



ELECTION BULLETIN

To: Town and City Clerks
From: Kathy DeWolfe
Date: May 4, 2004

Re: **Survey re: Polling Locations & Hours, Voting Booths & Ballot Bags**

Please complete and then fax or mail this survey back to us no later than May 21.

Polling Location & Hours: Many voters rely on our website to find the hours and locations of polling places in Vermont. Our listing is still missing "hour of opening" information for a number of polling places and there may be some polling places that have been changed by your BCA. Please look at our website listing to verify that we have the correct information for your town.

Town or City of: _____

? Yes, our polling location and hours are correct on the Secretary of State website.

? Please change our polling location and hours information as follows:

Polls open at: _____

Locations: _____

Voting Booths: The Office of the Secretary of State has found a portable voting booth system that folds down, is on casters for ease of moving to the polling location and can then be quickly set up to include 4 voting spaces with dividers coming out from a central post or leg. We plan to order and purchase the booths with 2 voting "table" spaces set at a height for standing voters and 2 voting "table" spaces set at a height for persons in wheelchairs or seated (an option for the elderly). Therefore, 1 of these items will provide 4 "voting booths."

Some towns have already developed their own system of using tables with fold down U shaped dividers to separate voters that are popular with voters and work very well. **If you already have something that is easy to handle, allows voters with disabilities to have privacy while seated or in a wheelchair, and you are happy with it, please do not request one of these voting booths.** If you are uncertain, we will offer to purchase the voting booths again for the 2006 elections. Therefore, if you do not intend to use this in the September and November 2004 Elections, please do not order one of these voting booths now.

? Yes, the Town/City of _____ needs a voting booth for 4 voters for the 2004 elections.

Ballot Bags: The Office of the Secretary of State has found two types of ballot bags (1 for towns with less than 1, 000 on the checklist, and another for larger towns). These ballot bags have more sturdy construction, handles for ease of carrying, a better shape for storage, and a zipper/grommet system for inserting the seals that will not fall apart with handling. Each of the larger bags can store up to 2000 ballots. The smaller bags can store up to 500 ballots. We plan to have enough bags shipped to each town based upon your checklist for the Primary and General Elections in 2004. The Primary bags can then be emptied in 22 months and reused for the 2006 primary etc. We expect that clerks will continue to use the canvas "bank bag" style for your town meeting votes because the ballots only need to be stored for 90 days. You can continue to use the canvas bags for all elections if you prefer them.

? Yes please send the Town/City of _____ the new ballot bags.

? No Thanks, we'll continue to use the canvas bags.