

Opinions

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State



Vol. 6, #5

May 2004



A Message from the Secretary

Every once in awhile we are asked about how the Secretary of State's office began to publish opinions on issues of local government law. Opinions began as a formal publication in 1981 by then Secretary of State Jim Douglas, and his deputy Paul Gillies. The belief then was that by publishing

questions and answers from the previous month, it would let people know what was going on in local government around the state, and would help officials learn from the experiences of others. They also hoped that this information would eliminate some of the telephone calls that can – and sometimes still do – consume this office.

I can tell by the number of calls and cards we have received in response to our re-institution of Opinions that local officials and citizens continue to value learning about the ever-changing landscape of local government law and practice. Perhaps it is because, when we see our own town's challenges reflected in the stories of other communities, we feel less alone in our work.

Though I hope our Opinions are interesting to read and sometimes help you solve a problem or avoid a mistake, they are not rulings that are binding on towns or citizens like a decision of the court. Rather, when we issue opinions they are just that – our opinions. We have no power to force citizens or officials to do the right thing – to treat each other civilly - to follow the law. Rather, through our opinions, Deputy Secretary Bill Dalton, Director of Elections Kathy DeWolfe, and I share with you what we believe the law requires based on our best legal judgment and from our many years of observing Vermont's local governments and following the decisions of our courts.

The thoughts expressed in our opinions also reflect our philosophy of openness and fairness in government and in the inherent value of local control. Whenever there is a question about what the law says or what is required of an official, our advice is conservative. We try to keep you out of trouble by counseling prudence over risk-taking, openness over secrecy and due process over bureaucratic expediency.

The citizen volunteers who run our local governments in Vermont deserve all the support we can give them. It is my hope that Opinions offers them that support and, in doing so, helps to strengthen our town governments.

Reprinted from May 2002

Deborah L. Markowitz, Secretary of State

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Voice from the Vault

By Gregory Sanford, State Archivist

The Other Side of the Table

Yesterday was my birthday. Another milestone in my late youth (a designation arrived at by dividing chronology by maturity), I marked it by spending the morning researching municipal records. This may seem a rather staid way of celebrating, but it was the perfect gift.

I confess I have done little research in municipal records; indeed, I do little research nowadays except in responding to requests for information. So it was a joy to hunker down with volumes of land records and minutes in search of Jerusalem, a religious community thought to exist between Lord's and Devil's hills in the early 19th Century. My pleasure was enhanced by having Paul Gillies serve as my guide through the records.

Armed with local memories, a few names, and the location of some cellar holes, we worked our way patiently back through time. As it rained outside, the present slowly dissolved as we moved from volume to volume tracing changing land use and ownership patterns. Some promising leads petered out, others emerged. The handwriting, some legible, some a challenge, changed as clerks came and went. The depth of description went from detailed boundary descriptions to the vague recordings of the late 19th Century, to the pre-1850 practice of referencing original lots.

In the end, a documented community eluded us. The names we had appeared briefly during the first decade of the 1800s as landowners and town officers, but their property was not where Jerusalem was believed to be located. After a son's term as hayward, all mention of that family ended. Instead we got caught up in the intense land speculation of another family, father and son, who bought, sold and leased property throughout the town during the 19th Century. Their ownership of the Jerusalem area persisted through that time.

As an archivist, there is a value in occasionally sitting on the other side of the research table. My appreciation of how well the town is served by our clerk was greatly enhanced; the volumes were well conserved and the records complete and orderly. So was my appreciation of the unique vantage point municipal records provide on the history of communities. Though, in this case, the records were silent on the information I sought, the experience reminded me of the complex interplay of record, memory and landscape that make up our sense of community. There is, among the older members of the community, a strong memory of Jerusalem. Details of that memory, passed from grandparent to parent to child, embrace an isolated religious community, perhaps squatters upon the land. There remain community memories of an outbreak of bubonic plague and of graves marked by stones arranged in patterns designed to halt the spread of the disease.

These personal memories are anchored in the cemeteries and cellar holes, though the exact location of each resides in the fragile memories of older residents. The landscape also offers clues, from the wonderful juxtaposition of Lord's Hill, Devil's Hill and Jerusalem to other local landmarks such as Debby's Hill and Debby's Spring, named after one of the purported community members. The records helped confirm some of these names, including references to the Jerusalem Pasture.

The records offered glimpses of local economies with their reference to pasture land, sawmills, sugaring equipment and old roads. They also revealed a surprisingly high level of land speculation, at least among the members of one family, for over a century.

The experience even provided useful context to current discussions over scanning and electronic records. In some cases faded ink and crabbed handwriting will be a challenge to scanning. The thought that, at some future point, I might be able to access the records from home, rather than taking a day off, certainly had an appeal. And yet, if that day comes, something will be lost. That tactile sense of holding records, of holding history, and having a direct connection to the long forgotten town officers who created the records will be lost. So will the camaraderie of the clerk's office and the ability to ask questions of those most familiar with the records.

And so, even though Jerusalem remained elusive, it was a wonderful day. To my town clerk in particular, and to all clerks in general, thank you for all you do and for helping a man, in the fullness of late youth, enjoy his birthday.

May 24-28th is Vermont High School Voter Registration Week

Participate in Vermont High School Voter Registration Week
by visiting your local high school to register voters!



Vermont lags behind the nation with only 33% of our young people voting! In Vermont, voters must take an oath before a notary to be eligible to vote. This means that our young people cannot register and vote by mail. For this reason it is especially important to register our young people to vote before they leave high school.

During **High School Voter Registration Week** we are asking town clerks, and other local officials to go into local high schools to register new voters. We will also be asking schools to conduct their own registration drives. To make this easy we can supply you or your school with voter registration forms, “Your Vote is Your Voice” buttons and bumper stickers, a short student handout with important dates and answers to frequently asked questions and a 7 minute video explaining how to vote.

Contact Janel Johnson at jjohnson@sec.state.vt.us or by calling 828-1296 for more information about how you can get involved with this year’s **High School Voter Registration Week**.

Order **FREE** materials for your registration drive online at:

http://www.sec.state.vt.us/kids/votevt/hs_reg_drive/hs_voter_week.html

Quote of the Month

The best measure of a just society is whether you’d be willing to be thrown into it at random.

John Rawls



Opinions of *Opinions*

1. **Municipal public library may not charge residents for its basic services.** A public library is defined as “any library established and maintained by a municipality or by a private association, corporation or group to provide basic library services free of charge to all residents of a municipality or a community and which receives its annual financial support in whole or in part from public funds. 22 V.S.A. § 101. This means that a municipal public library may not charge residents for its basic services. Basic services have been treated by the Vermont Department of Libraries as including all items a library circulates (e.g., print and nonprint materials), reference service, interlibrary loan, programming (except for recovery of the cost of materials), and public access computing (including internet access). This rule is consistent with the authority of other municipal entities. Municipal boards only have those authorities directly granted by the legislature. This means that fees cannot be charged by municipalities unless specifically authorized in statute or directly implied by some other authority granted by the legislature. Note that a municipal library may charge non-residents a borrowing fee and it may also charge rent in the event that it has extra space available for non-library use.
2. **Upon election to offices that are incompatible a person must resign from one, creating a vacancy.** A person may run for two incompatible offices, but upon election, the official must resign from one of the positions. This creates a vacancy that must be filled according to statutory procedures.
3. **Vacancy is not filled by next higher vote-getter.** When a newly elected official resigns the runner-up or next highest vote getter does not “move up” to become the winner. For town officer vacancies the selectboard posts the vacancy within 10 days of its creation, and then appoints a person to fill the term of office until the next election. 24 V.S.A. § 961 and §963. For town school board member vacancies the selectboard, with the advice of the remaining school board members, must within 30 days appoint a person to fill the position until the next election. 16 V.S.A. § 424. For union school district vacancies the clerk of the union district notifies the selectboard of the town which elected the original incumbent and within 30 days the selectboard, with the advice of the town or incorporated district school board, appoints a person to fill the vacancy until the next election.
4. **Errors or omissions in the warning or notice can be cured by a vote to validate.** If errors of omission or noncompliance with the statutory requirements for Notice and/or Warning for the Annual Meeting were made, you can look at 17 V.S.A. § 2662, validation of municipal meetings, to see if you can cure the errors by using the procedures in this section. Under section 2662 an article can be added to the next annual or special meeting warning with the wording, “shall the action taken at the meeting of _____ Town (or city or district) held on _____ (date), in spite of the fact that _____ (state the error or omission), and any act or action of the municipal officers or agents pursuant thereto be re-adopted, ratified and confirmed.”

We strongly suggest that School Boards and Selectboards carefully review the draft warning in order to avoid unnecessary errors with respect to meeting locations, polling places, times of meetings, dates, and budget amounts. We also recommend that whoever brings the Warning to the town clerks office confirms the meeting times and places with the Town Clerk in order to avoid unnecessary errors or conflicts.
5. **Clerk must record deed and survey that is properly submitted for recording.** A town clerk must record properly submitted deed and survey (conforming to statutory requirements in 27 V.S.A. §341) even if an abutter objects that it contains incorrect information. The recording function is a ministerial duty that allows the documents to provide notice to others. If a correction needs to be made, a new corrected deed or survey must be submitted for recording.

6. **A person in a correctional institution must register to vote in the last town he/she resided.** Vermont law provides that “a person can neither gain nor lose residency...while in a correctional institution.” 17 V.S.A. §2121 and 2122(a). There is an additional, more specific, provision in 28 V.S.A. §807 that states that a person cannot register to vote in the town where the correctional facility is located. While some attorneys consider this provision to be unconstitutional, it has not been challenged in court so is presumed valid.
7. **A special process must be followed in order for the municipality to vote to borrow through bonding.** To begin the process for a bond vote the selectboard must first pass a resolution of public necessity. 24 V.S.A. §1755. All bond votes require special and additional notice and warning to be provided as directed in 24 V.S.A. §1756. The ballots must be prepared as directed in 24 V.S.A. §1758. Selectboards and town clerks must provide copies documenting the various steps to bond counsel. It is wise to confirm that you have covered all the necessary steps for warning with bond counsel before the final time for posting of the warnings.
8. **Custodians of public records do not have to research or fax documents.** The public records law in 1 V.S.A. §315-318 provides that custodians of public documents must make documents available to the public for inspection and copying during reasonable hours. The law does not require that the custodians fax copies of documents to anyone, or require that the custodian conduct research to find documents. While each custodian can establish additional office practices as a courtesy to the public, we advise towns to discuss their policies with their town attorney to ensure that these practices will not create a risk of liability for the town.
9. **Selectboard may accept gift or grant without voter approval.** It is our opinion that a selectboard may accept a grant to purchase property for the town without approval from the voters at an annual or special meeting. It has been this office’s advice that where the grant is from a federal or state system which by law does not expressly provide for a vote of the electorate, the selectmen could apply for and accept grants on their own initiative. See also *Lawton v. Town of Brattleboro*, 128 VT 525 (1970), where the court found that a vote of the electorate is not always an indispensable prerequisite to the authority of the selectmen to function in areas of their official responsibility.
10. **Town highways are altered without voter approval.** Towns must carefully follow all of the required statutory procedures to reclassify a highway from 4 to 3. The procedures to increase classification are the same as those used to take a highway to a lower classification or to abandon a road. 19 V.S.A. §§707-717. The law requires the selectboard to provide notice of the proposed change, they need to hold a hearing, do a site visit and make a decision. The voters don’t get to vote on this issue. Rather, if interested parties are unhappy with the board’s decision they can appeal to district court who will appoint a commission to decide the issue. Note that the selectboard can use funds from its town highway budget to improve the road, if that is necessary to bring the road up to the new classification standards. A vote of the electorate is only required if additional funds are needed.
11. **Citizens may petition to lay out, discontinue or reclassify a town road.** The law provides that if at least 5% of a town’s voters and/or landowners petition to have a highway laid out, altered, reclassified, or discontinued the board must begin the statutory process. Note that even if the process is started by petition it is, in the first instance, within the board’s discretion whether to grant or deny the requested change. (Of course this decision can be appealed.) 19 V.S.A. §708. The selectboard may order that the petitioners pay the costs of upgrading a class 4 town highway to the class 3 town highway standards. 19 V.S.A. § 711.
12. **Selectboard is not required to reclassify a class 4 road to a class 3.** In deciding whether to reclassify a road the selectboard makes a decision according to what it deems is the public good and necessity. The law specifically provides that a class 4 highway need not be reclassified to class 3 merely because there exists within a town one or more class 3 highways with characteristics similar to the class 4 highway. In considering whether to reclassify a class 4 highway to class 3, consideration may be given as to whether the increased traffic and development potential likely to result from the reclassification is desirable or is in accordance with the town plan. 19 V.S.A. § 711.
13. **Emails are subject to the Public Record Law.** The Vermont Public Record Law broadly defines public record or public document as “...or any other written or recorded matters produced or acquired in the course of agency business...” unless the document fits one of the exceptions listed in the statute. 1 V.S.A. § 317(b). This means that emails that are written, sent, or received in the course of the business of the public board or entity or between board members dealing with board business are public records and must be produced for inspection upon request. An email must be reviewed or considered in the same light as a letter would be considered on the same topic. If a letter on the same subject would become a public record, then the email is public record. Copies of emails sent and/or received in the course of board business should be provided to the custodian of public records for the board so that the public can inspect them upon request. Note that it does not matter that the emails were sent or received from home computers.

- 14. Town manager form of government is adopted in the same way officers are elected.** Vermont law provides that the manner in which a town votes to either adopt or revoke the town manager system is determined by the manner in which the town has voted to elect its town officers. 24 V.S.A. §1242 and 1243. If a town has voted to elect its officers by Australian Ballot, then any vote on the town manager system of government is done by Australian Ballot (whether to adopt or to revoke.) If a town still votes its officers from the floor by voice vote or paper ballot, then the vote to adopt or revoke the town manager system is by the floor system of voting. The legislature decided to “piggyback” the manner of voting to the manner in which officers are elected rather than dictate Australian Ballot for all towns.
- 15. Town manager has broad authority under state law.** Chapter 37 of title 24 provides that the manager shall have authority and it shall be his duty: “to cause duties required of towns and town school districts and not committed to the care of any particular officer, to be duly performed and executed . . . and to perform all duties now conferred by law upon the selectmen . . . except that he shall not prepare tax bills, sign orders on the general fund of the town, other than orders for poor relief, call special or annual town meetings, lay out highways, establish and lay out public parks, make assessments, award damages, act as member of the board of civil authority, nor make appointments to fill vacancies which the selectmen are now authorized by law to fill.” 24 V.S.A. § 1236. In addition the manager is given specific areas of control listed in 24 V.S.A. section 1236 (including being the purchasing agent, supervising public buildings, accounting for the town and possibly for the school district, collecting the taxes and delinquent taxes – if the town so votes, overseeing the roads, the police and fire departments, maintenance of parks, etc . . .). 24 V.S.A. §1236.
- 16. A public board cannot “recess” its meeting for a brief time in order for board members to leave the room to continue to discuss board business in private.** All board business must be discussed in public unless it meets the requirements of one of the two exceptions to the open meeting law executive session or deliberative session. 1 V.S.A. §312. It is perfectly appropriate for a board to take a brief recess to allow members to use the facilities, take a stretch, or return an important telephone call. However, the recess should not be a ruse so that board members can discuss board business outside of the hearing of the attending public.
- 17. Nonbinding questions must be voted in the same way you vote public questions.** A board can put a non-binding question before the voters at an annual or special meeting. This question must be voted in the same way the municipality votes its public questions. If the board wishes it can also raise issues that are non-binding during the “other business” portion of the town or annual meeting agenda.
- 18. Municipalities can set up recreation systems.** There is a special area in the law devoted to municipal authority over recreation. It provides that municipalities, singly or jointly, may establish, maintain and conduct a system of public recreation including playgrounds. They can buy, lease or accept gifts of land, buildings or other recreational facilities, they can bond for these public improvements and they may hire a recreation director and assistant director. 31 V.S.A. § 202.
- 19. Municipal recreation programs can be overseen by the legislative body or a by recreation board.** The legislative body of a municipality can oversee recreation themselves – or through their town manager or it can establish a recreation board. When the legislative body establishes the recreation committee or board it must decide how many members to include and it must determine the terms of office. The law requires that the terms be staggered so that the term of one member expires annually.
- 20. Felons can vote in Vermont and serve in elected office.** With the exception of a conviction for voter or elections fraud no Vermont law prohibits a felon from voting or serving as an elected official in Vermont. It is up to the voters to decide whether the felony conviction is reason to not elect a particular candidate to office.

In our monthly Opinions we provide what we believe the law requires based upon our legal judgment, years of observing Vermont’s local government practices, and Vermont Court decisions. This information is intended as a reference guide only and should not replace the advice of legal counsel.

New Stickers Available for 2004 Election !



This election we have 4 new stickers to offer towns for use during the 2004 Election cycle.

Keep an eye on the mail for your order form!

Tip of the Month from the VMCTA



**This month's tip is from Lisa Barrett,
Lyndon Town Clerk and Treasurer**



The Town of Lyndon is home to Lyndon State College and accordingly we have many college students on our voter checklist. In May, we obtain a copy of the graduation program that they print up for their graduation ceremony. It lists the names of all the graduates. We cross-reference the names of the graduates to the names on our checklist. For those graduates appearing on our checklist, we send them a letter of congratulations, wish them well in their future endeavors, and ask them to let us know if they will be moving out of Lyndon. We also send them the standard, postage-paid, postcard. Not only does this help to keep our checklist accurate, it also gives the town the opportunity to congratulate our soon-to-be former residents for their accomplishment as they strike out on their own.

If you have a good tip that you would like to share with our readers please email it to Sandy Harris at vernontc@sover.net or mail them to:

Sandy Harris- VMCTA President
Town of Vernon
567 Governor Hunt Rd
Vernon, VT 05354

MUNICIPALLY - BASED COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTERS

The Agency of Human Services provides funding to local restorative interventions which hold great promise for helping communities to become safer and more responsive to the needs of their citizens. There are a growing number of Vermont communities responding to the problems of crime and conflict with community justice restorative initiatives.

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a philosophy for dealing with the many and varied levels of conflict, dispute and other issues that affect the general wellness of a community. It emphasizes direct personal involvement of all the affected parties in solving conflict and offers methods for doing so. It is a justice approach, which focuses on the harms caused by conflict and crime to relationships between people in the community. Conflict that escalates to the level of crime is considered primarily as an act against the victim(s) and the community, and secondarily as a violation of state or federal law. Restorative justice places the victim(s) and the community centrally in the resolution of conflict and crime and expects the offender to be accountable for repairing the harm and damage. It provides processes and programs that rely on direct participation of all the affected parties in seeking a just and long lasting solution to a wide variety of local issues and conflict. It empowers community citizens to work on the problems that most concern them.

Restorative justice principles resolve problems in non-violent ways including:

- Those who are Harmed/affected (victims) are Central to the Process
- Seek to Understand the Harm Done
- Work to Repair the Damage
- Re-Build Relationships with all the People Involved
- Recognize the Solution as a Community Responsibility
- Give Choice and Opportunity to Speak and Be Heard

Restorative justice applications include:

- school discipline
- neighborhood disputes
- family conflict
- ordinance violations
- alternatives to traditional law enforcement and adjudication in criminal matters for both juvenile and adults

What is a Community Restorative Justice Center?

A Community Restorative Justice Center is a municipally supported location (building, office, storefront, etc.) where community members can seek assistance and support in resolving issues of conflict and dispute. It is a partnership between citizens, the municipal government and the state. The center is governed by a diverse citizen advisory board representing the community it serves, and ordinarily has a paid part/full time coordinator and clerical staff. School staff, police, selectboards, neighborhood associations and many other entities use the services of the Justice Center. The Center recruits and trains volunteer community members to provide many of the restorative justice programs and services.

The Center also provides mechanisms and referrals for youthful and adult offenders to repair the damage they have done and demonstrate that they can become productive and contributing members to the community's well being. Community service may be among such activities.

Since the Center is citizen governed, it develops programs and processes specifically tailored to the local community including:

- Programs for citizen dispute resolution, including reparation panels, justice conferencing, peace circles and mediation;
- Support services to victims;
- Programs to address truancy and other school disciplinary matters;
- Programs to support youth in prevention activities;
- Reintegration planning for offenders coming back from incarceration;
- Forums for community discussion of issues of local concern.

Established community justice centers:

Burlington , St Johnsbury, Winooski, Newport, Rutland, Barre, Montpelier, Brattleboro

Smaller restorative programs:

Hinesburg, Shelburne

Planning grants in process:

Middlebury, Essex, Bennington, Hardwick, Hartford, Lamoille, St. Albans, Bellows Falls

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

David Peebles, Dept Of Corrections, Director, Community & Restorative Justice
802-241-2261; dpeebles@doc.state.vt.us

Carl Roof, Dept Of Corrections, Regional Director, Eastern Vermont, Community & Restorative Justice; 802-296-5521; carlr@doc.state.vt.us

Hans Johnson, Dept Of Corrections, Regional Director, Western Vermont, Community & Restorative Justice; 802-786-5034; hansj@doc.state.vt.us

PROPERTY SALES AND DECLARATION OF VERMONT HOMESTEAD

The new education funding law classifies property as either homestead or nonresidential. These property classes are subject to the education tax at different rates. To be taxed at the homestead rate, the property owner must file a Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes declaring that he or she is a Vermont resident who owns and occupies the property as his or her principal dwelling as of April 1. The Declaration is due each year on or before April 15. To ensure that property buyers pay the correct education tax rate and avoid penalty for late-filed Homestead Declarations, the following actions should be taken:

SALES OCCURRING ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1

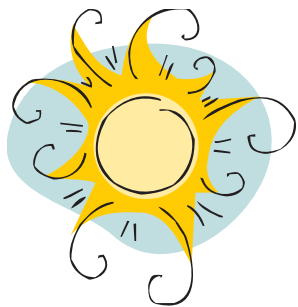
- If the purchased property is the buyer's homestead on April 1, buyer must file a Homestead Declaration (HS-131) on or before April 15. Note that if the dwelling is newly constructed, the buyer may need to obtain a School Property Account Number (SPAN) from the town listers to include on the Homestead Declaration.
- If the purchased property is not the buyer's homestead on April 1, buyer should not file a declaration.
- If the sold property was not the seller's homestead and seller has not filed a Homestead Declaration, no action needs to be taken by the seller.
- If the sold property was seller's homestead and seller filed a Homestead Declaration, the seller must notify the Department.

SALES OCCURRING AFTER APRIL 1

- If the property was seller's homestead on April 1 and seller filed a Homestead Declaration by April 15, no further action is needed. To confirm that seller has filed a Homestead Declaration, seller can call 1-866-828-2865 (toll-free in State) or 802-828-2865 (local or out-of-state) for this information.
- If the property was seller's homestead on April 1 and seller did not file a Homestead Declaration by April 15, seller is still required to file. The late payment penalty should be settled at closing. Filing prior to December 1, may result in a lower tax bill.
- If the property was not the seller's homestead on April 1, and seller did not file a Homestead Declaration, no action should be taken.
- If the property was not the seller's homestead on April 1, but seller filed a Homestead Declaration, seller must notify the Department and rescind the Declaration. The penalty should be settled at closing. The town will issue a corrected tax bill based on the nonresidential tax rate.

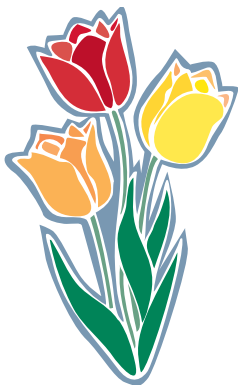
For more information please visit the Tax Department's website:

<http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf/misc/hs-131withdrawal.pdf>



Our apologies to Connie Quimby, Town Clerk of Concord.
In last month's Opinions we announced she was leaving office and
she is still very much serving the Town of Concord!
We are sorry for the confusion!

May 2004



May 15: Last day for Town Clerk to remit to State Treasurer an accounting of dog and wolf-hybrid licenses sold and remit the license fee surcharge for an animal and rabies control program. 20:3581(f)

May 30: Memorial Day. 1:371

May 31: (Within 60 days of petition) If a petition for reconsideration or rescission of a question considered or voted at Town Meeting has been filed, this is the last day on which a municipal vote may be held at a duly-warned meeting. 17:2661(b)

June 2004

June 1:

Deadline for Listers to lodge personal property inventories with Town Clerk. 32:4007

(91st day after Town Meeting election) In towns using Australian Ballot, Town Clerk may open and destroy used Town Meeting ballots and tally sheets, except as otherwise provided by law. 17:2590(d)

June 30: End of fiscal year for all school districts, charter provisions notwithstanding, and for municipalities that have adopted July 1 through June 30 fiscal year calendar. 32:1, 24:1683(b)(c)

June 30: Within 30 days after completion of a town fiscal year the Town Clerk shall publicly disclose the total amount of fees received as part of his or her compensation. 24:1179

Mailing List Updates!

Help us keep our mailing list up to date!

Let us know if:

- your address needs to be updated
- your name is misspelled, or
- you'd rather receive *Opinions* a week early via email



Send us a note via fax: 802-828-2496,
email: salberghini@sec.state.vt.us,
or post: 26 Terrace St. Drawer 09, Montpelier, VT 05609-1101
and be sure to include what your current *Opinions* mailing label says as
well as any changes that you would like to have made!

Thank you for helping us keep Opinions running efficiently!

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Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
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