BOARD for REGISTRATION of VOTERS

City of Burlington

City Hall, Room 20, 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Voice (802) 865-7137
Fax (802) 865-7014
Deaf/Hard of Hearing 711

AGENDA
FOR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS
Tuesday, October 4th, 2022; 6 pm

In Person – Community Room at the Police Department

1. Agenda
2. Set Meeting Length
3. Minutes
4. Public Comments
5. Approval of Applications
6. Clerk's Report
7. Application Signing Schedule
8. Voter Identification Requirements
9. November Election Prep
10. New Business

*****Please let Sarah or Grace know if you will not be attending the meeting*****

The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information. The City is also committed to providing proper access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. For accessibility information or alternative formats, please contact Human Resources Department at (802) 540-2505.

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 10/4/22

Where: Community Room at the Police Department

Present: Grace Grundhauser, Helen Rock, Larry Granillo, Thea Knight, Karen Rowell, Elisabeth Mickenberg, Mike McGarghan

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Michelle Lefkowitz, Kate Baldwin, Annie Schneider

Also Present: Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk; Warren Baker

Meeting called to order by Chair Grace Grundhauser at 6:04pm

Agenda: Approved unanimously.

Meeting Length: A motion was made by Karen Rowell and seconded by Helen Rock to set the meeting length for one hour. Unanimously approved.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Lis Mickenberg made a motion to approve the minutes. Helen Rock seconded. Unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

Warren Baker, a ward 4 resident, joined as he is interested in the vacant board seat. Sarah Montgomery explained that applications are being accepted until 10/12 and City Council will make the appointment at their meeting on 10/17. Warren said that he has previously worked at the polling place on Election Day and is interested in becoming more involved in the election process. Grace Grundhauser asked if applicants need to be at the Council meeting to be appointed. Larry Granillo said that, in his experience, people are appointed that are not present, but if applicants are present, Council will give them the opportunity to speak. Lis Mickenberg mentioned that one of the requirements for the board is the balance of political parties.

Approval of Applications: Sarah Montgomery reported:

September - New Registrations 263, Transferred out of Town 177, Purged 54

Larry Granillo made a motion to accept the numbers as presented, seconded by Karen Rowell. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report:

Sarah Montgomery reported on the upcoming November election. Just over 22,000 ballots have been mailed out to our active registered voters for the general election. Around 1,200 voted ballots have been received back. For the Chittenden Solid Waste Department election that is being held on the same day, if voters wanted to receive ballots by mail, they need to request them. The clerk's office has sent

out around 600 of these ballots, and has received about 120 back. Thea Knight asked how it is determined when ballots are mailed out. Sarah Montgomery noted that it is required by state statute. Lis Mickenberg added that the state set that timing to ensure overseas military voters would receive their ballots in time to vote.

Application Signing Schedule:

The Board set the following schedule until the next meeting is held: October 6: Lis; October 13th: Thea; October 20th: Grace; October 27th: Karen

Discussion: do we need to set the schedule for November or will there be a meeting? Board members agreed to meet on Tuesday, November 1st to finalize election prep since the election falls on the second Tuesday.

Voter ID Requirement

Grace Grundhauser shared a presentation on voter ID requirements. Presentation is linked at https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Board-for-Registration-of-Voters for reference.

Discussion: Voter ID is only required from applicants who are registering for the first time in Vermont, online or by mail. In person registrants do not need to provide ID. Mike McGarghan asked why, when he as notary public used to register voters, he was required to send in a copy of the voter's ID with the registration. Helen Rock said it was probably because the registrations were being sent by mail. Currently, voter registration drives count as in person registration – no ID needed.

Helen Rocks asked if need to provide ID with online applications is a new requirement. Larry Granillo said that when he first registered in Vermont, about five years ago, he does not recall needing to provide ID with his online application.

Mike McGarghan asked: if someone is registered in Vermont, moves from Vermont, then back to Vermont, are they considered a first time applicant in Vermont? Sarah Montgomery answered: no.

Helen Rock asked: should we be asking for ID for voters who have unverified social security numbers. Grave Grundhauser said it is her understanding that we would not ask for ID in this scenario.

Mike McGarghan asked: is there ever a time when board members can ask for an ID? Grace Grundhauser answered: no, statute does not seem to allow for it in any of the scenarios BRV members would encounter. Mike Mcgarghan noted that there needs to be some checks – what about someone trying to register under a fictional name? Helen Rock said that cases of voter fraud could be brought to the Secretary of State's office and the Attorney General. She also noted this is why people need to state their names at the entrance checklist. Poll checkers can challenge a voter's identity. Grace Grundhauser added that these are big questions and that if there are specific persistent issues, they can be added to future board meeting agendas. Larry Granillo added that while these are good questions, they likely fall under the authority of the ward clerk rather than the Board for Registration of Voters.

Helen Rock noted that she would like the board to act consistently in situations that arise at the BRV table on Election Day. Ex: when a voter hands a member an ID (unasked for), or what to look at when verifying social security numbers.

The topic of requirements around voters presenting IDs is still under discussion and will be discussed further at a future meeting.

November Election Prep

Thea Knight made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Seconded by Lis Mickenberg. Approved unanimously.

Grace Grundhauser shared a draft schedule of ward assignments for BRV members.

Mike McGarghan asked if the clerk's office knew how many of each form were processed at each polling place in August. He stated that things are being done differently in different wards and maybe there should be more worker rotation throughout the wards to ensure more consistency. Grace Grundhauser noted that the goal is to streamline and have everyone follow the same processes. Helen Rock added that people should be doing things the same no matter which ward they are working in. Larry Granillo also added that things may look different in different wards because questions pertinent to the specific population in a ward may be different.

Lis Mickenberg asked board members to find helpers for the November election. Grace Grundhauser noted that CEDO may have some connections for high school volunteers. Helen Rock added that she also has a connection. Mike McGarghan suggested reaching out to NPAs for folks who may be interested in helping. He also asked if there was a way to pull a report in VEMS with the names of voters who indicated they would like to work elections when registering to vote.

New Business

No new business.

On a motion by Helen Rock, seconded by Karen Rowell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk