



Opinions



Office of the Vermont Secretary of State - www.sec.state.vt.us
26 Terrace Street, Montpelier, VT 05609-1101 : Phone 802-828-2363

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Message from the Secretary

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Every May, when the weather turns warm I get the urge to do a little spring cleaning. It starts with the mud room. Piles of winter clothing, miscellaneous hats and mittens and ski equipment have to be sorted and put away. I then end up cleaning closets, when I find that there is no room to store the coats, boots and snow pants that I have just rescued from the mud room. Pretty soon the whole house is in an uproar, and after a long day of chaos we find order again - with a pile of things heading to goodwill and an overflowing garbage bin. It is hard to believe how much junk we can accumulate in just a year!

Every May we also do spring cleaning as a state. For the past 40 years, during the first weekend in May, Vermonters in every community observe Green Up Day. Armed with large plastic garbage bags, we roll up our sleeves, put on heavy duty gloves, and head to the roadways, the rivers, forests and parks. I am always amazed at how much litter accumulates every year.

Green Up Day was the brainchild of Burlington Free Press reporter, Robert Babcock, who, on his way to work one day in the spring of 1969, became upset when he saw all of the garbage on the side of the road that had been uncovered by the spring thaw. He decided to do something about it. With the support of his employer and state government he started Green Up Vermont to clean up our roadways and rivers, to encourage Vermonters to take pride in the beauty of our communities and our natural environment, and to cut down on littering.

Today, 40 years after Vermont's first Green Up Day, as many as 15,000 Vermonters will mobilize across the state to clean up roadways, parks and rivers. It is a great example of something that Vermonters do particularly well - come together, volunteering time and effort to make our communities better places. And, just like we do a spring cleaning in our homes it is important to remember that if we don't take care of our beautiful state - no one else will!

Deborah L. Markowitz
Secretary of State

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Voice From the Vault by Gregory Sanford

The Case of the Missing Efficiencies

In my youth I devoured the Hardy Boy mysteries. While I occasionally bemoan my advancing years, I am glad my youth embraced the Hardy Boys before the old titles were updated, starting in 1959. The Frank and Joe Hardy of my youth had chums, rode in coupes, fought "swarthy foreigners," or confronted mad scientists who put promising technologies to questionable ends. This was particularly true of electricity. As the country celebrated the growing number of laborsaving devices powered by electricity, Frank and Joe risked life and limb confronting darker applications of this force.

More often than not their wired opponents were once decent men (I don't recall women villains) who became deranged by tragedy or injury. I am sure many of us remember the bewhiskered Eben Adar from *The Disappearing Floor* (1940) who invented furniture that glowed and automatically turned off when you slept and who grew plants electrically (he is also memorable for having a soft spot for the Boys' formidable Aunt Gertrude). As these inventions suggest Eben wasn't really a bad guy; he wanted to use technology to improve society. Alas a temporary mental disarrangement left him the pawn of a gang of thieves.

The early Hardy Boy books are a wonderful example of our fascination with the promise of technology. Even in the hands of villains, technologies such as those applied to electricity held limitless possibilities.

What occasioned these thoughts was reading H. 792, the bill seeking to implement many of the Challenges for Change recommendations for making government more efficient and effective. The number of times "electronic" or "electronically" appear in the bill would have made Eben Adar proud. It is a sign that our faith in technology is undiminished; information technology will surely lead us to the promise of improved services for less money.

"But wait," says your inner Hardy Boy, "haven't we been spending millions on information technology for decades? Shouldn't we already be effective and efficient?" That sounds like a mystery.

Despite having once read the Hardy Boys' Detective Handbook (1959) my initial sleuthing on IT costs was not up to Frank and Joe's standard. I did call on a couple of chums (to protect their identities let's call them Chet Morton and Biff Hooper) who provided two different sets of figures. Chet, for example, used the 2007 report on Charting the Course Toward Vermont State Government's Information Technology Future which identified \$36,513,185 in IT expenditures in Fiscal Year 2005. Biff, however, looked at agency budgets and reported \$4,558,981 in IT expenditures in FY 05. I suspect the difference might be because Biff looked at the Department of Information and Innovation's (DII) budget, not at broader IT investments and maintenance expenditures, but in truth I remain clueless.

Still, the mystery (let's call it the Case of the Missing Efficiencies) remains. If IT is the solution to inefficiency, after spending hundreds of millions on computer systems over the years shouldn't we be pretty darned efficient by now?

One clue is the complex inter-relationships among government agencies and departments. An obvious example is the interplay among the judiciary, law enforcement, corrections, and social services. If the workflow among these distinct entities is not understood or IT "solutions" are employed only within one unit, then efficiencies not only won't be found, but new inefficiencies might be created. Our record analysts, for example, found one agency hand-entering data into its computer system – data that is created in a system maintained by another agency. Because the two systems are not compatible, the information is transmitted on paper by a fax machine on a weekly basis. This is not, alas, an isolated event. Our agencies often find themselves replicating data and working around technological inefficiencies caused by inadequate or narrow planning.

Examples of weak or non-existent coordination among agencies are diminishing but still abound. Without communication, much less coordination, overlapping functions; cross-agency but connected business processes; and related (and occasionally conflicting) legal requirements cannot be understood. Treating each agency's, department's, or division's business requirements and technology needs in isolation is one reason the broader efficiencies envisioned in Challenges for Change have not already been realized through information technology.

There are, however, clues for a better outcome this time. DII is encouraging agencies to use enterprise-wide technologies and processes to support, among other things, inter- and intra-agency collaboration. Enterprise systems by themselves won't create cooperation or coordination, but DII's Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) is assisting agencies with professional project managers to make sure projects are well designed and business requirements are well understood. Since EPMO works across government it can identify where business requirements overlap. We, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA), also have an enterprise view and, among other things, help agencies match legal requirements to recordkeeping requirements. Again this creates a broader view that can support greater effectiveness by coordinating responses to common legal mandates (agencies confront myriad complex, shifting, uncoordinated, and overlapping laws and rules in establishing their programs and recordkeeping systems).

EPMO and VSARA maintain an informal collaboration known as Information Strategies: Taskforce on Archives, Records, and Technology (iSTART) that allows them to exchange their business, project and record analyses. Where appropriate, iSTART also develops guidelines on everything from record formats, to scanning to metadata and electronic signatures; go to: <http://vermont-archives.org/records/iSTART/>.

Creating a new culture that values effective information management and cross-agency communication and coordination takes time. How to accomplish that against tight deadlines driven by a financial crisis is a mystery we must solve; otherwise the case of the missing efficiencies will never be cracked.

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Opinions of Opinions

1. Town clerk may charge for faxing documents but cannot charge for receiving faxes. No law requires a town clerk to fax documents, but if he or she chooses to do so, the clerk may establish a reasonable fee for the service. In contrast, if the town has a fax machine, there is no law that would permit the clerk to charge for receipt of faxes.

2. The selectboard is only required to call a vote on petitioned articles if they cover a topic that the voters have the right to decide. All articles involving issues that Vermont law states the voters or electorate are capable of deciding and binding the town, must be placed on the warning by the selectboard. Examples of binding articles include increasing the size of the selectboard or school board, zoning bylaws, establishing special reserve funds, funding approval for particular equipment or improvements. All of these categories of articles are specifically mentioned in the Vermont statutes as being for the electorate or voters to decide by vote. The board may warn "advisory" or non-binding articles that are petitioned, but it is only required to do so if they relate to town business. A recent Supreme Court case clarified the rule by saying that a town did not have to warn a petitioned article directing the legislative body to inform the legislature that the citizens wished it to consider a law requiring parental notification when a minor sought an abortion. *Clift v. City of South Burlington*.

3. Social service agency funding requests approved by the voters are for the new fiscal year. When the voters approve an appropriation for a social service agency the appropriation should be paid to the agency at the start of the new fiscal year. In some cases the selectboard will negotiate a different payment schedule based on the cash flow needs of the agency and the needs of the town.

4. Town clerk must record properly submitted deed and survey. A town clerk must record properly submitted deed and survey (conforms 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.

5. If a justice of the peace resigns, moves out of state, or dies, a vacancy is created. The law provides that the governor may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy. The statute allows the town committee of the political party of the person whose death or resignation created the vacancy to meet (with five days notice) to make a recommendation or recommendations to the governor. The governor is not bound by any recommendation. The law does not include a specific process for recommendation if the vacancy was created by a justice who was an independent. Note that a justice who moves out of the town, but not out of state, may continue to serve as the town's justice. 17 V.S.A. §2623.

6. Town can charge for actual cost of attorney who assists with delinquent tax sale even if the sale does not go through. When a town sends delinquent taxes to an attorney for collection and to begin the tax sale process, if the delinquent taxpayer decides to pay all of the back taxes, penalty, and interest, the town can also add the actual and reasonable attorney fees that it has incurred. 32 V.S.A. §5258. However, the town cannot add a straight percentage similar to a contingency fee, but can only add the total of the actual hours spent by the attorney as shown in the bill for the fee that was incurred in efforts to collect the funds.

7. A person in a correctional institution must register to vote in the last town in Vermont that the person resided in prior to incarceration. According to 17 V.S.A. §2121 and 2122(a), "a person can neither gain nor lose residency...while in a correctional institution." There is also a 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 and it is law in Vermont.

- 8. The legislative body (selectboard or school board) must pass a resolution of public necessity to begin the process for a bond vote.** 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. The boards and town clerk must provide copies documenting the various steps to bond counsel. Ask your bond counsel to provide you with a checklist so that you can be certain that you do not omit any required publications and that you properly document all steps. It is wise to confirm that you have prepared for all the required postings and newspaper publications with bond counsel before the posting and warning period begins.
- 9. Minutes of every public board or committee meeting must be made available for inspection and copying by the clerk of the board upon request.** Minutes do not need to repeat all that is said in a meeting. 1 V.S.A. §312 (b) provides a concise list of the matters that must be noted in minutes. It is generally easier for research into past minutes if only the required information is noted. There is no statutory requirement that minutes be posted on town or school websites although this is frequently done to reduce individual requests. If draft minutes are posted or made available to inspection and copying, each page should be clearly marked "DRAFT".
- 10. The entrance checklist from each election must be kept for five years following the election and a copy shall be made available upon request at cost to the public.** 17 V.S.A. §2590. The entrance checklist must be kept out of the ballot bag and be available for inspection and copying under the supervision of the town clerk. The entrance checklist must be kept for at least five years. The ballot bag(s) can be opened by the town clerk after 90 days for a local election. When opened, the ballots and tally sheets must be destroyed by the town clerk. The ballots cannot be inspected unless the town clerk is given a court order. The ballot bags must be kept sealed for 22 months following any election that includes federal offices (primary and general elections). At the end of that time period, the ballot bags can be opened and the ballots and tally sheets must be destroyed.
- 11. No vote is required when a selectboard decides to reclassify a road.** Towns must go through all of the same statutory procedures to reclassify a highway from IV to III as must be done to go to a lower classification or to abandon a road. 19 V.S.A. §§707-717. If a road is reclassified to Class III, after the selectboard has gone through the necessary notice, hearing and decision, the town can use funds from its town highway budget to improve the road, if funds are available. A vote of the electorate is only required if additional funds are needed.
- 12. 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 a vote to adopt or to revoke the town manager system of government must be done by Australian ballot. 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.
- 13. Board should take care not to discuss business outside public meeting.** In one town a public board was reported to "recess" its meeting for a brief time in order for board members to leave the room to continue to discuss board business in private. This violates the open meeting law. All board business must be discussed in public unless it meets one of the two exceptions to the open meeting law: executive session or deliberative session.
- 14. 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 one of the two exceptions to the open meeting law discussed below (executive session or deliberative session). 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.
- 15. One of the two exceptions that a board can use to discuss board business outside of a public forum is an executive session.** This is used when the board is acting in a legislative capacity and the subject that needs to be discussed fits into one of the nine reasons listed in 1 V.S.A. §313 to go into executive session. For a municipal board to enter executive session, there must be a motion stating the statutory reason with specificity, the motion must be seconded and passed by a majority of its members present (two-thirds vote of members present is required for a public body of state government). No formal or binding action can be taken in executive session (except for the securing of real estate options) and the board can only discuss the subject that it publicly announced.
- 16. Deliberative session is used when a board is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity and its decision will be in writing.** Deliberate sessions are used most often for deliberations of the zoning board, development review board or board of civil authority. After the board has heard all of the evidence in a hearing affording due process to the applicant and interested parties, the members of the board who will be participating in the decision meet in private to have candid discussions, weigh the evidence and make its decision. Deliberative sessions do not need to be warned and the board can reach its decision during the session. Frequently, after the decision is reached, one member is designated to draft the written decision and circulate it to other members.
- 17. No testimony can be taken in deliberative session.** When the DRB or ZBA closes a hearing no additional testimony can be taken on the application (unless the board decides to later reopen the hearing). This means that in deliberative session the board members may only discuss the evidence that was already presented to them in the hearing. Any individuals they have asked to assist them in the deliberations (most commonly the zoning administrator or a clerk for the board) are limited to providing information about the zoning bylaws and how the bylaws have been applied in the past - no new evidence (facts) about the particular application can be given.
- 18. E-mail may be used for deliberation.** Ordinarily, decisions made by a board outside of a public meeting – whether they are made at a party or through use of e-mail – will violate the open meeting law. However, because deliberations of a quasi-judicial body (when the board is acting like a court) where the decision will be in writing can be held outside of a public meeting, there is no prohibition against a board conducting its deliberations through e-mail by passing draft decisions back and forth between board members.
- 19. E-mail may be used for routine communication.** Boards must take care not to violate the open meeting law through use of e-mail. Decisions about town business must be made at the public meeting – as should information gathering and discussion of the town business by a majority of the board. This means that e-mail should play a limited role in the conduct of town affairs. In one town the manager sends daily or weekly reports to board members – this is appropriate. In another, board members appropriately e-mail the chair with items for the meeting agenda and the chair e-mails the board members to discuss when the best time is to schedule a special meeting of the board.
- 20. Beware: e-mails sent between board members about public business may be public record!** Even if two board members e-mail to and from their home computers, those messages will be subject to the requirements of the public record laws. This means that if the subject matter of the e-mail is not exempt from the public records law, by, for example, being of a personnel matter, then it must be disclosed upon request.
- 21. Only the town or abutting landowner may remove trees and shrubs within the right of way.** Vermont law provides that "a person, other than the abutting landowner, shall not cut, trim, remove or otherwise damage any grasses, shrubs, vines, or trees growing within the limits of a state or town highway, without first having obtained the consent of the agency for state highways or the board of selectmen for town highways." 19 V.S.A. § 901. A person who violates this law will be subject to a fine. 19 V.S.A. § 902.
- 22. Town can permit planting in the highway right of way.** The selectboard may enter into agreements with individuals or organizations who wish to plant grasses, shrubs, vines, trees or flowers within highway limits. 19 V.S.A. § 903.
- 23. Selectboard may cut brush in right of way.** The selectboard, if necessary, may cut a burned tree, or remove from within the limits of the highways under their care, trees and bushes which obstruct the view of the highway ahead, that cause damage to the highway or that are objectionable from a material or scenic standpoint. Shade and fruit trees that have been set out or marked by the abutting landowners shall be preserved if the usefulness or safety of the highway is not impaired. Young trees standing at a proper distance from the roadbed and from each other, and banks and hedges of bushes that serve as a protection to the highway or add beauty to the roadside, shall be preserved. 19 V.S.A. § 904.

Civics Behind the Scenes

by Missy Shea, Civics Education & Vote Outreach Coordinator

Announcing the 2010 Winners of the Poster & Essay Contest!

After considering well over 300 entries from exceptionally talented Vermont students, the Secretary of State's office has chosen the winners of the 2010 Poster & Essay Contest. The Secretary of State's office says thank you to all the students who submitted entries, as well as the teachers and family members who supported their efforts. It is our continued hope that students will not only have fun producing creative works pertaining to Vermont, but more importantly, that the value of our great and special state will be more deeply instilled in our young citizens, so that they will help safeguard her future.

Grades K-2 Poster Contest on Official Vermont Symbols

Class Winner: Reading Elementary School, Lisa Kaija, Art Teacher

Individual Winner: Maddy Trimpi, The Pomfret School

Honorable Mention: Anastasia Page, Shrewsbury Mountain School

Lily Welch, Thetford Elementary School

Grades 3-5 Poster Contest on a Vermont History Theme

Class Winner: Cornwall Elementary School, Jan Giles, 4th Grade Teacher

Individual Winner: Sylvia Sage Holland, Orchard Valley Waldorf School

Honorable Mention: Hannah Faith Davis, Thetford Elementary

Chris Ward, Waitsfield Elementary

Grades 6-8 Essay Contest on the Vermont Constitution

Individual Winner: Alex Crompton, Sherburne Elementary

Grades 9-12 Essay Contest on the Vermont Constitution

Individual Winner: Paige Malone, Burr and Burton Academy

Winning entries will be posted on line soon at <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/kids/index.html>

For more information about the Secretary of State's Office's Civics Programs or to order materials visit www.sec.state.vt.us or contact Missy Shea at 802-828-1296 or email mshea@sec.state.vt.us

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Election Law Changes

Following is an excerpt from the Elections Bulletin to town clerks dated April 19, 2010. All Elections Bulletins are available online at <http://vermont-elections.org/elections1/elbulletins.html>

There have been some changes to the state and federal election laws and they are highlighted below:

The Primary Election Date has been changed to August 24, 2010: Please mark your calendars with this new date. We will send town clerks a revised elections calendar in the next few weeks with all of the corrected petition dates. The legislature is still working on a bill to finalize filing deadlines.

Absentee Ballots for the Primary Election: There has been a change to the federal law which now requires absentee ballots to be available 45 days in advance of any statewide election. Clerks will receive primary election ballots by Monday, July 12, 2010, which is when early voting begins for the primary election.

Absentee Ballot Request for one year only for all voters: Federal law has removed the four year absentee ballot request for military and overseas voters. All voters must make a new absentee ballot request every year. The new revised form is available on our website at <http://vermont-elections.org/elections1/2010VTAbsenteeRequestForm.pdf>

Major Party Candidate Petitions and Consent Forms: The petitions and consent forms for major party candidates can be filed between the dates of Monday, May 10, 2010 and Thursday, June 17, 2010. We will send a separate bulletin to the clerks who are a representative district clerk with more details.

Checklist Updating: Now is a good time to make sure that your voter checklist is as accurate as possible, which means challenging and purging voters. While the Board of Civil Authority is required to review the voter registration checklist at least once in every odd numbered year to determine which voters no longer reside in your town or city, the BCA can also authorize the town clerk to send challenge letters to voters when they have reason to believe that the voter moved out of town. We are also recommending that clerks view their checklist to see if you have a large number of voters that are in one of the other statuses (ie Drivers License Not Verified, SSN Not Verified, No Oath, etc.) and possibly send all of those voters challenge letters. This needs to be done prior to May 24! (90 days before the primary election.)

**For more information
contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 802-828-2464
or visit our website at www.sec.state.vt.us.**

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Tip of the Month

From the Elections Bulletin dated April 19, 2010

Checklist Updating: Now is a good time to make sure that your voter checklist is as accurate as possible, which means challenging and purging voters. While the Board of Civil Authority is required to review the voter registration checklist at least once in every odd-numbered year to determine which voters no longer reside in your town or city, the BCA can also authorize the town clerk to send challenge letters to voters when they have reason to believe that the voter moved out of town. We are also recommending that clerks view their checklist to see if you have a large number of voters that are in one of the other statuses (ie Drivers License Not Verified, SSN Not Verified, No Oath, etc.) and possibly send all of those voters challenge letters. This needs to be done prior to May 24 (90 days before the primary election which has been moved to August 24, 2010).

If you have a tip to share, contact Alison Kaiser at akaiser@townofstowe.vermont.org

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Quote of the Month

Every spring is the only spring - a perpetual astonishment.

Ellis Peters

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Upcoming Events

2010 Vermont Public Service Awards

We have scheduled the 2010 Vermont Public Services Awards on the following dates and times. Each award recipient will receive a personal invitation to their county's ceremony a few weeks before the event. If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Colbert at 802-828-2148.

Friday, May 7, 4:30 p.m. Georgia Elementary & Middle School (for Franklin and Grand Isle Co.)

Friday, May 14, 4:00 p.m. Middlebury American Legion (for Addison Co.)

Tuesday, May 18, 3:00 p.m. West Rutland Town Hall (for Rutland Co.)

Friday, May 21, 4:30 p.m. Damon Hall, Hartland (for Windsor Co.)

Friday, June 4, 4:30 p.m. Vershire Town Hall (for Orange Co.)

Friday June 11, 4:30 p.m. Persons Auditorium, Marlboro College (for Windham Co.)

Monday, June 14, 4:30 p.m. Manchester VFW (for Bennington Co.)

Friday, June 18, 4:30 p.m. Lyndon State College (for Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Co.)

2010 ELECTIONS PROCEDURES WORKSHOPS

Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz and Kathy DeWolfe, Director of Elections, will present these workshops for Board of Civil Authority and appointed election officials focusing on Election Day from opening the polls through reporting election results to the Secretary of State.

Please r.s.v.p. to your town clerk so we will have a count for each session. Town clerks, please notify Melanie Hodge at mhodge@sec.state.vt.us of the number attending from your town at least 1 week before the scheduled session.

All workshops are from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22, Newport City Library

Thursday, June 24, Bennington Fire House

Thursday, July 15, Springfield High School Auditorium

Thursday, July 22, South Burlington Town Office

Tuesday, July 27, West Rutland Town Hall

Tuesday, August 3, Lyndon Public Safety Building

Thursday, August 5, Montpelier City Hall

Tuesday, August 10, Middlebury American Legion

Preparing For a Town Wide Reappraisal

Offered by the Vermont Tax Department

Wednesday, June 9, 2010 Summit Center, Osgood Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury

Thursday, June 10, 2010 Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuition: \$ 75.00 – VT Town officers, \$ 100.00 – Firms and others

Whether your town is considering contracting with a firm or feels confident to take on the task in-house, this session will prepare you for the intricacies of the reappraisal process. You will learn about the certification process established by PVR, and how to budget, plan, supervise and review the work. You'll be provided with tools to monitor sales, conduct ratio studies to gauge your progress as well as develop a request for proposals and evaluate contractors' bids.

REGISTRATION can be done via the web at <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pvrlistereducation.shtml>. This is a fillable form you can email or print then mail or fax to: Tax Department/PVR/Lister Education, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05068 FAX# 802-828-2824. For a listing of all lister courses offered by the tax department, visit <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/pvr/2010Education%20.pdf>.

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Municipal Calendar

May 2010

10 - First day for major party candidates to file Primary Petitions and Consent Forms.

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 a rabies contraol program. 20 V.S.A. section 3581(f)

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 V.S.A. section 2661(b)

31 - In towns using Australian Ballot, town clerk may open and destroy used town meeting ballots and tally sheets, except as otherwise provided by law (90 days after town meeting election). 17 V.S.A. § 2590(d)

June 2010

1 - Deadline for listers to lodge property inventories with town clerk. 32 V.S.A. § 4007

4 - Last day for listers to lodge the grand list with town clerk for public inspection for towns of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants. 32 V.S.A. § 4111(d), 4341

17 - Deadline for August Primary Petitions and Consent Forms.

24 - Last day for listers to lodge the grand list with town clerk for public inspection for towns of greater than 5,000 inhabitants. 32 V.S.A. § 4111(d), 4341

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 V.S.A. § 1, 24 V.S.A. § 1683(b),(c)

30 - Reminder for town clerk in municipality with fiscal year ending June 30 to publicly disclose fees kept as compensation for that fiscal year within the next 30 days. 24 V.S.A. § 1179

Please note - we are awaiting final legislative approval on the following deadlines:

NOT SET YET Filing period for Independent candidates to file General Election Petitions and Consent Forms.

NOT SET YET Filing period for Certificate of Nominations and Consent Forms from minor party candidates and nominees of major parties that failed to nominate candidates in the primary. Justice of the peace candidates nominated by party caucus will file Certificates of Nominations.

The Municipal Calendar is provided by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns/Chittenden Bank and the Secretary of State's Office.

The Secretary of State's 2010 Elections Calendar is available [here](#).

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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 e-mail

Send us a note via fax: 802-828-2496,

email: gcolbert@sec.state.vt.us,

or post: 26 Terrace St., 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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To Contact This Page's Content Editor Contact Ginny Colbert At: gcolbert@sec.state.vt.us

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