



**BURLINGTON BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS
POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM, 1 NORTH AVE, BURLINGTON, VT, 05401
OR REMOTELY VIA ZOOM.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
February 3, 2026**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05.

Board members in attendance: **Lesley Gendron, Alison Harte, Adam Franz, Karen Rowell, Kevin Lewis, Colleen Montgomery, Jeanne Keller, Annie Schneider, and Youth Member Will Cunningham**

Board member absent: **Grace Grundhauser, Michelle Lefkowitz, Lauren Ebersol, Janet Stambolian**

Also in attendance: Sarah Montgomery, Assistant City Clerk; Jeff Comstock

2. Agenda

Karen Rowell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Annie Schneider. Adopted unanimously.

3. Meeting Length

The meeting was set to end at 7:00pm.

4. Adopt Minutes

Jeanne Keller made a motion to adopt the minutes. Seconded by Kevin Lewis. Approved unanimously.

5. Public Forum

Jeff Comstock, ward 7 resident, spoke about two election-related bills that have been introduced in the legislature, H.670 and H.671. H.670 relates to voter ID requirements for Vermont, in relation to both in-person and mail-in-ballots. H.671 relates to citizenship verification, which would start with the voter registration process. He shared that, as someone with election official experience, his focus is on ID verification with mailed ballots, since he feels that is where the greater risk is. He noted that, in his opinion, the current Vermont election law does not fully support the board in effectively doing its work. He said that the two bills would improve the quality of the voter eligibility checks and election integrity in Vermont. The other issue that he would like addressed by the legislature is the current legal definition of residency. He mentioned the biennial checklist review, and how only voters who have not voted within the past four years are reviewed. He said that this is a concern, especially for student voters who may move within those 4 years. He said that between 2020 and 2025, the election team in ward 7 processed more than 13,000 mail-in ballots. Due to this, he believes that the board should give some deference to the election officials who are processing these ballots.

Will Cunningham asked if there was a difference between the Vermont and federal definitions of residency. Jeff Comstock replied that there is a difference, and in Vermont there are 3 or 4 legal definitions of residency; one is specific to voting. He is concerned about these discrepancies. Will Cunningham asked for clarification on what power he is suggesting the board should be entrusting to election officials, regarding voter registration.

Jeff answered that he is not requesting any additional authority, just that the board does not disregard the concerns election officials express.

Kevin Lewis asked what evidence has been found that people are using the mail-in ballot system to commit fraud. Jeff Comstock answered that there is no way to further investigate. Karen Rowell said that the system the Secretary of State has in place does not allow for this verification. She said that in races that are very close, this is especially important.

Annie Schneider proposed ending the discussion, so the board could move forward with the agenda.

6. Clerk's Report

Sarah Montgomery reported that there are currently 29,397 registered voters. Out of the total voters, 5,026 are currently challenged. In January: 162 voters newly registered, 39 voters were removed from the checklist, and 114 voters were transferred out of Burlington into other Vermont towns.

For the upcoming Annual City Election on March 3, 2026: Ballots are finalized, and sample ballots are on the website. Absentee ballots will be mailed out to all active registered voters. This equals a total of 24,056 votes. Voters who are challenged or who have not taken the voter's oath will not be automatically mailed a ballot.

7. Annual City Election Prep

Colleen Montgomery reminded everyone about the pre-election training that will happen on Wednesday, 2/25, at 5:00pm at City Hall.

Lesley Gendron looked at the volunteer list and noted that it looks like Lauren Ebersol is making progress. Sarah Montgomery said Lauren will follow up with board members if she needs help.

Colleen Montgomery asked if everyone had been able to log into VEMS. Karen Rowell said she is still struggling to get into the system, but will work with Tenzin to troubleshoot. Annie Schneider said she has not received the activation information; Sarah will help troubleshoot.

Lesley Gendron said that she is working on an Election Day summary sheet, which she will share once it is complete.

Jeanne Keller asked if it would be helpful to go through the flowchart as part of the pre-election training. Lesley Gendron agreed and added that it would be helpful to go over specific scenarios, so the volunteers understand what to expect.

Annie Schneider asked Will Cunningham if he was able to work the full day. He can work most of the day, and Annie will find coverage for the remainder of the shift.

Alison Harte asked when the next election posting should go out, on Front Porch Forum as well as any other recommended outlets or distribution lists, asking voters to check their voter registration if they haven't received their ballot. Sarah Montgomery said that her office advises voters to check in if they have not received their ballot by 2/18, so a similar timeline might make sense. Jeanne Keller asked if anyone had done any other recent voter registration outreach. She asked if the League for Vermont Women Voters has been doing registration in schools. Will Cunningham said it is tricky since most high school students aren't old enough to vote yet, and often when they are eligible, they do so automatically through the DMV. Jeff Comstock asked about tabling at UVM for a voter registration drive - he noted that the board had previously discussed this and found that UVM would charge a \$30 fee. Adam Franz said the fee applied to outside organizations tabling, which the board is considered.

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Adjournment

At 6:47, Jeanne Keller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Annie Schneider. Passed unanimously.