

Board of Selectmen's meeting
April 5, 2017

From JP Pontbriand, Town Moderator

Information release: Several requests have been made for information concerning absentee ballots in the March 2017 elections. The Secretary of State's office has repeatedly indicated that we are not allowed to disclose "line item" information, such as names of individuals who applied for absentee ballots; some of that information is available on the previously released voter checklist, but additional information is non-public. Individual applicants for absentee ballots may access their own personal record, which contains additional non-public information regarding their absentee ballot, through the Secretary of State's website: <http://app.sos.nh.gov>

Additionally, the Secretary of State's office has provided guidance allowing us to disclose certain summary information. That information for the March 2017 elections includes the following, which I am now providing in response to specific requests:

- A. The total number of absentee ballot applications received is 158.
- B. The total includes 6 absentee ballot applications received on March 14, and 12 absentee ballot applications received on March 15.
- C. Of the 158 total absentee ballots, 154 ballots were returned to the Town Clerk's office. The remaining 4 absentee ballots were not returned.
- D. Of the 154 absentee ballots received by the Town Clerk and turned over to the Moderator on voting day, 151 were cast. The remaining 3 absentee ballots were challenged / rejected by the Moderator for one of the following reasons:
 1. The absentee ballot was returned to the Town Clerk by someone other than the voter, without an absentee ballot return form.
 2. The absentee ballot was returned without the required voter affidavit.
 3. The signature on the voter affidavit did not match the signature on the absentee ballot application.

I request that this information, together with the samples of (i) the absentee ballot application, (ii) the instructions for absentee voters form, and (iii) the absentee ballot return form, be posted on the town website.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS, NH, 1 Drinkwater Road

Application for Official March Town/School Election Absentee Ballot(s)

(for residents currently registered to vote)

New Hampshire law requires that you vote in person at the polling place for your town unless you declare one of the following absences:

I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the town where I am domiciled.

I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because an employment obligation requires me to remain physically at work or to be in transit to or from work from the time the polls open (8 am until after the time the polls close (8 pm).

I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.

I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.

Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor (RSA 657:24)

Applicant's Name (Please Print):

Last Name First Name Middle Name (Jr., Sr., II, III)

Applicant's Voting Domicile (home) Address:

Street Number Street Name Apt/Unit Town State Zip Code

Mail the ballot to me at this address (if different than the above home address):

Street or PO Box # Street Name Apt/Unit Town State Zip Code

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

(Voter **MUST SIGN** to receive an absentee ballot)

Mail/fax (603)926-1848/e-mail (townclerk@hamptonfalls.org) or hand deliver this SIGNED completed form to your local Town Clerk

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTERS

How to Mark Your Ballots:

To vote for a candidate:

Completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice (s) like this:

To vote by write-in:

If you wish to vote for a candidate whose name does not appear on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

To vote on a question: Fill in the oval opposite either YES or NO indicating your choice on that question.

After Marking Your Ballots:

First: Re-fold the ballots and place **ALL OF THEM** (regardless of whether or not you marked on each) in the small affidavit envelope.

Second: Sign the affidavit which best suits your situation. Then seal the envelope.

Third: Place the sealed affidavit envelope inside the larger mailing envelope and address it to the Town Clerk. Seal the mailing envelope and write your **FULL** name and address in the upper left-hand corner.

Fourth: Affix the proper amount of postage to the envelope (according to weight) if returning by mail.

IMPORTANT: FOR YOUR BALLOT TO BE COUNTED:

It must be returned to the Town Clerk or clerk's staff only on or before election day by 5 p.m: Hand deliver in person, hand deliver by parent, spouse, sibling or child with completed form, postal service or recognized carrier service.

DO NOT leave absentee ballot in a drop box, on a desk, or slipped through the clerk's window or door.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Absentee Ballot Return Form

(RSA 657:17)

To be completed by the person who is returning an Absentee Ballot for someone other than themselves due to Absence, Religious Observance, or Disability

For Official Use Only
Voter Not registered

I. I hereby declare that I am the voter's (check one):

- Spouse Parent Sibling Child

Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24

II. Absentee Ballot Voter's Name (Please Print):

Last Name First Name Middle Name (Jr., Sr., II, III)

Absentee Ballot Voter's Domicile (home) Address:

Street Number Street Name Apt/Unit City/Town Ward Zip Code

Voter ID #

III. Name of family member who delivered the absentee ballot (Please Print):

Last Name First Name Middle Name (Jr., Sr., II, III)

Signature: Date Signed

IV. Election Name (check only one and enter date):

- City or Town Election
- State Special Primary Election
- State Special General Election
- State Presidential Primary Election
- State Primary Election 09/13/2016
- State General Election 11/08/2016

V. Proof of Identification (check only one):

- Government-issued Photo ID
- Identity verified by city or town clerk

VI. City or Town Clerk signature:

Printed Name of Clerk:

Clerk's Signature: Date Signed:

Date Returned: / /

TRACK YOUR BALLOT

Voters: check your party, find your polling place, and more...

Absentee Voters

Track your ballots on:

<http://app.sos.nh.gov>

