2008 editions of Election Procedures, Vermont Election Law, and the Campaign Finance Guide. PLEASE remove the 2006 versions of these three documents from your **VT Election Guides Binder** and insert the new publications in your binder.

For those clerks who have not attended an elections workshop yet this year, we have enclosed a summary of 2007 and 2008 election law changes that Deb and Kathy have reviewed at the workshops.

The **2008 Election Procedures Guide** contains NEW INFORMATION and NEW FORMS in the appendices. Even experienced clerks should read through this guide this year to make sure that you understand some of the new procedures and forms. You will need to make copies of the new forms to bring to the polls with you for the September Primary and the November General Election. Please read through our new suggestions for handling absentee ballots, and for handling spoiled and defective ballots using the forms in the appendices.

Fourteen town clerks piloted the use of the **2008 Absentee Ballot Tracking Access Database** that was developed by Jane Fletcher, Melanie Hodge, and Katie Lane-Karnas. Feedback from users has resulted in some additional improvements to the Access database. We have enclosed an updated user guide and a CD that you can use to load the Access database to your computer (you need to have Access installed on your computer in order to do this). You are not required to use this system for tracking early absentee ballots. It is fine for clerks in smaller towns to continue to track on paper or in Excel. However, clerks that used the system report that it is very user friendly and was very helpful in maintaining accurate records. Please contact Melanie Hodge or Katie Lane-Karnas if you have any questions.

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