

PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD, ABSENTEE OR IN PERSON

In the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers said that a government's legitimacy derives "from the consent of the governed." That consent depends on citizens exercising their right to vote, a right that is guaranteed to every American, 18 years of age or older, by both the United States and New Hampshire constitutions. By voting, we make our government, as Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg, one that is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Ronald Reagan once said that "all of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden" of governing. That burden is borne by voting. "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote," declared Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "except the American people themselves . . . by not voting." **The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. PLEASE VOTE!**

The polls will be open at Rye Elementary School (RES) from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. As in the Primary, Rye's election team is working hard to make voting safe, fair and accessible. I ask you to do your part too, not just by voting, but by keeping us all, voters and election workers alike, safe. Remember that some of your neighbors may be especially susceptible to acquiring the worst of Covid-19. Here's what we're doing and how you can help.

Voting by Absentee Ballot

New Hampshire has a long history of absentee ballot voting that has proven simple, secure and reliable. It will also make voting safer, not just for the absentee voter, but also, with fewer people at the polls, for our volunteer poll workers and those voting in person. You can get an absentee ballot application at sos.nh.gov/elections/voters/absentee-ballots/request-an-absentee-ballot/. Make sure you follow the instructions that come with the ballot, and **don't forget to sign the affidavit on the outside of the envelope that you put your ballot in.**

Returning Your Absentee Ballot

There are three ways you can return your absentee ballot: **(1) Mail it.** There is still plenty of time for your ballot to be delivered, but **don't delay.** I encourage you to drop it off **in the local mail slot inside the Rye Post Office.** That way it will be sorted in Rye and delivered without leaving town. You can also mail your ballot in the mail box outside your residence. Mail carriers have been alerted to flag absentee ballots so they too will be sorted in Rye; **(2) Deliver it to the Town Clerk.** Go to the Clerk's window at Town Hall during business hours at any time before 5 p.m. on November 2nd. If you are delivering someone else's ballot, you will have to sign an affidavit saying you are an authorized delivery agent (most family members). **Do not leave your ballot in a drop box outside Town Hall;** or **(3) On Election Day leave it in the monitored absentee ballot drop-box outside the polls** at RES starting at 7:30 a.m. If you use the drop-box, **you must deliver your ballot by 5 p.m.** If you arrive after 5, you can still vote in person.

I encourage everyone to check the status of their absentee ballot, from application to receipt by the Town Clerk, at app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx. If you think there's a problem, call the Town Clerk at 964-8562, or me at 964-1126.

Registering to Vote / Election Day Registration

I urge all voters to register to vote before election day, so as to minimize the time you spend at the polls, by visiting or calling the Town Clerk's office. Advance registration for the election closes on October 27th. On the 27th, get to the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m., or to the meeting of the Supervisors of the Checklist at Town Hall from 6 to 6:30 p.m. And remember, **you can always register to vote at the polls on Election day.**

Election Day at the Polls

Precautions to Combat Covid-19:

- All entry doors will be kept open to increase air flow and reduce touchable surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to voters upon both entering and exiting the polls.
- The pavement outside RES, and the floor inside, will be marked with red tape, placed 6 feet apart, to assist in social distancing.
- **All voters, election workers, and observers will be required to wear face masks inside RES. If you do not bring a face mask, one will be offered to you.**
- **Voters who cannot wear face masks, or who choose not to, will be offered an alternative place to vote inside the lobby that is separate from other voters but is fully accessible and subject to all the safeguards that apply to voting in the gymnasium, including a secure ballot box.**
- Clear plexiglass guards between election workers and voters will help protect everyone.
- Single-use voting pens will be given to all voters with their ballots.
- To keep voters separated, every other voting booth will be closed unless the volume of voters requires opening more. Entrance curtains to many voting booths will be removed to reduce touchable surfaces.
- All surfaces in voting areas will be regularly disinfected.
- The "no-electioneering corridor" will be extended to 16 feet, including a 6-foot buffer to socially distance voters from campaigners. No campaigners will be allowed to the right of the school entrance to protect voters using the handicapped parking spaces. Don't forget, the main parking lot is for voters only, and signs along the driveway are prohibited.
- Voters will be urged not to linger after voting. Please leave the building immediately.
- There will be no "community" tables.

Voter ID

Don't forget, New Hampshire requires voters to show a photo ID. It will speed the process, and make us all safer, if you get your ID out before you reach the front of the check-in line. If you don't have an ID, or don't wish to show one, you will be offered other alternatives – you will not be turned away.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

Sincerely,
Bob Eaton
Rye Town Moderator