



Tips And Other Information You Need To Know For A Successful Event



Prepared by
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Step1: Be Prepared

To organize your voter registration drive:

- **Set up a time and place for the drive:** Voter Registration Drives work well at large public events with lots of people such as music and art festivals, parades, community events, but anywhere may work. If you are planning your drive to be on private property (in front of a store, gallery, etc.) you will need to ask for permission to set up.
- **Get Voter Registration Forms:** Call the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-439-VOTE or e-mail govote@sec.state.vt.us to order voter registration forms, or contact the town clerk's office.
- **Order Buttons, Stickers, Flyers and Videos:** The Secretary of State's office may have these items at no cost to help you to promote voting.
- **Make sure you have all other necessary supplies:** Arrange to have a table and a few chairs, pens, clipboards and volunteers. Don't be shy - have volunteers standing with clipboards and registration forms in-hand, ready to ask passers-by if they are registered to vote.
- **Find a Notary to help out.** Vermont voter registration forms must be notarized for first time Vermont registrants. To ensure you have a notary at your drive you can

Become a notary - If you are 18 years old you can become a notary by filling out a form at the Superior Court

- ✓ and return it with a fee of \$20. You may contact the county court in Newfane at 365-7979 and they will mail you the form.
- ✓ **Ask your Town Clerk** - The town clerk's office will be happy to give you a list of justices of the peace who might be willing to help in your registration drive by notarizing registration forms.

Step 2: Get The Word Out!

There are many ways to get the word out. You may obtain voter registration posters from the Secretary of State's office or design your own. Many local radio stations will run free public service announcements, and you can ask governmental, civic and religious organizations to announce the drive in their bulletins and at their meetings. Also, be sure to set up in a prominent location!

Step 3: Be Sure Registration Forms Are Filled Out Properly.

- Read the information on the back of the application form to acquaint yourself with the basic rules.
- Forms must be legible so that the town clerk's office can correctly add their name and voter information to the town's voter checklist.

All questions must be answered. It is VERY important that the applicant complete the section on the form about

"My principal dwelling is located at_____." The Town of Brattleboro is divided into three separate voting

- districts and if physical location (examples: 1 Main St. or 999 Vote St.) is not included the registrant cannot be added to any of Brattleboro's voting districts.
- Have a notary administer the Voter's Oath to first-time Vermont registrants and complete the Voter's Oath section. If the applicant is unsure if (s)he has taken the oath in the past, it does no harm to administer it again.
- An applicant's telephone number and mailing address are also important in case the applicant needs to be contacted for further information and to inform them of their voting status.
- Give the applicant the last page of the completed form and encourage them to keep it until they receive confirmation in the mail from the clerk's office that they have been added to the checklist.
- Be aware of voter registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadline to register to vote in an upcoming election is at **noon on the second Monday before an election.**

Step 4: Have Fun! You are helping the citizens of Vermont fulfill one of their most important civic responsibilities - feel good about what you are doing!

Step 5: Get Applications To The Proper Clerk's Office In Time. Completed forms **must be**

received in the town clerk's office where the applicant lives no later than noon on the second Monday before an election. Applications received in the town clerk's office after the voter registration deadline will not be eligible to vote in the upcoming election but will be added to the voter checklist for the next election.

Some of the information contained in this brochure was taken from How to Run a Voter Registration Drive, written by the Vermont Secretary of State's office.

For more information about voter registration or voting contact the town clerk or the secretary of state's office.

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HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR VOTE?

- ❖ *In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Presidency by just **one vote per precinct** in Illinois. One voter in each precinct could have changed the election in Illinois, giving Richard Nixon enough electoral votes to elect him.*
- ❖ *Woodrow Wilson was elected President in 1916 by carrying **one state by less than one vote per precinct.***
- ❖ *In 1994, Minnesota Representative Bob Anderson won by **only 73 votes.***
- ❖ *In 1963, Karl F. Rolvaag was declared the winner over Elmer L. Anderson for Minnesota's Governor's race, after 4 months of recounts. **He won by 91 votes** statewide.*
- ❖ *In 1968, Vice-President Hubert Humphrey lost the Presidential election in a very close race to Richard Nixon.*
- ❖ *In 1995, the Shakopee, Minnesota mayor's race was determined by **five votes.** During the same election in Shakopee, a City Council member lost re-election by **23 votes.***
- ❖ ***One vote** saved President Andrew Johnson from an impeachment conviction in 1868.*
- ❖ ***One vote** kept Aaron Burr from becoming President in 1800. Thomas Jefferson was elected President by this one vote.*
- ❖ *Marcus Monton was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1839 by **one vote** out of the 102,066 votes cast.*
- ❖ *In 1950, a Maryland State Senator was elected by **one vote**, with 3,080 votes. The loser had 3,079 votes.*
- ❖ ***One vote** elected Rutherford B. Hayes to the Presidency, and the man in the Electoral College who cast that vote was an Indiana Congressman who was elected by one vote.*
- ❖ *In 1923, **one vote** made Adolf Hitler head of the Nazi Party.*



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