

November 3 Election Information

Posted October 8, 2020

Deborah Fauver, Conway Town Moderator

Conway and Hales Location voters will vote in the State General (and Presidential) Election on Tuesday, November 3rd, at the Kennett High School gym, 409 Eagle's Way in North Conway (across from Walmart), from 8 am to 7 pm.

Conway's sample ballot is posted at www.conwaynh.org; further voting information and sample ballots are available at app.sos.nh.gov.

Absentee Voting

Conway and Hales Location absentee ballots are available now from the Conway Town Clerk Louise Inkell. She has already mailed out more than 1900 absentee ballots.

The application for an absentee ballot is on the Town Website, and also at Hannaford, Shaw's, the Conway Daily Sun front steps, Town Hall and the local Post Offices. This is the State form, and anyone can return it to his or her NH Town Clerk to request an absentee ballot. The last day to request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk's Office is Monday, November 2nd before 5 pm.

Start the process early. Absentee ballots will not be counted unless they are received by the Town Clerk no later than 5 pm on Election Day. We have been advised by the Post Office that ALL mail, even ballots, must leave town and go to the postal distribution center and then back to town which could take several days.

This is new. Typically, the local Post Office has been able to hold ballots received on Election Day so that the Town Clerk is able to collect them at the Post Office at 5 pm. We are talking with the Secretary of State to understand why this change has happened.

But for now, please plan to mail your absentee ballot well BEFORE Election Day. You can also hand deliver your ballot to the Town Clerk's Office in person or by delivery agent no later than Monday, November 2nd by 5 pm.

If you have concerns about COVID-19, absentee voting is the best way to go. Start that process as soon as possible, since you need to file an application with the Town Clerk first, then receive a ballot, then get the ballot back to the Town Clerk. The Town Hall is now open so you can complete this process in person.

We cannot count ballots received in the mail after Election Day. If you are running late with your absentee ballot, deliver it to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall by 5 pm on November 2nd, or bring it to the polls on Election Day.

Election Day Procedure

If you bring an absentee ballot to the polls on Election Day, there will be greeters ready to accept it in the Kennett High School gym entrance hall. If you are delivering a ballot for a relative, you will be required to sign a Delivery Affidavit.

Masks will be required in the main entrance hall and the main voting area. Voters will check-in and vote inside the gym, and will then exit at the back of the gym, following a long hallway back to the parking lot area. We have designed the layout so voters all move in one direction, and should be able to socially distance throughout the process.

Any voters who are unable or unwilling to wear masks will be directed to a separate entrance near the cafeteria. There will be a separate voting area for unmasked voters just inside that entrance.

We are expecting 3,000 – 3,600 voters to pass through the Conway and Hales Location polls on November 3rd. In 2016, we had about 5,200 voters. This year, we are expecting a slightly higher number, and also expecting at least 2,000 to vote absentee.

Electioneering

Please remember that State Election rules do not allow campaign activity on school property – including the parking lot. There will be an area set aside for campaigners near the entrance to the gym. But Election Day is really for the voters, and we take our job seriously to provide a safe, neutral, convenient place for people to vote.

Truck signs and tents are not allowed on school property. Campaigners have had all year long to make their case to the voters; please respect the process on November 3rd.

Register to Vote

If you need to register to vote, there are 4 ways to do that: 1) check the new registration box on the absentee ballot application, and you will be mailed the relevant forms, or 2) contact the Town Clerk directly any time between now and Friday, October 23rd, or 3) register with the Town Clerk on Saturday, October 17th between 10 am and noon, or with the Supervisors of the Checklist at the Town Hall on Saturday, October 24th between 11 am and 2 pm; or 4) register on Election Day.

In order to register, you will need to provide documents showing your identity, that you will be 18 or older on Election Day, that you are a US Citizen (by birth or naturalization), and that you are domiciled in Conway or Hales Location. If you do not have all the necessary documentation, you may still be able to register in person, by signing an affidavit of identity, citizenship, age or domicile whichever applies.

To check your registration status, go to app.sos.nh.gov and look for the Party Registration tab at the top of the web page to find your registration status. If you requested an absentee ballot, you will also be able to see whether the Town Clerk has received your application, if she has mailed you a ballot, and if she has received your ballot.

Please contact Town Clerk Louise Inkell at (603) 447-3811 or Linkell@conwaynh.org with questions, or contact me at dfauver@coopercargillchant.com.

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