



# ELECTIONS BULLETIN

To: All Town Clerks  
From: Kathy DeWolfe, Director of Elections and Campaign Finance  
Date: May 31, 2006  
Re: RFP for Accessibility Grants – Improvements to Polling Places  
Election Workshops  
Primary Petitions and Consent Forms  
Ballot Bags/Seals

## **RFP for Accessibility Grants – Improvements to Polling Places**

For the towns that have not already applied, we have extended the deadline for applications for HAVA Grants to improve the voting access for individuals with disabilities from May 22, 2006 to July 20, 2006. A town can apply for up to \$5,000 per activity area under this program. Please review the Request for Proposal that was sent with the April 19<sup>th</sup> memo. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hall at (802) 828-0586.

## **Election Workshops**

Ten Elections Workshops have been scheduled in June and August. These workshops are designed for Town Clerks, Board of Civil Authority members, and other election officials. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW. We have mailed a bulletin to all selectboard members and justices of the peace. Please assist us by checking with these BCA members and compiling a listing of who would like to attend from your town. Please fax the attached form to (802) 828-5171 with the approximate number of town officials who would like to attend.

## **Primary Petitions & Consent Forms for Major Party Candidates**

Candidates for the September Major Party Primaries (Democratic, Liberty Union, Progressive and Republican) must file petition and consent forms in order to have their name placed on the ballot. These forms can be downloaded from our Elections page on the website at <http://www.sec.state.vt.us>. Please remind candidates that petitions cannot be filed or accepted prior to Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Statewide candidates must file the petition and consent form with the Office of the Secretary of State in Montpelier.

County Office Candidates: Probate Judge, Assistant Judges (Side Judges), State's Attorney, Sheriff, and High Bailiff candidates must file with the County Clerk.

Senatorial candidates must file with the State Senatorial District Clerk.

**Candidates for State Representative must file the petition with the Representative District Clerk not before Monday, June 5, 2006, and no later than 5 p.m. Monday, July 17, 2006.**

**Petitions for State Representative must include the correct designation of the district, such as "Chittenden 5-1"** (it may also list the name(s) of the towns in the district).

Please help candidates by putting the **correct district name on the petition** and clearly TYPING or PRINTING the candidate NAME on the consent form as this will save time when we prepare ballots.

Office of the VT Secretary of State – Elections Division

Phone: (802) 828-2464 or Toll-Free (800) 439-VOTE

Fax: (802) 828-5171 On the web: [www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us)

Kathy DeWolfe, Director of Elections and Campaign Finance 828-2304 ([kdewolfe@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:kdewolfe@sec.state.vt.us))

Melanie Hodge, Elections Administrator 828-0175 ([mhodge@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:mhodge@sec.state.vt.us))

David Crossman, Elections Administrator 828-0771 ([dcrossman@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:dcrossman@sec.state.vt.us))

As soon as possible after receiving each petition for candidates for the State House of Representatives for the Primaries: Review the petition to determine if there are a sufficient number of legible signatures. (50 signatures are required for House of Representatives). If the petition meets the statutory requirements in 17 V.S.A. §2358, **fax a copy of the consent form to our Elections Division at (802) 828-5171**. All petitions must be accompanied by a consent form that states in what form the candidate would like his or her name to appear on the ballot. We cannot print a candidate's name on the ballot without a consent form, so please make sure that each candidate has completed and submitted a consent form when he turns in his petition.

**You cannot wait until the filing deadline to review all petitions.** If petitions are filed early, you must review the petition within 3 days of receiving the petition in your office, and if non-complying, you must notify the candidate in writing within 3 days of receipt, stating the reasons why the petition is unacceptable. The candidate can then file supplementary petitions up to ten days from the original filing, but please ask any candidate who needs supplementary petition signatures to return them a.s.a.p. Also, call us to advise that supplementary petitions may be coming.

Do not count a signature toward the total needed if you cannot identify the name of the person who signed, i.e. as long as you can read the printed name, the signature does not have to be clear. **Remember you no longer have to check name by name against the checklist unless you have reason to believe the petitions are defective on their face**, such as obvious forgeries, or you have reason to believe that the signatories are not registered voters in the district. If you have questions, call our office and we will assist you on a case-by-case basis.

A legal voter (registered and qualified to vote in the district for the candidate) may not sign more than one petition for the same office unless more than one nomination is to be made (i.e., multiple seats in a representative or senatorial district such as 2 senators from Windham County). The law is silent on what should be done to remedy the signing of more petitions than allowed by a voter. Some clerks use first come, first serve --counting the signature on the first petition filed and disallowing it on any petitions filed thereafter. Other clerks do not count the signature on either petition. Either method is acceptable, but be consistent.

A person's name cannot be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot of more than one party in the same election. For example, John Jones cannot drop off two sets of petitions containing fifty signatures for nomination as both a Democratic and a Republican state representative. He must choose one party primary. (He can receive write-in votes in the other primary.) **If a candidate waits until the filing deadline and then submits petitions that do not have the required number of signatures (50 for state representative), you must reject the petition and the candidate cannot supplement.** Supplementary petitions cannot be accepted if a sufficient number of signatures were not filed by the deadline.

**We need your cooperation in faxing consent forms to us as soon as possible.  
We have a VERY SHORT time to enter data and get the information to the printers for the ballots.**

### **Ballot Bags and Seals**

In the Fall of 2005, we had notified all of the clerks that our office would be providing ballot bags and seals to all towns for their use in storing election materials. Some towns never received these bags or seals. Please contact Melanie Hodge by email at [mhodge@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:mhodge@sec.state.vt.us) if you have not received these. We would like to do one final shipment in July or August to the towns that still need these.

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