

2025 Election Law Changes

(New sections and amended sections are in italics and red, deleted & repealed sections = strikethrough with highlight)

(Amended Effective: May 8, 2025 – HB78 Chapter 6, 2025)

655:9 County Officers. – To hold the office of county commissioner, sheriff, county attorney, county treasurer, register of deeds, or register of probate, a person ~~must have a domicile in the county for which he~~ *shall be, at the time of his or her election, an inhabitant who resides actually and permanently in the county from which he or she* is chosen. In addition, to hold the office of county commissioner ~~in the counties of Rockingham, Belknap, Grafton, Merrimack, Hillsborough, Cheshire, Sullivan, Coos, and Carroll, a person must have a domicile in the district from which he is elected at the time of his election~~ *a person shall be an inhabitant who resides actually and permanently in the district from which he or she may be chosen to represent and shall cease to represent such district immediately on his or her ceasing to be qualified as aforesaid.*

(Amended Effective: July 13, 2025 – HB261 Chapter 23, 2025)

660:17-b Recount of Additional Offices on Ballots Involved in Recounts. – For general election recounts of state representative races, the secretary of state's office shall, ~~in addition to~~ *after* recounting the state representative race:

(Amended Effective: July 13, 2025 – HB261 Chapter 23, 2025)

660:17-c Recount and Audit Procedures; Publication. – The secretary of state shall publish all recount and audit procedures, as well as the times to hold any recounts and audits that may take place. The secretary of state shall complete any audit conducted under this chapter ~~prior to the commencement~~ *after the completion* of a recount for any recount requested.

(Amended Effective: July 13, 2025 – HB269 Chapter 25, 2025)

654:28 Procedure. – The supervisors of the checklist shall hear all applications for a correction of the checklist and the evidence submitted thereon and shall correct it according to their best knowledge so that it contains only the names of those persons qualified to vote at said election. The names of all persons not qualified to vote at the time of any session, but who shall clearly be qualified to vote on election day, may be added to the checklist at that session. No additions or corrections shall be made after the ~~Saturday~~ session *as provided in RSA 654:27*, except as provided in RSA 659:12 ~~or RSA 654:27~~. The additions and corrections resulting from such session shall be made to the previously posted checklist on or before midnight on the succeeding Friday either by additions or corrections to said checklist or by posting a new corrected checklist. Notice of such additions or corrections to the checklist shall also be given to the town or city clerk.

(Amended Effective: July 28, 2025 – HB294 Chapter 45, 2025)

659:49 Processing Absentee Ballots. –

II. ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I, upon the written challenges of 10 or more voters who are present at the polls no later than 1:00 p.m., the moderator shall postpone the processing of all absentee ballots until after the polls close and prior to the counting of all ballots cast in the election.~~ The moderator, or his or her designee, shall post the time at which the processing of absentee ballots shall begin at the polling place and one other public location at least 24 hours before the polls open. In addition, when the polls open the moderator shall announce the time at which the processing of absentee ballots shall begin.

(Amended Effective: July 28, 2025 – HB327 Chapter 47, 2025)

655:15 Official With Whom to File. –

II. For state representative in a representative district containing one town or ward and for delegate to a state party convention, the clerk of the town or city in which the officer is to be chosen *or the secretary of state.*

III. For state representative in a representative district containing more than one town or ward, the clerk of the city or town in which the person who is filing is domiciled; or, if the person is domiciled in an unincorporated place, the town clerk of the town designated by the secretary of state for such filing as provided in RSA 668 *or the secretary of state.*

(Amended Effective: July 28, 2025 – HB327 Chapter 47, 2025)

655:28 Affidavit of Qualifications. – A candidate for nomination for the office of governor, councilor, state senator or state representative shall swear an affidavit covering his qualifications as to age, that the candidate is a registered voter, that his domicile is in the district he desires to represent, that he is not a candidate for incompatible offices as defined in RSA 655:10, and that he is not a federal employee which he understands would make him ineligible to file his candidacy. The secretary of state shall not print upon the primary ballot of any party the name of any person unless there is filed with him such an affidavit at the time his candidacy is filed. *If the candidate files in person before a town clerk or a deputy town clerk, such clerk shall be empowered to witness the affidavit whether or not that clerk is a notary public.*

(Amended Effective: August 1, 2025 – HB288 Chapter 62, 2025)

657:6 Procedure by Applicant. – An application form for an absentee ballot shall be mailed or delivered to any person who applies therefor to the secretary of state or to any town or city clerk. It shall be filled out by the applicant and sent to the clerk of the town or city in which he or she desires to vote. Alternatively, a person may apply for an official absentee ballot by sending to said clerk a written statement containing the information required by RSA 657:4, I or by the federal official post card form *for UOCAVA voters as described under RSA 654:20. The federal official post card forms shall be received no earlier than January of the calendar year in which the election occurs. All other application forms shall be received or postmarked within 6 months of the election for which the absentee ballot is being requested. Except for the federal official post card forms, any application received or postmarked prior to the 6-month period shall not be accepted by the secretary of state or any town or city clerk.*

(Amended Effective: August 1, 2025 – HB474 Chapter 65, 2025)

659:64-a Counting Write-In Votes. –

I. In a town or city that uses a ballot counting device approved by the ballot law commission pursuant to RSA 656:40 and which prints or digitally displays an image of all write-in votes as part of the device's report of votes cast, a moderator may use the printed or digitally displayed images to count write-in votes in place of examining each ballot to obtain the name of the person who received a write-in vote. *This counting shall take place in the presence of another sworn-in election official.*

(Amended / NEW Effective: August 9, 2025 – SB16 Chapter 79, 2025)

659:73 General Content of Return. –

VII. The city or town clerk shall, within 7 days of an election, post copies of the election return forms submitted to the secretary of state under paragraphs I and II of this section. The city or town clerk shall post copies in the 2 places where the municipality regularly posts notices of its governing body meetings, which may include the municipality's main website and any social media accounts utilized by the municipality.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

655:42 Number. –

III. It shall require the names of registered voters equaling 3 percent of the total **votes** **ballots** cast at the previous state general election to nominate by nomination papers a political organization.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

659:88 Write-In Votes and Nomination. –

I. (a) A person whose name was not printed on the official state primary election ballot of a political party shall not be entitled to the nomination of that party for any office unless the person received at least 35 write-in votes or write-in votes equaling 10 percent or more of the total **votes** **ballots** cast for that party **on** **in** the state primary election **ballot**, whichever is smaller.

II. If a person is disqualified from a nomination in accordance with the provisions of paragraph I, then the nomination shall be awarded to the qualified person who received the highest number of votes, provided that person received at least 35 votes or votes equaling 10 percent or more of the total **votes** **ballots** cast for that party **on** **in** the state primary election **ballot**, whichever is smaller.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

659:91-a Candidate of One Party. –

II. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 655:37, if any candidate is disqualified from accepting the nomination of another party by means of write-in votes because the candidate is disqualified under the provisions of paragraph I, then the nomination shall be given to the candidate who received the highest number of write-in votes and who was not disqualified under the provisions of paragraph I, so long as he or she receives 35 write-in votes, or write-in votes equaling 10 percent or more of the total ~~votes~~ **ballots** cast for that party ~~on~~ **in** the state primary election ~~ballot~~, whichever is the smaller.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

660:1 Application. – Any candidate for whom a vote was cast for any office at a state general election may apply for a recount, provided that the difference between the votes cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected is less than 20 percent of the total ~~votes~~ **ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the office to be recounted. The application shall be made in writing to the secretary of state and shall be submitted no later than the Friday following the election. Each candidate requesting a recount shall pay the secretary of state fees as provided in RSA 660:2.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

660:2 Fees. –

I. If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected shall be less than one percent of the total ~~votes~~ **ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the office to be recounted, the following fees shall apply:

II. If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected shall be between one percent and 2 percent of the total ~~votes~~ **ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the office to be recounted, the following fees shall apply:

III. If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected shall be between 2 percent and 3 percent of the total ~~votes~~ **ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the office to be recounted, the following fees shall apply:

IV. If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected shall be greater than 3 percent of the total ~~votes~~ **ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the office to be recounted, the candidate shall pay the fees as provided in RSA 660:2, III and shall agree in writing with the secretary of state to pay any additional costs of the recount. The secretary of state may require that the applying candidate pay the estimated additional costs of the recount prior to commencing the recount.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

660:3 Number of Recounts. – Any candidate for whom a vote was cast for any office at a state general election, provided that the difference between the votes cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected is less than 20 percent of the total **votes ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the office to be recounted, shall be entitled to apply for only one recount under this chapter, and the declaration made by the secretary of state under RSA 660:6 shall be final, subject to a change in the result following an appeal to the ballot law commission, as provided in RSA 665:8, II. If more than one candidate for the same office in the same district applies for a recount under this chapter, and a recount is completed, such applications shall not result in a second recount.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

660:6 Declaration; Certificate. –

III. If any person who has applied for a recount loses the recount by a margin of less than one percent of the total **votes ballots** cast in the towns which comprise the district for the office recounted, the secretary of state shall return to the person within 10 days of the recount any fees that were paid in excess of those required by RSA 660:2, I.

(Amended Effective: June 17, 2025 – SB212 Chapter 102, 2025)

669:31 Notice; Fee. –

II. The applicant shall pay to the town clerk, for the use of the town, the following fee:

- (a) If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected is less than one percent of the total **votes ballots** cast, the fee shall be \$10.
- (b) If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected is between one percent and 2 percent of the total **votes ballots** cast, the fee shall be \$20.
- (c) If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected is between 2 percent and 3 percent of the total **votes ballots** cast, the fee shall be \$40.
- (d) If the difference between the vote cast for the applying candidate and a candidate declared elected is greater than 3 percent of the total **votes ballots** cast, the candidate shall pay the fee as provided in RSA 669:31, II(c) and shall agree in writing with the town clerk to pay any additional costs of the recount.

IV. If any person who has applied for a recount loses the recount by a margin of less than one percent of the total **votes ballots** cast, the town clerk shall return to the person within 10 days of the recount any fees that were paid in excess of those required by subparagraph II(a).

91-A:2 Meetings Open to Public. –

II. Subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, all meetings, whether held in person, by means of telephone or electronic communication, or in any other manner, shall be open to the public. Except for town meetings, school district meetings, and elections, no vote while in open session may be taken by secret ballot. Any person shall be permitted to use recording devices, including, but not limited to, tape recorders, cameras, and videotape equipment, at such meetings. Minutes of all such meetings, including nonpublic sessions, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, **and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions, *the start time and end time of the meeting, and name of the person who produced the minutes.*** The names of the members who made or seconded each motion shall be recorded in the minutes. Subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, minutes shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection not more than 5 business days after the meeting, except as provided in RSA 91-A:6, and shall be treated as permanent records of any public body, or any subordinate body thereof, without exception. Except in an emergency or when there is a meeting of a legislative committee, a notice of the time and place of each such meeting, including a nonpublic session, shall be posted in 2 appropriate places one of which may be the public body's Internet website, if such exists, or shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at least 24 hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meetings. An emergency shall mean a situation where immediate undelayed action is deemed to be imperative by the chairman or presiding officer of the public body, who shall post a notice of the time and place of such meeting as soon as practicable, and shall employ whatever further means are reasonably available to inform the public that a meeting is to be held. The minutes of the meeting shall clearly spell out the need for the emergency meeting. When a meeting of a legislative committee is held, publication made pursuant to the rules of the house of representatives or the senate, whichever rules are appropriate, shall be sufficient notice. If the charter of any city or town or guidelines or rules of order of any public body require a broader public access to official meetings and records than herein described, such charter provisions or guidelines or rules of order shall take precedence over the requirements of this chapter. For the purposes of this paragraph, a business day means the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, excluding national and state holidays.

(Amended Effective: July 1, 2025 – HB2 Chapter 141, 2025)

654:45 Centralized Voter Registration Database. –

IV.

(b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of the department of safety and the federal social security administration as are required by law, and with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this purpose the voter registration record database may be linked to the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency or division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the accuracy of the information contained in the voter database. The link authorized by this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles; ***provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall authorize the release of information from the voter database necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II.*** The commissioner of safety may authorize the release of information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records and to the extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies. The commissioner of safety and the secretary of state are authorized to enter into an agreement that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those services. The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to pay the cost for the services. The system shall facilitate the identification and correction of voter registration records whenever a registered voter has died or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the same individual to the department of safety.

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB151 Chapter 166, 2025)

41:46-a Election of Supervisors of the Checklist. – The board of supervisors of the checklist shall consist of 3 legal voters of the town. At the annual town election held in every even numbered year, the voters of each town shall elect, by ballot, one supervisor for a term of 6 years. *A city or town's legislative body may adopt a 3-year term for supervisors of the checklist, electing one each year over a 3 year cycle.*

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB228 Chapter 173, 2025)

39:3 Articles. – Upon the written application of 25 or more registered voters or 2 percent of the registered voters in town, whichever is less, although in no event shall fewer than 10 registered voters be sufficient, presented to the selectmen or one of them not later than the fifth Tuesday before the day prescribed for an annual meeting, the selectmen shall insert in their warrant for such meeting the petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required. Such corrections shall not in any way change the intended effect of the article as presented in the original language of the petition. For the purposes of this section, the number of registered voters in a town shall be the number of voters registered prior to the last state general election. The right to have an article inserted in the warrant conferred by this section shall not be invalidated by the provisions of RSA 32. In towns with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants upon the written application of 50 or more voters or 1/4 of the voters in town, whichever is fewer, and in towns with 10,000 or more inhabitants upon the written application of 5 percent of the registered voters in the town, so presented not less than 60 days before the next annual meeting, the selectmen shall warn a special meeting to act upon any question specified in such application. The checklist for an annual or special town meeting shall be corrected by the supervisors of the checklist as provided in RSA 654:25-31. Those persons qualified to vote whose names are on the corrected checklist shall be entitled to vote at the meeting. The same checklist used at a recessed town meeting shall be used at any reconvened session of the same town meeting. In no event shall a special town meeting be held on the biennial election day. *The written application for a petitioned article for an annual or special meeting may identify one of the registered voters on the application as the primary petitioner. If no primary petitioner is identified, the primary petitioner shall be the first registered voter listed on the written application.*

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB228 Chapter 173, 2025)

40:7 Debate. – No person shall speak in any meeting without leave of the moderator, nor when any person speaking is in order; and all persons shall be silent at the desire of the moderator, on pain of forfeiting \$1 for each offense, for the use of the town. *The moderator shall provide a primary petitioner, identified pursuant to RSA 39:3, RSA 197:2, or RSA 197:6, the opportunity to introduce the petitioned article at the meeting. The primary petitioner shall be given a minimum of 10 minutes to introduce the warrant article at the meeting. Upon written notice to the moderator, the primary petitioner may designate any registered voter to act as the primary petitioner of a petitioned article.*

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB228 Chapter 173, 2025)

197:2 Special. A special meeting of a school district shall be held whenever, in the opinion of the school board, there is occasion therefor, or whenever 50 or more voters, or 1/4 of the voters of the district, whichever is less, shall have made written application to the school board therefor, setting forth the subject matter upon which action is desired. No special school district meeting shall be held in conjunction with the biennial election, except when a special school district meeting has been approved by the court and a school district has adopted the official ballot referendum form of meeting pursuant to RSA 40:14. *The written application for a petitioned article for a special meeting may identify one of the registered voters in the application as the primary petitioner. If no primary petitioner is identified, the primary petitioner shall be the first registered voter listed on the written application.*

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB270 Chapter 174, 2025)

656:42 Rules. –

VIII. (a) Before each election, the vendor for any electronic ballot counting device shall provide the secretary of state with an exact electronic record of the data written to each ~~memory card~~ *external storage device* to be used in the election.

(b) Whenever the town or city clerk receives a programmed external storage device from the vendor, the clerk shall lock any programmed external storage device not inserted into an electronic ballot counting device in a safe and record the names of individuals that have access to such safe in the activity log.

~~(b) (c) The town or city clerk shall preserve each memory external storage device used at each election until after the recounts for such election are complete and any and all legal challenges to the outcome of that election are adjudicated as provided in RSA 33-A:3-a or as directed by the secretary of state.~~

~~(c) The town or city clerk shall securely preserve each memory device used in any election as directed by the secretary of state.~~

(d)

~~(7) Whenever the town or city clerk receives a memory device from the vendor, the clerk shall break the memory device seal, insert the memory device in the electronic ballot counting device, and apply a new seal. The clerk shall lock any programmed memory device not inserted into an electronic ballot counting device in a safe and record the names of individuals that have access to such safe on the activity log.~~

~~(8) Whenever the town or city clerk removes the memory device from the electronic ballot counting device, the clerk shall immediately return it to the memory card programmer or, if programmed locally, secure the device in a safe and reseal the empty memory device slot or port.~~

(e)

(10) The clerk shall test all electronic ballot counting devices and *programmed external storage* ~~memory~~ devices in the possession of the town or city.

(11) Prior to placing the electronic ballot counting device or any ~~memory~~ *programmed external storage* device into service in an election, the moderator and the clerk shall certify on the pre-election certificate required by RSA 658:32 that there is evidence that pre-election testing was conducted on each electronic ballot counting device and each ~~memory~~ *programmed external storage* device in the town or city clerk's possession, and that these ballot counting devices and ~~memory~~ *programmed external storage* devices have passed the test. The moderator and clerk shall also certify on the pre-election certificate required by RSA 658:32 that all electronic ballot counting device seals are present, all seals have been maintained intact, and that any seals which have been broken in accordance with this section have been appropriately resealed and the activity log properly recorded and signed.

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB367 Chapter 181, 2025)

669:11 Unofficial Ballot System. – If a town has not voted at a previous town meeting to adopt an official ballot system as provided in RSA 669:12 or 669:13 ~~or if a town has voted to rescind such adoption~~, such town shall elect its officers by means of the unofficial ballot system as provided in RSA 669:54-669:60. A majority vote shall be required to elect using unofficial ballots.

(New Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB367 Chapter 181, 2025)

669:11-a Adoption of an Unofficial Ballot System. *If a town, having either a partisan ballot system or a non-partisan ballot system, wishes to adopt an unofficial ballot system, then using the existing official ballot system, adoption of the unofficial ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting on the unofficial ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall an unofficial ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the unofficial ballot system shall be deemed to an article relating to the adoption have been adopted by said town. The unofficial ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is adopted.*

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB367 Chapter 181, 2025)

669:12 Partisan Official Ballot System. – Any town may vote to adopt the partisan official ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting, ~~and may rescind such action in like manner~~ *using the procedure in RSA 669:13. In any town in which either the unofficial or the non-partisan ballot system is in effect, adoption of the partisan ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting an article relating to the adoption of the partisan ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall the partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the partisan ballot system shall be deemed to have been adopted by said town.* The partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the partisan ballot system.

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB367 Chapter 181, 2025)

669:13 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. – A town may vote to adopt the non-partisan official ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting, ~~and may rescind such action in like manner~~ *using the procedure in this section.* In any town in which ~~either the unofficial or~~ the partisan ballot system is in effect, ~~and which has a population, according to most recent federal census, of 4,500 or more,~~ adoption of the non-partisan ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting an article relating to the adoption of the non-partisan ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall the non-partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the non-partisan ballot system shall be deemed to have been adopted by said town. In all towns, the non-partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the non-partisan ballot system.

(Amended Effective: July 15, 2025 – HB626 Chapter 200, 2025)

652:23 Chief Election Officer. – *I.* The secretary of state shall be the chief election officer for the state. The secretary of state shall provide information regarding voter registration procedures and absentee ballot procedures for all voters, including absent uniformed services voters, absent voters temporarily residing outside the United States, and federal ballot only voters domiciled outside the United States. Instructional and informational materials published by the secretary of state for clerks to provide such voters shall include information on how to communicate electronically with election officials.

II. Within 180 days of the effective date of this paragraph, the secretary of state shall implement and operate a public vulnerability disclosure program which substantially meets or exceeds the recommendations contained within the publication "Guide to Vulnerability Reporting for America's Election Administrators" published by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, to make it easier for security researchers and the general public to report security vulnerabilities appropriately. The secretary shall work with the cybersecurity advisory committee established in RSA 21-R:16.

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – SB43 Chapter 217, 2025)

652:16-h Electioneering. –

I. Wearing clothing or paraphernalia that displays a candidate's name, likeness, or logo, a ballot measure's number, title, subject, or logo, a political party's name or logo, or any communication that a reasonable person would believe explicitly advocates for or against any candidate, political party, or measure, ~~provided that~~. A person *who is* eligible to vote or register to vote in the voting district who is unable *reasonably* to remove or cover *such* clothing ~~that explicitly advocates for or against any candidate, political party, or measure~~, may wear such clothing in the polling place while actively *and expeditiously* engaged in the process of registering to vote or while actively *and expeditiously* engaged in the process of voting.

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – SB43 Chapter 217, 2025)

652:27 Electronic Poll Books. –

I. Cities and towns are hereby authorized to use electronic poll book devices for voter registration and check-in for elections, *town business and deliberative sessions and special meetings, and school district business and deliberative sessions and special meetings* provided that any city or town using electronic poll book devices shall comply with all statutes directly or indirectly related to voter checklists and maintenance of the statewide centralized voter registration database including the processes related to voter registration, voter check-in and check-out, the processing of absentee ballots, the collection of all fields of data required for registration or check-in, and the delivery of that data to the secretary of state in a format compatible with the statewide centralized voter registration database. The...

(Repealed and Reenacted Effective: September 13, 2025 – SB215 Chapter 249, 2025)

668:6 Establishing Procedures for Voting. – The secretary of state shall issue regulations within the scope of the election laws to establish the procedures for voting and filing for office by voters of unincorporated places. The regulations so issued shall have the force of law.

668:6 Establishing Procedures for Voting.

I. The secretary of state or designee shall issue a warrant, post the warrant in the manner required for towns by RSA 39:5, give other public notice, appoint a pro tem moderator and clerk from among the registered voters, and oversee the first election of officers for an unorganized town or unincorporated place for the purpose of conducting local, county, state, and federal elections, pursuant to RSA 53:1. This initial election shall be conducted using the unofficial ballot process as set forth in RSA 669:54 through RSA 669:60. The secretary of state shall exercise this authority whenever the number of voters domiciled in an unorganized town or unincorporated place which has not organized for voting pursuant to RSA 53:1, as recorded in the statewide voter registration system, reaches 100 or more voters.

II. The following question shall be included in the warrant for the first meeting and shall be voted on at that meeting: "Shall (insert name of the unorganized town or unincorporated place), when electing the officers who will conduct future elections, use an official ballot voting process in the same manner as a town as specified in RSA 669:19 through RSA 669:29? A "no" vote is a vote to use the unofficial ballot process in the same manner as a town as specified in RSA 669:54 through RSA 669:60 (nominations from the floor and voting at a meeting)."

III. Notwithstanding RSA 53:1, III, if the secretary of state is unable to appoint pro tem election officers and oversee a local election held at least 90 days prior to a state election due to a lack of suitable qualified volunteers, the secretary may designate a town as the polling place for the upcoming state elections in accordance with RSA 668:2.

IV. The secretary of state may exercise the authority authorized by this section if notified that vacancies in local offices for an unorganized town or unincorporated place result in the town or place being unable to organize and conduct their next election without state assistance.

(Repealed and Reenacted Effective: January 1, 2026 – HB67 Chapter 264, 2025)

659:20-b Accessible Voting Systems.

- I. Every city, every town, and every school district which has adopted an official ballot system shall:
 - (a) Ensure that each polling place has at least one accessible voting system.
 - (b) Bear the cost of programming for the city, town, or school district election with the vendor chosen and contracted with by the secretary of state.
 - (c) Follow guidance from the secretary of state to upload programmed files to the accessible voting system, test the programming, and set up the accessible voting system for each election.*
 - II. The city or town clerk shall:
 - (a) Enter into an agreement with the secretary of state for the use of the state's provided accessible voting systems in local elections.
 - (b) Store and maintain the state's accessible voting system in a secure manner following election security guidance issued by the secretary of state.
 - (c) For school elections held in the clerk's city or town, share the state's accessible voting system with the school clerk for use in the school district's elections.*
 - III. The secretary of state shall:
 - (a) Enter into an agreement with city and town clerks to provide accessible voting systems for use in city, town, and school elections.
 - (b) Provide guidance to city, town, and school clerks on uploading programmed files to the accessible voting systems.
 - (c) Provide security guidance for the local storage and maintenance of the accessible voting system or systems used for city, town, and school district elections.
 - (d) Bear the cost of programming for state and federal elections.*
-

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB154 Chapter 271, 2025)

656:42 Rules. –

XII. Any voter may request to have his or her ballot hand-counted and the voter shall be instructed to hand the ballot to the election official manning the ballot machine, who shall place the ballot in the auxiliary compartment of the ballot counting device to be hand-counted by election officials after the close of the polls.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

658:31 Counting Ballots. – At or prior to the opening of the polls in each town or ward, the seal of the packages shall be publicly broken by the town or ward clerk; and the ballots shall be given to the ballot clerks and the ballots shall be examined and counted by the election officers in the presence of the clerk, the moderator, and at least one other legal voter. If the ballots are counted prior to the opening of the polls, the clerk shall post, in an appropriate place and prior to election day, notice of the time and place of the counting. *With the exception of candidates standing for the office of moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, selectperson, inspector of election, and supervisor of the checklist, no person who appears on the ballot shall count ballots prior to the election.*

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

654:45 Centralized Voter Registration Database. –

IV.

(b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of the department of safety and the federal social security administration as are required by law, and with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this purpose the voter registration record database may be linked to the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency or division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the accuracy of the information *to be entered or* contained in the voter database. The link authorized by this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles; *provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall authorize the release of information from the voter database necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II.* The commissioner of safety may authorize the release of information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records **and** to the extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies *or to complete voter registration*. The commissioner of safety and the secretary of state are authorized to enter into an agreement that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those services. The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to pay the cost for the services. The system shall facilitate the *completion*, identification, and correction of voter registration records, *including but not limited to whenever* **when** a registered voter has died or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the same individual to the department of safety *or to verify citizenship for voter registration*.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

654:12 Determining Qualifications of Applicant. –

I.

(a) CITIZENSHIP. The supervisors of the checklist, or the town or city clerk, shall accept from the applicant any one of the following as proof of citizenship: the applicant's birth certificate, passport, naturalization papers if the applicant is a naturalized citizen, *proof that the applicant was previously or is currently registered to vote in a different town or ward in New Hampshire*, or any other reasonable documentation which indicates the applicant is a United States citizen.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

654:12 Determining Qualifications of Applicant. –

III. Any person who is applying for registration as a voter and who is currently registered to vote in a different town or ward in New Hampshire shall complete the voter registration form provided for in RSA 654:7. If the election official receiving the application confirms through the centralized voter registration database required by RSA 654:45 *or other official records* that the applicant *was previously or* is currently registered to vote in New Hampshire, the applicant shall prove identity and domicile, but shall not be required to prove his or her age or citizenship.

(Amended Effective: February 1, 2026 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

654:12 Determining Qualifications of Applicant. –

VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in accordance with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity to the city and town clerks. The secretary of state shall work with the city and town clerks to ensure access on election day at the polling location. If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that qualification. Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

664:6 Reporting by Political Committees. -

I. Any political committee whose receipts or expenditures exceed \$1,000 in an election cycle, shall file with the secretary of state an itemized statement, in the form prescribed by the secretary of state, signed by its chairman and treasurer. The \$1,000 threshold shall not apply to political committees renewed under RSA 664:6, V; these political committees shall continue to file until a zero balance is reported. *The Except as provided in paragraph VIII, the* statement shall detail the full name and postal address of each contributor in alphabetical order, the amount of the contribution, the date it was received, and the aggregate total for each election cycle. For contributors who, in the aggregate, donate \$50 or less in an election cycle, their personal identifying information shall not be publicly available in the secretary of state's campaign finance system, and their personal identifying information shall be exempt from disclosure under RSA 91-A. Any receipts from a contributor with aggregate receipts of \$50 or under shall appear on the statements as unitemized receipts. Any receipt that exceeds a contributor's aggregate total of \$200 for each election cycle shall be reported with the contributor's occupation, the name of the contributor's employer, and the city or town of the contributor's principal place of business, if any. The statement shall also show each expenditure with the full name and postal address of the payee or promisee of payment, the date paid or obligated, whichever occurred first, and the specific nature and amount of each expenditure. Statements shall cover the period beginning the day after the last day covered in the prior statement period up to and including the Sunday before the statement is due, except for the statement in subparagraph (i) below which shall be inclusive through the Tuesday before the statement is due. For a candidate or a political committee of a candidate, as defined in RSA 664, where the candidate has not filed a declaration of candidacy or intent, as defined in RSA 655, for the current election cycle, only subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), and (i) apply. Statements shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. according to the following schedule:

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

664:6 Reporting by Political Committees. -

VIII. Campaign donations at campaign booths at fairs, festivals, or other events, donations to raffles, passing the hat, and other fundraising activities where individual donations do not exceed \$25 and there is no expectation that an individual donor will exceed \$50 over the campaign cycle may be summarized on the candidate's financial report by providing the name of the event, the location of the event, and the amount collected.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

664:3 Registration of Political Committees. -

I. (a) Any political committee, except the political committee of a political party, shall register with the secretary of state as provided in this section. Registration shall be made through the secretary of state's online campaign finance system. A political committee may register at any time during the election cycle, but the committee's registration shall be received by the secretary of state not later than 48 hours after the committee meets at least one of the criteria under RSA 664:2, III. *The registration shall be accompanied by an itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures, if any, made by the political committee in the current election cycle prior to registration. Such itemization shall be made pursuant to the manner set forth in RSA 664:6.* The registration shall also be accompanied by an administration fee of \$50, unless exempt pursuant to subparagraph (c), which shall be deposited by the secretary of state into the general fund. *Registrants shall comply with the reporting requirements contained in RSA 664:6.*

671:20 By School District Clerk. –

I. The school district clerk shall prepare ballots for school district elections in the same manner as town clerks for non-partisan town elections, as provided in RSA 669:23 and 669:24, except that the ballot shall be of a different color than any other ballot used at the election.

II. Immediately preceding the question of adopting a school budget, the following information shall be printed on the ballot:

(a) The average cost-per-pupil for the preceding year as calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75, I(a).

(b) School district achievement proficiency scores obtained from the department of education for the preceding year to be printed as: "ELA Proficiency: X%; Math Proficiency: X%; Science Proficiency: X%".

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – SB218 Chapter 298, 2025)

654:17 Absentee Registration Affidavit. –

I. The absentee registration affidavit shall be prepared by the secretary of state and shall be in substantially the following form: Affidavit (Absence from town)

I, _____ do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, the following:

1) That *I am a citizen of the United States*, my legal domicile is in the town of _____, New Hampshire, I will be of the age of 18 years or over on election day and am entitled to vote in the election to be held in said town on _____, _____ (date), except for the fact that my name does not appear on the checklist to be used in said town at such election;

2) That I do not intend to be present within said town at such time prior to said election as shall enable me personally to appear before the supervisors of the checklist of said town in their regular sessions for the correction of the checklist for said election;

3) That I am temporarily residing in _____ (city and state or city, province, and country);

4) That I hereby enclose ~~one of the following as proof of identity and domicile:~~

~~(a) A copy of a current and valid New Hampshire driver's license or an armed services identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government that shows my name and address; or~~

~~(b) A copy of a current and valid photo identification and a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, other government document that shows my name and address, or a letter from the administrator of a nursing home or similar facility affirming that I am a resident of that facility that was provided to me at my request pursuant to the administrator's duty to provide such a letter upon my request~~ *copies of the applicable documentation required by RSA 654:12 to establish my citizenship, age, domicile, and identity as qualifications to vote;*

5) That I acknowledge that if I do not provide a copy of ~~proof of identity and domicile~~ *the documentation* as required by section 4) above, this application ~~may~~ *shall* not be approved; and

6) That I hereby make application for the addition of my name to the checklist of said town to be used at said election.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

Affidavit (Physical Disability)

I, _____ do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, the following:

1) That *I am a citizen of the United States*, my legal domicile is in the town of _____, New Hampshire, I will be of the age of 18 years or over on election day, and am entitled to vote in the election to be held in said town on _____, _____ (date), except for the fact that my name does not appear on the checklist to be used in said town at such election;

2) That I am unable by reason of physical disability personally to appear before the supervisors of the checklist of said town in their regular sessions for the correction of the checklist for said election;

3) That I hereby enclose ~~one of the following as proof of identity and domicile:~~

~~(a) A copy of a current and valid New Hampshire driver's license or an armed services identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government that shows my name and address; or~~

~~(b) A copy of a current and valid photo identification and a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, other government document that shows my name and address, or a letter from the administrator of a nursing home or similar facility affirming that I am a resident of that facility that was provided to me at my request pursuant to the administrator's duty to provide such a letter upon my request~~ *copies of the applicable documentation required by RSA 654:12 to establish my citizenship, age, domicile, and identity as qualifications to vote;*

- 4) That I acknowledge that if I do not provide a copy of ~~proof of identity and domicile~~ *the documentation* as required by section 3) above, this application ~~may~~ *shall* not be approved; and
- 5) That I hereby make application for the addition of my name to the checklist of said town to be used at said election.

Signature of Applicant _____
Date _____

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

II. There shall be printed below each of the foregoing affidavits the following affirmation:

Affirmation:

I, _____, the undersigned witness, do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, that on the _____ day of _____, ____ (date), the above named, _____, having satisfied me as to his or her identity, signed the foregoing affidavit in my presence, and did before me swear to (or affirm) the truth of the statements therein contained *and the authenticity and accuracy of the documentation submitted therewith.*

Signature of Witness _____

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – SB218 Chapter 298, 2025)

654:19 Submission; Effect. – The applicant shall forward the absentee registration affidavit *with supporting documentation* and the applicant's voter registration form to the clerk of the town or city named for submission to the supervisors of the checklist. If the supervisors find that the affidavit *with supporting documentation* and the voter registration form are properly executed, they shall follow the procedure for applications made in person as provided in RSA 654:11, 654:13, and 654:15, except that in the case of an absentee voter they shall accept an absentee registration affidavit *with supporting documentation* and a registration form.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – SB218 Chapter 298, 2025)

657:17-a Verification of In-Person Absentee Voter. –

I. An absentee voter who returns his or her completed absentee ballot to the clerk's office in person shall be treated as a verified voter provided:

~~(a) The *that the* voter voluntarily shows the clerk a photo identification that meets the requirements of RSA 659:13; or~~

~~(b) The voter voluntarily completes a challenged voter affidavit in the same manner as is required for an election day voter who does not present a qualified voter identification.~~

II. The clerk shall mark the absentee ballot affidavit enveloped "voter verified" and note on the clerk's list of absentee voters that the voter has been verified. The verified voter's signatures on the application for an absentee ballot shall not be compared to the voter's signature on the absentee ballot affidavit on election day.

III. A voter who does not present a qualified photo identification ~~and who does not complete a challenged voter affidavit~~ shall not be treated as a verified voter, and his or her signatures on the application for an absentee ballot shall be compared to his or her signature on the absentee ballot affidavit on election day in the same manner as other absentee voters.

657:7 Absence, Religious Observance, and Disability. –

II. Affidavit envelopes of sufficient size to contain the ballots on which shall be printed the following:

YOUR COMPLETED ABSENTEE BALLOT MUST BE SEALED IN THIS ENVELOPE

I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that:

I am a voter in the city or town of _____, New Hampshire.

One of the following applies to me:

1) I will be absent on election day. Absence includes:

a) I will be out-of-town on election day.

b) I will be unable to vote in person because I will be working.

c) I will be unable to vote in person because I will be caring for children or infirm adults, with or without compensation.

d) I am voting absentee on the Monday immediately before the election, the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning that applies to my town/ward, and I have concerns for traveling in the storm.

2) I am unable to vote in person due to disability.

3) I am unable to vote in person due to observance of a religious commitment, which prevents me from voting in person.

4) I am confined to a penal institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial.

I have carefully read or had read to me the absentee voting instructions. I personally marked the absentee ballot enclosed in this envelope or, due to a disability, I had assistance in marking the absentee ballot.

Voter Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Voter Address _____

A person assisting a voter with a disability shall sign this statement on this envelope acknowledging the assistance.

I attest that I assisted (print voter name) _____ because the voter is a person with a disability. I marked the ballot and/or this form as instructed by the voter.

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

III. Return envelopes of size sufficient to contain the preceding envelope addressed to the town and city clerks of the state in which absentee voters shall return their ballots *if such ballots are returned by mail*. On the envelopes shall be printed "Enclosed is the ballot of an absentee voter" and, at the top thereof, 4 blank spaces with the words "Name, Voting Address, Ward, Town or City" appropriately printed thereon. *Absentee ballots returned to town of city clerks in person shall not be required to be placed in such outer envelopes.*

657:16 Refusal to Certify; Procedure. – If he or she refuses to certify the application, the town or city clerk shall notify the applicant in writing within 7 days to that effect. The town or city clerk shall provide the applicant with an absentee ballot and a notice that the ballot will not be counted unless the applicant submits the documents necessary to complete an absentee registration. The applicant shall be advised in writing what documents, if any, have been received in proper form and which the applicant must submit. *If the applicant submits such documents via mail, he or she shall do so by enclosing them* in the outer envelope that contains the absentee ballot envelope. *An applicant hand delivering such documents need not enclose them in the outer envelope.* The town or city clerk shall mark the absentee ballot application, the absentee ballot affidavit, and the outer envelope, *if applicable*, with the words "Not Registered." Upon receipt of ~~an~~ *a mailed* outer envelope marked "Not Registered," the clerk shall open the outer envelope. If the applicant returns the required documents with the absentee ballot by the date set for correcting the checklist under RSA 654:27 and RSA 654:28, the town or city clerk shall forward the registration forms to the supervisors of the checklist and, if the applicant is found to be qualified, the applicant shall be registered and his or her absentee ballot shall be processed in the same manner as the absentee ballot of a previously registered voter. All documents received after the deadline for correcting the checklist under RSA 654:27 and RSA 654:28 shall be processed as election day registrations under RSA 654:7-a. If the ballot is returned without the required documents in proper form, the ballot shall be marked in the manner set forth by law for successfully challenged absentee ballots and preserved in accordance with RSA 33-A:3-a. The clerk shall preserve the application of any applicant who is not registered as a voter until the time set by law for the destruction of the ballots after the election at which time the application shall be destroyed. Any justice of the superior court has jurisdiction in equity upon such notice as he or she may order to require that the name of the person making application for an absentee ballot be placed upon the checklist or registered as a member of any party and be sent an absentee ballot.

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – SB218 Chapter 298, 2025)

657:17 Procedure by Voter. –

I. After marking the ballot, the voter or the person assisting a blind voter or voter with a disability who is unable to mark his or her ballot shall enclose and seal the same in an inner envelope. The voter shall execute the affidavit on the envelope. A person assisting a blind voter or voter with a disability who needs assistance executing the affidavit shall sign a statement on the affidavit envelope acknowledging the assistance. *If the voter or the person assisting the blind voter or voter with a disability who needs assistance is mailing the absentee ballot to the town or city clerk, the voter or the person assisting the blind voter or voter with a disability shall enclose and seal the inner envelope with the affidavit and return it to the town/city clerk. If the envelope with the affidavit is mailed it shall be sealed in an the outer envelope provided.* The voter or the person assisting a blind voter or voter with a disability shall then endorse on the outer envelope the voter's name, address, and voting place. The absentee ballot shall be delivered to the city or town clerk from whom it was received in one of the following ways:

- (a) The voter or the voter's delivery agent may personally deliver the envelope, *in which case the voter or the voter's delivery agent need not enclose the affidavit in the outer envelope*; or
 - (b) The voter or the person assisting the blind voter or voter with a disability may mail the *ballot and affidavit envelope within the outer envelope* to the city or town clerk, with postage affixed.
-

(Amended Effective: September 30, 2025 – SB218 Chapter 298, 2025)

657:18 Procedure by Clerk. – Upon receipt of an outer envelope *or an affidavit envelope* purporting to contain an official absentee voting ballot, the clerk of the city or town shall, subject to RSA 657:16, attach thereto the application for an absentee ballot *to the envelope* submitted by said voter and record the information pursuant to RSA 657:15. ~~All such envelopes~~ *The envelopes* shall be preserved unopened until ~~election day~~ *processed in accordance with RSA 659:50.*

(Amended Effective: January 1, 2026 – SB221 Chapter 299, 2025)

654:39 Annual Verification Every 10 Years. –

I. In addition to any verification carried out under the provisions of RSA 654:38, the supervisors shall verify the checklist in ~~1981~~ *2026* and ~~once every 10 years~~ *annually* thereafter.

II. Between April 1 and August 1 of ~~1981~~ *2026* and *annually* thereafter ~~in each year ending with a one~~, the supervisors shall post notice of their sessions in 2 appropriate places one of which shall be the town or city's Internet website, if such exists, and published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation and hold sufficient sessions for verification of the checklist as in their opinion will enable all eligible voters in said town or ward to appear before them and register or reregister as the case may be. Whenever a person is reregistered, his or her party designation, if any, on the checklist undergoing revision shall not be changed except as provided in RSA 654:34.

IV. For the purpose of this section, a person shall be deemed reregistered and need not appear before the supervisors if:

- (a) The person voted in any election within the ~~4~~ *5* years immediately preceding ~~a 10-year~~ *an annual* verification; or
- (b) The person has been added to the checklist since the last state general election.

VII. The secretary of state shall develop any forms necessary for the reregistration of eligible voters removed from the checklist pursuant to this section.

(Amended/NEW Effective: September 30, 2025 – SB287 Chapter 302, 2025)

657:17-c Verification of Absentee Ballot Applicant.

I. Every applicant for an absentee ballot shall provide verification before being issued an absentee ballot. Verification shall be satisfied by one of the following methods:

(a) Including a copy of the voter's photo identification with the absentee ballot application. The identification shall meet the requirements of RSA 659:13, II(a);

(b) Including a notarized signature on the absentee ballot application form; or

(c) Personally presenting a qualifying photo identification, as defined in RSA 659:13, II(a), to the city or town clerk or their designee prior to the issuance of the absentee ballot.

II. No absentee ballot shall be issued unless one of the verification methods under paragraph I has been satisfied.

The Following changes are not in the Election Law Book, BUT are election related

(Amended Effective: July 1, 2025 – HB394 Chapter 128, 2025)

95:12-a Budget Committee. –

I. A cooperative school district at an annual meeting, under a proper article in the warrant, may vote to establish a budget committee pursuant to RSA 32:14 and may rescind such action in a like manner. The budget committee shall have the same number of members as the cooperative district school board plus one additional member from the school board as provided in this paragraph. The terms of office and manner of election of members shall be determined in the same manner as for the cooperative school board. Whenever it is voted to establish a budget committee, the moderator in the first instance shall appoint the members of the budget committee, except for the additional member appointed from the school board, within 15 days of the vote establishing the committee. The members appointed by the moderator shall serve until the next annual meeting when the meeting shall elect their successors. No member of the cooperative school board shall be appointed or elected to the budget committee except that the chairperson of the cooperative school board shall appoint a member of the board to serve on the budget committee ~~with all the powers and duties of any other member of the committee~~ *in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity*. After appointment or election the budget committee shall promptly organize and choose a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. The secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of the budget committee, which shall be public records open to public inspection.

II. Such cooperative school budget committee shall have the powers and duties of the municipal budget committee under the provisions of RSA 32 insofar as the budget for the cooperative school district is concerned and insofar as RSA 32 is applicable to the cooperative school budget. *Additionally, the committee shall review and make a recommendation on all proposed warrant articles or supplemental appropriations involving the expenditure of funds. Such articles shall contain a notation of whether or not that appropriation is recommended by the budget committee. No such additional amount or purpose of appropriation may be disclosed or discussed at one or more public hearings unless the budget committee has first had an opportunity to review the proposal and make its recommendation. The budget committee shall vote on each such warrant article that proposes an appropriation or expenditure, and that vote shall be recorded and printed on the warrant.*

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB151 Chapter 166, 2025)

41:46-a Election of Supervisors of the Checklist. –

Election of Supervisors of the Checklist; Changing Term; Applicability. The changes in terms of supervisors of the checklist established by this act shall not affect constituencies or terms of office of supervisors of the checklist presently in office. If there shall be a vacancy in a supervisor of the checklist position for any reason prior to the 2026 annual town election, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in law for supervisors of the checklist that existed for the 2025 annual town election.

32:5-b Local Tax Cap. –

III. The legislative body may override the cap by the usual procedures applicable to annual meetings of the legislative body, provided that: when a proposed appropriation will cause the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district to exceed the tax cap under this section or the total amount already raised and appropriated has caused the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district to exceed the tax cap under this section, voting on the appropriation question shall be by ballot, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. If a 3/5 majority or the supermajority as determined under a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D of those voting on the question vote "yes," the appropriation is approved. Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority or the supermajority as determined under a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D.

(a) When using the official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13, if the warrant article for the operating budget results in appropriations exceeding the tax cap under this section and receives less than 3/5 majority "yes" vote, the adopted operating budget shall be reduced by appropriations already raised to remain compliant with the tax cap under this section.

(b) School districts shall place the warrant article for the SAU budget at the beginning of school district warrant, immediately after any warrant articles proposing bonds or notes. For school districts using a traditional meeting and when the outcome of the SAU budget vote is pending on balloting from the other school districts in the SAU, the higher of the school district's assigned portion of the proposed SAU budget or the school district's assigned portion of the adjusted SAU budget shall be assumed as raised and appropriated for the purpose of determining when the override provisions under paragraph III apply.

(Amended / NEW Effective: December 31, 2025 – HB464 Chapter 277, 2025)

5-C:9 Disclosure of Information From Vital Records. –

X. The New Hampshire department of state, city clerks, town clerks, and supervisors of the checklist shall have a direct and tangible interest in a limited data set of birth, death, marriage, and divorce information of individuals registering to vote and maintaining voter records as provided in RSA 654:45, IV.

(Amended Effective: September 13, 2025 – HB270 Chapter 174, 2025)

33-A:3-a Disposition and Retention Schedule. –

XXXVI. Elections-federal elections: ballots and absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, **and lists, and electronic ballot counting device external storage devices:** by the town clerk until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 22 months after the election, whichever is longer. *Extra electronic ballot counting device external storage devices programmed for, but not used during the election are exempt from preservation.*

XXXVII. Elections-not federal: ballots and absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, **and lists, and electronic ballot counting device external storage devices:** by the town clerk until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 60 days after the election, whichever is longer. *Extra electronic ballot counting device external storage devices programmed for, but not used during the election are exempt from preservation.*