10 Things Every New Hampshire Poll Worker Should Know

As a poll worker, your job is to help every eligible voter make their voice heard. Below is a list of things to know before you report for your poll worker assignment.

1. **Voters MAY request assistance in voting**

Any voter who needs assistance marking his or her ballot at the polling place may obtain assistance from an election official or a person of the voter’s choosing, so long as that person is NOT the voter’s employer or union official.

2. **EVERY polling place in New Hampshire is equipped with an accessible voting system known as “one4all”**

The one4all system uses a tablet, keyboard, headset, and printer to allow people of all abilities to cast their ballot securely, privately, and independently. A voter has multiple ways to input his/her selection either by using the touch screen on the tablet, the keyboard, or simply speaking into a microphone attached to a set of headphones. The ballot is then printed using the attached printer and the voter submits his/her ballot like everyone else. A voter does NOT need to have a disability to use the machine.

3. **Face masks MAY be required, but voters without face masks CANNOT be denied the right to vote**

The right to vote CANNOT be denied to an otherwise eligible voter. Local officials who implement face mask requirements MUST provide registration and voting alternatives to voters who either are unable or unwilling to wear face coverings/masks inside the polling location. For more information on election operation during COVID-19, review Attorney General MacDonald’s guidance from August 20, 2020.

4. **Same day voter registration IS permitted**

New Hampshire voters who are not registered to vote CAN register on Election Day and vote.

5. **Challengers MUST have personal knowledge or other basis of probable cause that the challenged voter is ineligible to vote**

Any voter may have his right to cast a ballot in a given election challenged by a registered voter of the town or ward in which the election is held. All challenges, including those made by election officials, must be asserted using a reason set forth on the “Asserting a Challenge” form.

6. **Voters without an approved ID are permitted to vote after completing a Challenged Voter Affidavit**

Voters without proper photo identification may cast a regular ballot after completing what is known as a challenged voter affidavit, having a poll worker take a photo of the voter, and attaching it to the affidavit. If the voter objects to being photographed for religious reasons, he or she can complete an affidavit of religious exemption, which will be attached to the challenged voter affidavit. For more information, please review the Secretary of State’s Voter Identification Law.
Ballots cast by voters who complete challenged voter affidavits will be counted, but such voters will need to take additional action after the election

Voters who complete a challenged voter affidavit will see the following note on their affidavit, and may ask you about it: “NOTE TO VOTER: RSA 659:13, IV. (a) The secretary of state shall cause a letter of identity verification to be mailed by first class mail to each voter who executed a challenged voter affidavit or affidavit of religious exemption......” This note means that voters who filled out a challenged voter affidavit in order to vote on Election Day will receive a verification letter from the Secretary of State requesting confirmation that they voted in the election. If the voter does not respond in writing to the Secretary of State within 30 days of the date it was mailed, the Attorney General will conduct an investigation to determine whether fraudulent voting occurred.

Report a voting machine problem immediately

Call for repair and contact your local election office.

Take voter intimidation seriously

Nobody, including elections officials, poll workers, or other voters, may harass, coerce or influence a voter’s decision regarding any candidate for office or question on the ballot for the election.

All voters in line at the polling place closure time MUST be allowed to register and vote

New Hampshire polling hours vary by municipality, however, polls MUST open by 11am and CANNOT close before 7:00pm. Any voters who are present at the polling place cannot be turned away and MUST be provided the opportunity to register to vote if needed and to vote. In addition, if lines of cars containing those seeking to vote exist due to parking not being available or other traffic congestion, you and your colleagues will need to work to identify the last person who joined the line of cars at the moment when the polls close and allow that person and all who previously joined the line to obtain parking, enter the polling place, apply for registration, and, if registered, vote. Only after all voters and finished voting and have exited the polling should you complete end-of-day poll closure procedures.

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