



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, May 4, 2021
6 pm

Remote and Virtual via Zoom

Click Here to Access the Meeting via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84434160622>

To Access the Meeting via Phone: Dial 1-301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 844434160622

1. Agenda
2. Set Meeting Length
3. Minutes
4. Public Comments – members of the public wishing to speak will need to email abovee@burlingtonvt.gov. Your microphone will be enabled when it is your turn to speak.
5. Approval of Applications
6. Approval of Voter Challenges and Voter Purges
7. Clerk's Report
8. Discussion of Vote by Mail System
9. Discussion of Board Member Conduct

*****Please let Amy or Lis know if you will not be attending the meeting*****

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BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 5/4/2021

Where: Remote and Virtual via Zoom

Present: Elisabeth Mickenberg, Jim Rader, Lenore Broughton, Ariana Cano, Michelle Lefkowitz, Annie Schneider, Grace Grundhauser, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham

Absent: Martha Gile, Charles Cashatt, Helen Rock, Kate Baldwin, Larry Granillo

Also Present: Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Lis

Agenda: Amy Bovee noted that item 6. Approval of Voter Challenges and Voter Purges had been left on the agenda from a previous meeting inadvertently and should be removed. Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to adopt the agenda with an amendment to remove item 6, seconded by Jim Rader. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Length: The meeting length was set for 1 hour.

Minutes: Jim Rader made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Applications: Amy Bovee reported: April - New Registrations 110, Transfer out of Town 122, Purged 4,363.

Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to accept the numbers as presented, seconded by Grace Grundhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report

Amy Bovee reported that the voter challenges and voter purges that the Board had approved at the last meeting had been completed. She noted that they had started to receive responses from the challenge letters that had been sent out.

Discussion of Vote by Mail System:

Lis Mickenberg opened the conversation by stating she believes that this is a political issue and not within the purview of the board to comment on. The Board's role is to maintain the voter checklist and to work in polling places on Election Day. Lenore Broughton expressed that she believed the vote by mail system relates to voter integrity, and this is something the Board should be concerned with. Michelle Lefkowitz stated that she believes that the Board has an interest in this topic and can make recommendations. Jim Rader stated that he believes that the agenda and time at the meeting should be

devoted to the mission of the Board and that other political issues should be discussed in other venues. Ariana Cano expressed a concern that they are not an elected Board representing the population and therefore these discussions are individual opinions. Grace Grundhauser stated that Board meetings are public and recorded, and that there are more appropriate venues to discuss political opinions outside the context of a Board meeting.

Michelle Lefkowitz inquired if it is appropriate under Open Meeting Law to have these types of discussion via email. Amy Bovee cautioned the Board that they should not have back and forth debate via email. Discussions between Board members should take place with less than a quorum of the Board. Any discussion with a quorum of the Board needs to be warned and open to the public.

Lis Mickenberg stated that this discussion highlights the importance of getting back to the basics of the mission of the Board. The Board had a discussion about what topics would be appropriate going forward. Annie Schneider inquired if the Board had official rules. Amy Bovee replied that the Board had done some work a few years back to create a rules document, but they had never been finalized. She also noted that the City Charter is the legal source that created the Board and outlined its responsibilities. Board of Civil Authority functions related to Voter Registration in State Statute are also within the prevue of the Board. The Board agreed to review this document and do further work on them at a future meeting.

Discussion of Board Member Conduct

Grace Grundhauser suggested that having a more thorough understanding of the Board's role will be helpful. Annie Schneider agreed that there are unclear expectations of behavior. The Board members had a discussion about actions taken outside of the meeting and the process for adding agenda items. Board members discussed that individuals shouldn't take actions on behalf of the Board without agreement from the Board at a meeting. Jim Rader suggested that any Board member should feel free to request items be added to the agenda, and the full Board could debate whether they are appropriate topics or not when voting to adopt the agenda.

Michele Lefkowitz made a motion to add a discussion of the mission of the board and conduct of members to the next meeting agenda, seconded by Grace Grundhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Grace Grundhauser, seconded by Lenore Broughton, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk