

Here are the Election Protocol's as outlined by the Secretary of States Office and our Legislature. The following Protocols were taken from the current Secretary of States Webpage.

Sec. 9-236. Activities prohibited in and near polling place; distance markers; entry restricted; exceptions. (a) *On the day of any primary, referendum or election, no person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the candidacy of another or himself or on behalf of or in opposition to any question being submitted at the election or referendum, or loiter or peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach, except as provided in section 9-294.* Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit (1) parent-teacher associations or parent-teacher organizations from holding bake sales or other fund-raising activities on the day of any primary, referendum or election in any school used as a polling place, provided such sales or activities shall not be held in the room in which the election booths are located, (2) the registrars of voters from directing the officials at a primary, referendum or election to distribute, within the restricted area, adhesive labels on which are imprinted the words "I Voted Today", or (3) the registrars of voters in a primary, election or referendum from jointly permitting nonpartisan activities to be conducted in a room other than the room in which the election booths are located. The registrars may jointly impose such conditions and limitations on such nonpartisan activity as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly process of voting. ***The moderator shall evict any person who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting.***

(b) (1) The selectmen shall provide suitable markers to indicate the seventy-five-foot distance from such entrance. Such markers shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod, which board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a bright color and shall bear the figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: ***"On the day of any primary, referendum or election no person shall solicit in behalf of or in opposition to another or himself or peddle or offer any ballot, advertising matter or circular to another person or loiter within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in use as an entry to any polling place or in any corridor, passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance to such polling place or in any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach."***

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the selectmen may provide the markers required by the provisions of this subsection in effect prior to October 1, 1983, except that in the case of a referendum which is not held in conjunction with an election or a primary, the selectmen shall provide the markers required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The moderator and the moderator's assistants shall meet at least twenty minutes before the opening of a primary, referendum or an election in the voting district, and shall cause to be placed by a police officer or constable, or such other primary or election official as they select, a suitable number of distance markers. Such moderator or any police officer or constable shall prohibit loitering and peddling of tickets within that distance.

(c) No person except those permitted or exempt under this section or section 9-236a and primary or election officials and party checkers appointed under section 9-235 shall be allowed within any polling place except for the purpose of casting his vote. Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to enter, remain within and leave any polling place or restricted area surrounding any polling place to observe the election, provided any such representative who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. A number of students in grades four to twelve, inclusive, not to exceed four at any one time in any one polling place, may enter any polling place between twelve o'clock noon and three o'clock p.m. for the purpose of observing the activities taking place in the polling place, provided there is proper parental or teacher supervision present, and provided further, any such student who in any way interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be evicted by the moderator. An elector may be accompanied into any polling place by one or more children who are fifteen years of age or younger and supervised by the elector if the elector is the parent or legal guardian of such children. Any person who violates any provision of this section or, while the polls are open for voting, removes or injures any such distance marker, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than three months, or both.

Sec. 9-230. Authority of registrars and moderators to prevent or suppress disorder.

The registrars of voters may request the head of the police department of the municipality, or, if none, a constable serving such municipality, to provide police protection at any polling place of any regular or special state or municipal election where they may anticipate disorder. The moderator of such election may, when any disorder arises in such election and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order any officer with power of arrest to take the offender into custody and, if necessary, to remove the offender from such election until the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such election is closed, and thereupon such officer may command all necessary assistance. Any person refusing to assist when commanded shall be liable to the same penalties as for refusing to assist constables in the execution of their duties, but no person commanded to assist shall be deprived of such person's right to vote at such election, nor shall the offender be so deprived any longer than the offender refuses to conform to order.

Sec. 9-174. Hours of voting. Voting by electors in line at eight o'clock p.m. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special act or municipal charter to the contrary, at any regular election, or at any special election held to fill a vacancy in a state, district or municipal office, the polls shall remain open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m. **No elector shall be permitted to cast his vote after the hour prescribed for the closing of the polls in any election unless such elector is in line at eight o'clock p.m. An election official or a police official of the municipality, who is designated by the moderator, shall be placed at the end of the line at eight o'clock p.m. Such official shall not allow any electors who were not in such line at eight o'clock p.m. to enter such line.**

Sec. 9-228. Municipal elections. All municipal elections shall be held and conducted, as far as may be, in the same manner as state elections, unless otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 9-229a. Election or primary day polling place observers. Appointment. Duties. Training program. Regulations. Additional election officials. Code of ethics for polling

place observers. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State, upon receipt of a written request from a certified candidate in any election or primary that is received by the Secretary of the State not later than thirty days prior to such primary or election, and after consultation with the registrars of voters, shall appoint election or primary day polling place observers as requested who shall be electors of the state, including without limitation an observer who accompanies and observes the election or primary moderator. Such polling place observers shall record the names and other identifying information of individuals involved in any irregularities or violations and report this information to the Secretary of the State or the Secretary's designee who shall forward all such information to the State Elections Enforcement Commission and all candidates whose names appear on the ballot. During any such primary or election, observers shall immediately report any irregularities or violations of law and the names and other identifying information of any electors who are not allowed to vote to the Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, who shall inform the relevant registrar of voters and the moderator and require immediate and appropriate corrective action.

(b) The Secretary of the State shall establish suitable duties, responsibilities and a curriculum, training program and certification process for such polling place observers. Such training program and certification process shall include, without limitation, procedures for counting and recording absentee ballots, the use of voting machines, voting when a name does not appear on a voting list and the duties of a moderator in the conduct of a primary and election. Once certified, the Secretary shall assign each polling place observer to a specific polling place or polling places. Once assigned, the polling place observer shall have the ability to enter and leave the assigned polling places at any time during election or primary day. If at any such time an observer becomes disruptive to the orderly process of voting, the moderator shall have the ability to remove such observers from the polling place. No candidate or member of the immediate family of a candidate shall be appointed as a polling place observer for a polling place on which such candidate may appear on the ballot.

(c) Any observer who wilfully, knowingly or recklessly interferes with the orderly process of voting shall be subject to the provisions of section 9-366.

(d) The Secretary may adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, to administer the program established pursuant to this section.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the registrars of voters of each municipality may appoint additional election officials on the day of, or on any day after, an election or primary, if, in the opinion of both registrars of voters, additional election officials are needed because (1) an election official appointed prior to the day of the election or primary is unable to serve as an election official for any reason, (2) it is necessary to accommodate the public convenience of the electors in any voting district, or (3) it is necessary to improve the administration of the election or primary. The registrars of voters shall file a written opinion with the municipal clerk indicating the reasons for the appointment of any such additional election officials.

(f) Not later than September 1, 2007, the Secretary of the State shall establish a code of ethics for polling place observers, registrars of voters and poll workers. Such code of ethics shall be conspicuously posted in each polling place and in the office of the registrars of voters.

(g) The Secretary of the State may establish a training program for instruction on such code of ethics and a training program concerning accessibility of polling places by persons with disabilities.

Sec. 9-232. Challengers. Challenges not to be indiscriminate and under oath. (a) Each registrar may appoint one or more challengers in his town or district, one of whom may be present at the offering of any vote; and any such challenger or any elector may challenge the right of any person offering to vote, on the ground of want of identity with the person on whose name the vote is offered, or disfranchisement or lack of bona fide residence, and the moderator shall decide upon the right of the person so challenged to vote.

(b) Challenges shall not be made indiscriminately and may only be made if the challenger knows, suspects or reasonably believes such a person not to be qualified and entitled to vote. Any challenge by an elector and the statement of the person challenged shall be under oath, administered by the moderator.

Sec. 9-232b. Penalty for false statement. Any person wilfully making a false statement in a statement which he signs and furnishes to a moderator of an election under section 9-232a shall be guilty of false statement, as provided in section 9-8, and shall be subject to the penalties provided for false statement.