



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

**MINUTES OF
MEETING
June 2, 2026**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Grace Grundhauser called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Members in attendance: Janet Stambolian, Lauren Ebersol, Lesley Gendron, Grace Grundhauser, Annie Schneider, Michelle Lefkowitz, Karen Rowell, Kevin Lewis, Colleen Montgomery, and Youth Member Will Cunningham

Members Absent: Alison Harte, Jeanne Keller, Adam Franz

Also Present: Sarah Montgomery, Assistant City Clerk

2. Agenda

Grace Grundhauser suggested adding August Election prep under New Business. Karen Rowell made a motion to adopt the agenda with that addition. Seconded by Lauren Ebersol. Passed unanimously.

3. Announcements

Judge's Order Dismissing Lawsuit and City Attorney statement: Grace Grundhauser said that she found the ruling of the court really helpful, not just in providing a decision on the litigation, but also in explaining different election official roles in Burlington. She summarized the ruling, saying that the court agreed with the City of Burlington and that the ruling could still be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Grace Grundhauser also shared that Councilor Bergman did bring forward two resolutions about the board member appointment process at the previous night's meeting. She does not know what the results of the proposed resolutions were, but noted that City Council is also trying to address the issue around the process of board and commission appointments.

Karen Rowell apologized to the board for sharing incorrect statistics about the demographics of Republicans in Burlington. It was an unintentional error.

4. Meeting Length

The meeting length was set to one hour.

5. Adopt Minutes

Janet Stambolian made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. Passed unanimously.

6. Public Forum

No members of the public present.

7. Clerk's Report

Sarah Montgomery reported that there are currently 29,573 registered voters in Burlington. Out of that total number, 6,423 are currently challenged. In May, 113 new voters registered in Burlington, 89 were transferred from Burlington into other VT towns, and 60 were removed from the checklist.

Sarah also shared that, for the August 11th State Primary Election, voters will not automatically be mailed ballots. If they would like to receive a ballot in the mail, they should request one at vote.vermont.gov or contact the Clerk's office at 802-865-7000. Ballots will be available to mail and for early voting in the Clerk's office by 6/29.

8. Approval of Voter Challenges

Lesley Gendron made a motion to approve challenging the voters Sarah shared with the board via email. Seconded by Lauren Ebersol. Passed unanimously.

9. Communication to City Council re: Board Member Appointments

Grace Grundhauser explained that this conversation is being picked up from the last meeting, where the board ran out of time for discussion. Grace read Jeanne's memo that was included with the agenda packet, which outlined her opposition to the board sending the letter to City Council.

Karen Rowell said she still thinks sending the letter to City Council is a good idea since she does not want to be the only Republican on the board.

Colleen Montgomery said that Jeanne's memo is speaking to the content of the previously proposed letter, which does not speak to specific party designations on the board.

Grace Grundhauser asked members to raise their hands before speaking for this conversation to ensure everyone has a chance to be heard.

Lauren Ebersol said she would like to be able to review the resolution that was proposed to City Council. She is wondering if the board can do a conditional approval of the letter, where it could be tied to the content of the resolution.

Grace Grundhauser summarized the content of the two proposed resolutions ([resolution #1](#), [resolution #2](#)), where councilor Bergman proposed updates to the process for board and commission appointments.

Karen Rowell said that tying the BRV's memo to the proposed resolutions is making it more complicated than it needs to be.

Janet Stambolian said she isn't sure that it is the board's place to be advising City Council.

Will Cunningham said he doesn't see the litigation as a roadblock to sending the communication to City

Council, but he is not convinced that it will change the minds of City Council.

Annie Schneider agreed and said that all board members can contact city councilors directly if they would like to. Communication doesn't need to come from the full board.

Lesley Gendron said at the last meeting she started to feel like there were two separate objectives that were happening in the letter – one piece was about balancing political representation on the board and the other was about not bringing politics into the appointment process. She said because of this she would not support sending the letter.

Kevin Lewis said that his intent was not to impose his personal experiences onto the letter.

Janet Stambolian said she thinks the resolutions proposed by Councilor Bergman seem to have brought forth the relevant points already. Lauren Ebersol said she would be curious to know how those resolutions were received by the councilors to gauge if the BRV sending the letter could still have influence.

Karen Rowell said she will send a letter to the councilors as an individual.

Grace Grundhauser said she felt proud of the board for having the difficult discussions around this topic in a cooperative manner.

Karen Rowell made a motion to send the letter to the City Council. Seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz.

Karen Rowell asked if any edits could be made to the letter that would encourage board members to vote to send this letter.

Janet Stambolian suggested seeing what happens for this appointment process, and if needed, the board can still weigh in after.

Vote Called.

Yes: Karen Rowell

No: Colleen Montgomery, Janet Stambolian, Annie Schneider, Michelle Lefkowitz

Abstained: Lauren Ebersol, Grace Grundhauser, Lesley Gendron

Motion failed.

10. New Business

10.1. Transition Plan for New Chair & 2026

Grace Grundhauser shared that this will be her last meeting since she did not apply for reappointment. She said she will still work on election days and is happy to be available to board members as a resource. Grace Grundhauser recommended nominating a chair and vice-chair at the July meeting as has been the board's custom. Janet Stambolian asked how the elections work for board member positions. Grace Grundhauser said any member can nominate themselves or another member, another member needs to second the nomination, and then the board votes.

Lesley Gendron asked if the additional positions that the board made up last year need to be voted on again. This includes the positions such as parliamentarian, student liaison, language access coordinator,

etc. Grace Grundhauser recommended members look at the July 2025 minutes to review these different positions.

10.2. August Primary Prep

Lesley Gendron might be unable to attend the election. Annie Schneider will also be unable to attend. Sarah Montgomery noted that Adam Franz is running for state representative, which may limit his ability to work. Lesley Gendron asked if there will be enough members who have trained enough to work solo. Grace Grundhauser said that members training at 2 elections is ideal, but it is not an absolute requirement. She shared the proposed schedule:

W1: Colleen Montgomery

W2: Lauren Ebersol

W3: Michelle Lefkowitz

W4: Lesley Gendron

W5: Jeanne Keller

W6: Alison Harte

W7: Karen Rowell

W8: Janet Stambolian

The board discussed pairing less experienced members with more experienced volunteers, so every ward has a strong team with experience and proper authority to sign. Lauren Ebersol said she will reach out to previous members soon to secure some experienced help.

Annie Schneider asked members to speak to the comment Councilor Grant had at the last meeting, saying the police station might not be an inclusive location. Karen Rowell noted that folks also have the option to join via zoom if they are uncomfortable coming to the police station. Janet Stambolian said she doesn't think it matters much since there are rarely members of the public in attendance. Grace Grundhauser agreed that not many people ever turn up for public comment, but she can imagine City Hall being a more friendly location to folks who may have experienced an issue at the police station. Lauren Ebersol noted that there are not a lot of other alternate locations available. She suggested stating on the agenda how to submit comment without needing to attend the physical location. Colleen Montgomery said if people who don't feel comfortable with the location also don't have internet access, they may still be restricted from participating. Grace Grundhauser noted that it might be especially relevant because the board manages the Legal Resident Checklist. Colleen Montgomery asked if there are other meeting location options. Sarah Montgomery answered that when she previously looked into it, the only options for the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm were City Hall or the community room at the police station. Someone suggested looking at the library spaces, and inquired whether the church would allow the board to use their parking lot during meetings. Annie Schneider proposed exploring options.

11. Adjournment

Lauren Ebersol made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Janet Stambolian. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.
