

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING
AND THE TOWN DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Voter Registration and Voting

Q1: How to register to vote.

A1: At Town Hall in the Clerk's office during regular business hours, special sessions of the Supervisor of the Checklist (which are held prior to any election or meeting for which times and dates are published in local newspapers and posted at the Town Hall) or at any election.

1) You may register at Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office. You will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form and show a verifiable proof of domicile.

2) You may also register with the Supervisors of the Checklist. By law, the supervisors are required to meet on a day which is 6 - 13 days prior to a state election. Check the local newspaper(s), your town's website or call the clerk's office for the date and time of such meeting.

3) Qualified individuals may register to vote at the polling place on election day at all elections.

No matter when or where you register to vote, you will be required to fill out a standard voter registration form, and you will be asked to show proof of identity, age, citizenship. These qualifications may be established by signing affidavit(s). You must also show verifiable proof of domicile. The clerk (or supervisors) will have a guide for what you may use as evidence of domicile. If you do **NOT** have proof of domicile when you appear at the clerk's office to register (more than 30 days prior to any election), you will be asked to come back at a later time with proof. If you do **NOT** have proof of domicile when you appear at the clerk's office to register (30 days or less prior to any election) OR you appear to register at the polls you WILL be allowed to register AND to vote; however, you will be required to submit proof of your domicile to the clerk at a later date.

4) If you meet the state's requirements and qualifications and are unable to register in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, military service, or because of temporary absence, you may register by mail. You should request an absentee voter registration affidavit and a standard voter registration form from the Town Clerk. The absentee voter registration affidavit must be witnessed and then **both** the affidavit and the voter registration form are to be returned to the Town Clerk.

Q2: Who can vote by absentee ballot.

A2: Any registered voter who (1) will be absent on election day, (2) cannot appear in public on election day due to the observance of a religious commitment, or (3) cannot vote in person because of a physical disability, may vote by absentee ballot. RSA 657:1. Absentee ballot applications are available from the Town Clerk's office up to the day before the election. If you do vote by absentee ballot, **make sure you personally SIGN both the absentee ballot application and the Affidavit envelope that is supplied to you to put your ballot in. Otherwise, your ballot may not be counted.**

Q3: New Hampshire Voter Identification (ID) Law.

A3: Per RSA 659:13 ballot clerks must ask persons seeking to vote (including at the deliberative session) for proof of identity. An acceptable photo ID must have an expiration date or a date of issuance. The ID will remain valid 5 years beyond the expiration date unless the voter is 65 or older, in which case an acceptable photo ID may be used without regard to expiration date. The name on the ID must substantially conform to the name on the checklist. Valid proof of identity includes: (1) a driver's license issued by any state or the federal government; (2) an identification card issued under RSA 260:21, RSA 260:21-a, or RSA 260:21-b or a nondriver's identification card issued by the motor vehicles division, department, agency, or office of any other state; (3) a United States armed services identification card; (4) a United States passport or passcard; (5) a valid student identification card if: (A) the card is issued by: (i) a college, university, or career school in New Hampshire and approved to operate or licensed to operate in New Hampshire; (ii) a public high school in New Hampshire; (iii) a nonpublic high school in New Hampshire accredited by a private school accrediting agency that is recognized by the department of education; (iv) Dartmouth College; (v) a college or university operated by the university system of New Hampshire or the community college system of New Hampshire; (B) the card has either an expiration date or an issuance date that has not been exceeded by a period of more than 5 years; and (6) a photo identification not authorized by subparagraphs (1) through (5) but determined to be legitimate by the supervisors of the checklist, the moderator, or the clerk of a town, ward, or city, provided that if any person authorized to challenge a voter under RSA 659:27 objects to the use of such photo identification, identifies the reason for the objection in writing, and states the specific source of the information or personal knowledge upon which the challenge of the photo identification is based, the voter shall be required to execute a challenged voter affidavit as if no identification was presented.

In addition to the forms of photo identification listed above, the identification requirements may be satisfied by verification of the person's identity by a moderator or supervisor of the checklist or the clerk of a town, ward, or city, provided that if any person authorized to challenge a voter under RSA 659:27 objects to such verification, identifies the reason for the objection in writing, and states the specific source of the information or personal knowledge upon which

the challenge of the photo identification is based, the voter shall be required to execute a challenged voter affidavit as if no verification was made.

If a voter does not have an approved photo ID or does not have their identity verified by an election official described above, the voter will still be permitted to attend and vote IF he or she executes a Challenged Voter Affidavit and has his or her photograph taken by the moderator or assistant moderator, which photo will be attached to the Affidavit. If the voter objects to the photograph requirement because of religious beliefs, the voter may execute an Affidavit of Religious Exemption, which shall be attached to the Challenged Voter Affidavit instead of the photo. ballot clerks must ask persons seeking to vote for proof of identity.

Electioneering and Political Advertising

Q4: Are there limitations on campaigning at polling places.

A4: No campaign materials may be distributed, displayed or worn inside the polls; nor may any person perform electioneering activities within a corridor ten feet wide at the entrance door (and extending as far from the door as the moderator determines) of the building where the election is being held. RSA 659:43. Also, no unattended campaign signs are permitted on public property outside the polls. RSA 664:17.

Q5: Political Advertisement, Placement and Removal.

A5: Candidate political advertising must have the name and address of the candidate or the candidate's fiscal agent pursuant to RSA 664:14. Placement of campaign signs or advertising is governed by RSA: 664:17. Removal of campaign signs and advertising is governed by RSA: 664:17.

Citizen Petitions

Q6: How do citizens petition to have articles added to the Town warrant.

A6: Pursuant to RSA 39:3 and Article 7, Section 7.3 of the Town Charter, upon the written application of 25 or more registered voters, the Town Council must place a petitioned article on the Town warrant. The petition must be presented no later than the fifth Tuesday before the day prescribed for an annual meeting, which is the election on the second Tuesday in March. RSA 39:1.

Londonderry Form of Government

Q7: What is the form of government in Londonderry.

A7: In 2011, The Londonderry Town Charter was changed and the traditional town meeting was replaced with a Deliberative Session, also known as the “first session” of the Town Meeting followed by a “second session” where voters vote by “official ballot” (ie paper ballots) to finalize all warrant articles (ie, the Operating Budget and other spending and tax issues) and elect Town Councilors, Members of the Budget Committee and other elected officials. Though similar to an “SB2” type of government, Londonderry is governed by a Town Charter under RSA 49-D.

Q8: How does the Town Deliberative Session work.

A8: The Deliberative Session consists of explanation, discussion and debate on each article contained in the Town or School District warrant. Voters at the Deliberative Session may amend warrant articles, subject to several limitations discussed in response to Question 9 below.

Q9: Limits to amending warrant articles.

A9: Warrant articles may be amended at the Deliberative Session, but such amendments are subject to certain limitations. 1) Amendments may not add a new subject matter to an article. RSA 39:2; 2) Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law may not be amended; 3) Amendments that would “eliminate the warrant article’s textual subject matter, not amendments that may change the intent or purpose sought to be achieved by the article’s drafters.” Cady v. Town of Deerfield, 169 N.H. 575, 579 (2017)

Q10: Can the Deliberative Session increase, reduce or eliminate amounts in warrant articles.

A10: Amendments at the Deliberative Session can increase, reduce or eliminate amounts in all warrant articles, except cost items in collective bargaining agreements.

Q11: What are the rules governing the Deliberative Session.

A11: RSA 40:4, I allows the Moderator to set the rules and procedures for the Deliberative Session. Please see the rules on this website. However, the rules and any decision of the Moderator can be changed or overruled by voters at the Deliberative Session by majority vote.

Q12: Votes at the Deliberative Session may be by secret ballot.

A12: If five or more voters present at the meeting sign a written request for a secret ballot, the vote on any warrant article will proceed by written secret ballot. RSA 40:4-a, I (a).

Q13: Can voters at a Deliberative Session reconsider a vote taken earlier in the meeting, or a warrant article considered earlier on which no vote was taken, long after voters have left the meeting.

A13: Unless voters pass a motion to restrict reconsideration of a warrant article any vote may be reconsidered later in the meeting. (Jewett v. Alton, 7 N.H. 253 (1834)), (Town Charter, Article 2, Section 2.2).

Q14: May non-Londonderry voters speak at a Deliberative Session.

A14: The Moderator will allow employees of the Town to speak if asked by the Town Council/Manager to address an issue at the meeting unless there is an objection by a voter. If so, there will be a vote of the deliberative session and a majority shall rule on the objection.