



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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PANTON ELECTION DAY POLICIES

HOURS

The Panton Board of Civil Authority (BCA) has established voting hours as 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. §§ 2494, 2561.

POLLWATCHERS

Up to two representatives of political parties, a candidate or political committees have a right to be present and observe voters at the entrance checklist. People interested in poll watching are strongly encouraged to contact the town clerk in advance of an election.

The presiding officer will set out chairs and mark the floor where poll watchers can observe and hear the name of each voter restated by the entrance checklist election official. Poll watchers cannot set up their own table or require voters to give them their names. When in the polling place, poll watchers may not use their cell phones, including all functions such as texting, recording or photographing. Poll watchers must not speak to voters. Talking that interrupts the work of the election officials is not permitted. If poll watchers do not comply with this policy, they will be warned. If they continue not to comply, they will be required to leave.

Poll watchers who represent a political party, a candidate or a political committee may challenge a voter's right to vote on two grounds only: 1) That a voter has already voted in the same election or 2) That the voter is not actually the person whose name appears on the checklist. If a voter is challenged, members of the BCA present must convene immediately to hear the facts and rule on the matter. Asserting that the voter does not reside in Panton is not one of the permitted grounds for a challenge. §2564.

CAMPAIGNING OUTSIDE POLLING PLACE

Campaigning is a First Amendment right. Candidates and supporters are asked to check in with the town clerk when they arrive to be familiarized with this policy. They may stand only in the two designated spaces: 1) on the grass of the northeast corner of the building behind the permanent drop box and 2) on the grass next to the bottom of the handicapped ramp on the side of town hall. People may hold political signs in this space. But no one is permitted to interfere with any voter entering or exiting the polling place. Campaigners may not block the sidewalk, ramp or stairs. Legally parked cars that contain campaign signs are allowed.

In addition to Vermont's election laws, state statutes that apply to behaviors in a public place also apply to the polling place. If a voter has a complaint about actual harassment outside the polling place, an election official will contact the police to resolve the problem. §2508.

SIGNS OUTSIDE THE POLLING PLACE

Campaign signs measuring no more than 3' x 2' may be placed on the day before Election Day only in the grass of the Panton Park & Ride lot on Jersey Street, across from the Panton Town Hall. Candidates and supporters can place up to two signs in the designated area. Signs need to be removed by noon on the day after the election or else they will be discarded. §2508.

CAMPAIGN PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL AT THE POLLING PLACE & PANTON TOWN HALL

On Election Day, no campaign literature, stickers, buttons or any other type of information about the candidates or other political material may be placed, handed out or allowed to remain in the Panton second floor polling place and the entire building. No campaigning of any kind by any person for a candidate or issue is permitted in the polling place. §2508

Voters may bring a small card or folded paper to remind them how to vote or a label or sticker to affix to the ballot to vote for a write-in candidate if these materials are not displayed to others in the room. §2587(e).

No person in the polling place is allowed to wear, display or hand out political material that contains:

- 1) A candidate on the ballot.
- 2) An organized political party.
- 3) Support or opposition for a question on the ballot. §2508.

A person wearing a button or sticker will be asked politely to remove them while in the polling place. Clothing, hats or buttons with general political material are allowed.

These provisions about campaigning also apply to the town clerk's office during the early or absentee voting period. §2508(a)(1)(C).

These policies are based on Vermont state statutes and the *2022 Election Procedures: A Guide for Town Clerks, Presiding Officers, Representative District Clerks, Senatorial District Clerks, County Clerks, Boards of Civil Authority, Election Officials, Candidates and Voters*. Prepared by the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State, July 2022.

Approved by the Panton Board of Civil Authority on October 10, 2022.