



VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE - [Deborah L. Markowitz](#)

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Message from the Secretary



I am pleased to announce the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) will be recognizing three Vermonters with its Medallion Award. The NASS Medallion Award allows individual secretaries of state to recognize outstanding service and dedication to furthering the mission of the National Association of Secretaries of State within the states. This Award honors individuals and organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to promoting democracy in the state, with an emphasis on civic education and voter participation.

Congratulations to Vermont's 2003 NASS Medallion Award Winners: Attorney, Paul Gillies, Williston Town Clerk, Deborah Beckett and the Burlington Free Press.

Williston Town Clerk Deb Beckett is being recognized for her extraordinary commitment to promoting voter participation in Vermont through her work as the town clerk, and her many extra activities, including participating on the Honor a Vet with your Vote committee, hosting the filming of our voter education video "It's Every Citizen's Right to Vote – Why Don't You?", hosting a poll worker training session for Boards of Civil Authority in her area, and for her assistance with Kids Voting Vermont in Williston.

Attorney, and Former Deputy Secretary of State Paul Gillies is being recognized for the countless hours he has devoted to educating Vermonters in the principles and practices of self-government over the past two decades. Paul is being recognized for his extraordinary commitment and service to the town clerks, election workers and people of the State of Vermont.

The Burlington Free Press is being recognized for its extraordinary commitment to promoting civic education in Vermont by producing the Democracy in Action Newspaper in Education series which ran in many of Vermont's daily newspapers during the general election in 2000 and 2002.

Please join us for an award ceremony and reception to recognize Deb Beckett, Paul Gillies and the Burlington Free Press for their extraordinary service to the people of this state on February 12th at 3:30 in the Cedar Creek Room at the Vermont Statehouse. Please RSVP to Marianne Lynch at 828-2148 or mlynch@sec.state.vt.us

[Deborah L. Markowitz](#)
Secretary of State

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A Voice from the Past: by Paul Gillies

APPROACHING SNOW

I'm leaning on the shovel, the handle serving as an outsized walking stick, looking at what I've wrought. Let's see, if each spoonful weighs about 20 pounds, and I've lifted 100 of them, heaving them over the side with a grunt, that's a ton. Between the path, the steps and the end of the parking area, that's about the right number. Say we have ten storms over the course of the winter, that's ten tons I'm going to shovel before the last, wet spring snow melts away on its own.

Ladies and gentlemen, the man who shoveled ten tons by himself, without the aid of a gasoline engine or an opposable plow blade. I take a little bow to the snowbank, and dig into the next pile, thinking about Cotton Mather.

In 1724, when Benjamin Franklin was 18 years old, he visited Cotton Mather, the Puritan minister, at his home in Boston. As Franklin went to leave, Mather showed him a shorter way out, down a back stairway. Franklin was talking as he stepped down and turned. Mather shouted, "Stoop, stoop," just as Franklin banged his head on a beam. Cotton Mather, never one to miss an opportunity to draw a lesson from experience, then told his guest, "You are young, and have the whole world before you; STOOP as you go through it, and you will miss many hard thumps."

I stoop to shovel. I bow to the forces of nature that conspired to put this amount of snow on my lawn. Rising up suddenly, my head hits a pine bough and it dumps its load down the back of my neck. I return to the stooping position and dig.

Somewhere in the middle of the job, you might hear me sigh, or utter a discouraging word, but on balance I like shoveling. It is not as dirty or unpleasant as other chores on my list today. I'm outside, feeling good, and I can see my progress right here on the ground.

There is no point in fearing winter, staying inside, fretting about how much is coming down or what it will do to your dinner plans. We live here, by choice, in an undependable climate, that has this practice of snowing during certain months of the year. You can complain about icy roads, frigid temperatures, or having to shovel, but they're part of the package that includes the magic of the first real spring day and colors on the trees in the fall.

Besides, how many other opportunities do we have to work off the week's stresses in such a positive manner. Each snow fall is probably worth three sessions in therapy. You can't help but dredge up your deepest feelings, worst memories, swinging your arms, pumping your heart like that. You leave more bad karma in a snow bank.

I never just finish and go in. I always stand for a while and survey my work. It is part of the payoff. I know it's transient. I know this afternoon, between what the plow throws back at me and what the skies decide to drop, I could be back out here, starting over. But for right now, this is a job well done. It looks good, doesn't it?

N.B. This is the 48th column I have written for Opinions under the title, "Voice from the Past." If you add the issues of Opinions from its inception in August 1981 to January 1993, a time when I wrote a similar piece as a monthly editorial, it is the 185th of a series.

That's enough, I think. Thank you, Deb. Thank you, readers. I bow. I stoop.

This voice is silent.

Special thanks to [Paul Gillies](#) for his four years of entertaining and thought provoking columns. We will miss the "Voice from the Past" and hope that Paul will return to Opinions from time to time with a guest column.

Opinions of *Opinions*

- 1. Town and Town School District Moderators Are Separate Offices.** The town school district must elect a moderator as the first order of business at its floor meeting or by Australian ballot, if the district has voted to elect all officers by Australian ballot. Although the same person may serve as Town Meeting Moderator and School District Moderator, separate candidacies -- and in Australian ballot districts, separate petitions -- are required.
- 2. A Town Vote To Move to Australian Ballot Applies To The Following Meeting.** If a town wishes to change the way it elects its officers, or votes its budgets, or public questions, it must place an article on the warning as directed in 17 V.S.A. § 2680. If the article to change to Australian ballot passes, the town or district will begin using the Australian ballot at its next special or annual meeting.
- 3. Town Clerks Must Provide Union School District Clerk With Updated Checklist.** Vermont law requires town clerks whose towns are members of a union school district to be open for voter registration on the second Saturday before the Union School District Elections. After the checklist is updated, the clerk must provide an authenticated copy of the checklist to the Clerk of the Union School District. 16 V.S.A. § 706u. Note that section 706u incorporates by reference the provisions of Title 17 that require the town clerk to have office hours on the second Saturday before each election to allow residents to register to vote.
- 4. No Statutory Appeal of Abatement Decisions.** Title 24 does not provide a specific route of appeal from a decision by the Board of Abatement. However, if a taxpayer believes a Board of Abatement has abused its discretion in denying his request, case law in Vermont suggests that an appeal can be taken through Rule 74 or Rule 75 of the Rules of Civil Procedure. Appeals under these rules are not de novo and generally only review the proceedings below for abuse of discretion, but the avenue for a limited appeal does exist despite the silence in the statute. Note that the Vermont Supreme Court has held that abatement requests cannot be a substitute for an appeal of a property assessment by the listers which must be appealed through the grievance and tax appeal process.
- 5. Election to incompatible offices creates vacancy.** When a person is elected to more than one position in the town or school district and the positions are incompatible, the person must resign from one of the positions. This creates a vacancy that must be filled according to statutory procedures. Under Vermont law, the Arunner-up@ or next highest vote getter does not Amove up@ or become the winner.
- 6. Vacancy is filled by selectboard.** When there is a vacancy in a town office, 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. The board may immediately fill the vacancy -- and does not have to take applications or publicly advertise. The purpose of the posting notice is to permit the voters to petition for a special meeting to fill the vacancy.
- 7. Selectboard Member Cannot Vote To Fill Vacancy Caused By His Own Resignation.** A vacancy is not created until a resignation is effective. For this reason a selectboard member cannot notify the board that he will be resigning at some date in the future and then participate in the vote to fill the vacancy. 17 V.S.A. § 961.
- 8. School District Vacancies Filled by Selectboard.** When there is a vacancy on the town school board, 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. When there is a vacancy in a union school district, the clerk of the union district notifies the selectboard of the town that elected the original incumbent and within 30 days the selectboard, with the advice of the town or incorporated district school board, must appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next election.
- 9. Wait For Reconsideration Before Voting On Additional Board Members.** When the annual meeting voters pass an article to increase the size of the selectboard or school board from 3 to 5 members, it is a good idea to wait until the 30 day period for reconsideration has passed, before warning a special meeting to elect new board members. Also, school boards must follow the specific requirements of 16 V.S.A. § 423 while selectboards follow the requirements of

17 V.S.A. § 2650 for length of terms, etc. A special election can either be called by the board or by petition. If there is no petition to hold a special meeting, it is permissible to wait until the next annual meeting to add the new board members.
- 10. Moderator Should Review Rules At The Start of Town Meeting.** At the beginning of town meeting, it is a best practice for the moderator to review the basics of Roberts Rules and the procedures that will be used in the meeting. This helps voters to be able to participate fully in the meeting. It is especially important for the moderator to remind the voters that any person present can rise to challenge the ruling of the moderator on any procedural issue, and have the procedural issue decided by the voters present.

11. Moderators Should Not Comment On Legality Of Article. It is best practice for moderators at the annual meeting to refrain from speaking to the legality of an article or to give an opinion about the legal effect of taking action on or passing over an article. Even a well-intentioned comment about the legality or impact of an article could be misunderstood as showing partiality for or against an article. If there is truly no one else in the room that can answer a question, and the moderator feels compelled to enter the discussion, the moderator should call for a moderator pro tem to take over, and step down while he or she participates in the debate.

12. Only Legal Voters Can Be Elected To Town Office. To be eligible for election as a school board member, a person must be a legal voter in the school district. 16 V.S.A. § 558. Likewise, a town shall choose from among its legally qualified voters for selectboard, town clerk, town treasurer, and a number of other town offices. 17 V.S.A. § 2646. So long as the person is on the checklist by the day of election he or she is eligible for election. Note that the Board of Civil Authority must meet before the election itself and add the names of all eligible persons who have properly completed and submitted applications to the checklist before noon on the second Saturday before the election.

13. School Officers Are Generally Not Permitted To Work For The District. A school board member may not be regularly employed by the school district or by a school district within the same supervisory union or by the same supervisory union during the board member's term of office. However, the education commissioner may waive this rule for employment of a specific individual as a substitute teacher, coach or supervisor of extracurricular activities for a period not to exceed one year. (Note that the year may be renewed, in circumstances in which the school district or supervisory union is unable to hire another qualified person through no fault of its own.) 16 V.S.A. § 558.

14. Second Constable Does Not Work for First Constable. The second constable, whether independently elected or appointed is NOT supervised by the First Constable. In fact, nowhere in law is the first constable given any authority over the second constable. The law simply permits a town to elect (or appoint) a second constable if it deems necessary. The only difference in authority between the two constables is that only the First Constable collects taxes in the event that no tax collector is elected. 17 V.S.A. § 2646(7); 24 V.S.A. § 1936a.

15. Selectboard May Not Discuss Budget Outside Public Meeting. When a quorum of the selectboard is together to discuss town business or to do the work of the town, it must be done in a properly noticed public meeting. 1 V.S.A. § 312. Note that the open meeting law permits a board to go into executive session to discuss documents that are exempt from public disclosure under the public records law – and that records that are primarily factual and are used to help the board to build a budget to be presented at a public meeting are exempt from disclosure. 1 V.S.A. § 317 (c) (17). As a practical matter, this means that a board can meet in executive session to discuss documents prepared by employees or others with factual information that is to be used to help them build the budget. They can only use the executive session to discuss the document, and any decisions about what to put in the budget must be made in open session.

16. Board May Meet Outside Meeting For Routine Administrative Matters Not Requiring Action. Vermont law provides that " . . . Routine day-to-day administrative matters that do not require action by the public body, may be conducted outside a duly warned meeting, provided that no money is appropriated, expended, or encumbered." This statute is designed to permit board members to manage the day to day affairs of the town, by, for example, enabling a quorum to be present to check on roof repairs or renovations to the town office, or to assist the clerk in rearranging the office or installing new equipment.

17. Individual Board Members Have No Authority Apart From The Board. 1 VSA § 172 provides that "when joint authority is given to three or more, the concurrence of a majority of such number shall be sufficient and shall be required in its exercise." This means that no member of a board (whether it is the board of listers, auditors or selectboard) may take action alone. However members of a board may divide up work on a project, delegating pieces of the job to individual board members. However, the board must still get back together to review the work of the individual board members and to take action. For example, it is not uncommon for a board of auditors to ask one member to review the town books and then report back to the entire board who will use that information to write the town report. On the other hand, a single auditor has no authority to do audits on his or her own unless the board has delegated this task to the individual.

18. Charter change by petition can only be voted at annual meeting or primary or general election. A proposal to adopt, repeal or amend a municipal charter may be made by the legislative body of the municipality or by petition of five percent of the voters of the municipality. After the warning and hearing requirements of section 2645 are satisfied, proposals by petition must be submitted to the voters at the next annual meeting, primary or general election in the form in which they were filed, except that the legislative body may make technical corrections. 17 V.S.A. § 2645.

19. Town Does Not Have To Recognize State or Federal Holidays. State and Federal holidays are simply holidays that the State and/or Federal Government gives its employees. No law requires other employers – including local governments to recognize these holidays by giving their employees the day off.

20. Person May Only Sign One Petition for One Office. The law permits a voter to sign only one petition for a particular office, unless there is more than one position being filled. This means that if more than one person is running for town clerk a voter can only sign one of the nominating petitions. However, a voter may sign a petition for a person running for a one-year term on the selectboard as well as a petition for another person running for the three-year term.

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.

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Announcing School Curriculum Materials on Vermont's Town Meeting

The Town Meeting Coloring and Activity Book. This booklet is designed as an early elementary curriculum. It includes basic information about Vermont's town meeting with easy to color pictures and other fun activities. **The Town Meeting Coloring and Activity Book** can also help keep young children busy at your meeting!

Town Meeting – A Vermont Tradition. This middle school curriculum is designed to help students learn about Vermont's Town Meeting Day, its history and how it works today. The booklet includes suggestions for classroom activities to help students learn the value of participatory democracy.

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Town Meeting Reminders

Getting Ready at the Polls

Town clerks should furnish presiding officers with one or two certified copies of the checklist, depending on whether the town has opted not to use an exit checklist. 17 V.S.A. § 2507.

Town clerks must also deliver sufficient quantities of the ballots to the presiding officer. 17 V.S.A. § 2479.

The presiding officer should assign specific duties to each election official, ensuring that the election officials work in pairs, with each pair containing members from different political parties, if possible.

17 V.S.A. § 2562.

Opening/Closing Polls

In an Australian Ballot Election the presiding officer declares the polls open on the day of the election between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. (the specific time is set by the board of civil authority or by the voters), and declares the polls closed at 7 p.m. 17 V.S.A § 2581.

Town meeting begins at a time designated by the legislative body, unless the town has voted a specific time at a previous meeting. 17 V.S.A. § 2655.

Public Discussion and Politicking in the Polling Place

In towns that start their annual meeting on one of the three days preceding the first Tuesday in March and use the Australian Ballot system on Tuesday, public discussions of ballot issues and all other issues appearing in the warning, other than election of officers, is permitted at the Saturday, Sunday or Monday meeting. 17 V.S.A. § 2640(c). Neither the warning, the notice, nor the ballot itself shall include any opinion or comment by any town body or officer or other person on any matter to be voted on. 17 V.S.A. § 2666.

In an Australian Ballot Election the presiding officer should ensure that within the building containing the polling place no campaign literature, stickers, buttons, information on write-on candidates or political materials are placed, handed out, or allowed to remain and that no candidate, election official or other person distributes election materials, solicits voters or otherwise campaigns. 17 V.S.A. § 2508.

Outside the building, the presiding officer must ensure that voters can enter and leave the polling place without interference from candidates or other citizens. 17 V.S.A. § 2508. The provisions of this section apply equally to election of candidates as to votes on public questions, including the budget, if done by Australian Ballot vote.

Maintaining Order at Town Meeting

In traditional town meeting, the moderator must follow reasonable and necessary procedures to ensure that people who are not voters of the town do not vote. 17 V.S.A. § 2656.

The moderator must preserve order in the conduct of business and debate. If a person, after notice, continues to be disorderly and refuses to withdraw from the meeting, the moderator may order him to be removed by the constable or some other person. 17 V.S.A § 2656. A person who disturbs town meeting may be fined \$200 by the district court.

Remember that while Roberts Rules of Order or some other rules of procedure must be followed at town meeting, state law has modified these rules. For example, the assembly must not reconsider articles already voted once consideration of another article has begun; take no binding action during the "other business" portion of the meeting; allow sufficient time for voters to cast paper ballots whenever that method of voting is to be used. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2660(d); 2661(a).

Accessibility of Town Meeting

The legislative body must take reasonable measures to ensure that elderly or disabled voters may conveniently attend town meeting. Sign Language interpreters must be provided, if necessary. 17 V.S.A. § 2667 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Town Meeting must be held in an accessible location.

The board of civil authority must take reasonable measures to ensure that disabled and elderly voters may conveniently and secretly cast their votes. If it is not possible to hold the election in an accessible location, election officials must be permitted to carry a ballot to an elderly or disabled person in order to permit that person to mark his or her ballot while in a motor vehicle adjacent to the polling place. 17 V.S.A. § 2502.

A voter who declares to the presiding officer that he or she needs assistance voting may bring a person of his or her choice into the voting booth (so long as it is not the voter's employer or union representative) or the voter can ask the presiding officer to direct to elections officials to assist the voter. Those rendering assistance may not divulge information about the choice of the voter or manner in which the vote was cast. 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

Election of Officers

In order to be elected as a write-in candidate in an Australian Ballot election when no other candidate has received a greater number of votes, a candidate must receive 30 votes or the votes of 1% of the registered voters of the town, whichever is less. 17 V.S.A. § 2682 (c).

In traditional town meeting elections, the offices of selectboard, lister and auditor must be elected by paper ballot (unless it is done by Australian ballot). The offices of road commissioner and water commissioner, if elected, must also be elected by paper ballot. 17 V.S.A. § 2646.

A majority of those present and voting is required to elect an officer by paper ballot (unless the vote is by Australian Ballot.) This means that if there are three candidates, none of whom receive a majority of the votes by the third ballot, you must eliminate the candidate with the least votes and repeat the procedure until someone receives a majority of the votes. 17 V.S.A. § 2660(c).

When there is a single candidate, unless any voter opposes this, the town may agree to ask the clerk to cast one ballot for the candidate. 17 V.S.A. § 2660(b).

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Tip of the Month

By Linda Spence, CMC/CVC, Manchester Town Clerk

I have a listserve of title searchers, attorneys, etc that I e-mail with any unusual closing of my office due to seminars, holidays, etc. They find this most helpful.

I also have a handout on my counter, that lists the hours of my office, tax due dates, the tax rate, village office telephone numbers, names and telephone numbers of local officials etc.

If you have a tip that you would like to share in a future Opinions newsletter please send it to:

Dencie L. Mitchell, Grand Isle Town Clerk & Treasurer
P.O. Box 49
Grand Isle, VT 05458

Or email it to her at grandislevt@attglobal.net

February 2003 Calendar

February 1:

Deadline for Tax Collector to turn over moneys collected and settle account with Treasurer. 24 V.S.A. § 1532

Last day for Listers to file corrected grand list for preceding year in order to render it valid. 32 V.S.A. § 4112

February 2:

Last day to hold first public hearing on charter amendments if article is to be voted at Town Meeting. 17 V.S.A. § 2645(a)(3)

(Not less than 30 days before Town Meeting) Last day for municipality to post warning and notice of Town Meeting. Also post most recent checklist. 17 V.S.A. § 2641(a), 2642, 2521(a)

February 7:

(25 days before Town Meeting) Auditors must meet by this date to examine and adjust town finances. 24 V.S.A. § 1681

(25 days before Town Meeting) Town officers must settle accounts with Auditors to be eligible for re-election. 24 V.S.A. § 992

February 10:

Last day for any municipality which has enacted special weight limits, which are other than State legal limits for highways and bridges, to file complete copy of the limitations with the Department of Motor Vehicles. 23 V.S.A. § 1400b

Last day for Selectboard to file with Town Clerk annual statement of description and measurement of all Class 1, 2 and 3 town highways, then in existence, including special designations. 19 V.S.A. § 305(b)

February 12: *(In towns using Australian Ballot 20 days before election)* Under direction of the Town Clerk, ballots must be back from printer. Machine ballots must be tested at least 10 days before the election. 17 V.S.A. § 2681a(a)

February 18: *(At least two weeks before Town Meeting)* Town Clerk must have liquor ballots printed if liquor issue is on Annual Meeting agenda and if town does not use Australian Ballot. 7 V.S.A. § 163

February 22:

Last day for legislative body to post warning for public informational hearing on any public question to be voted by Australian Ballot at Town Meeting. 17 V.S.A. § 2680(g)

(Second Saturday before the election) Town Clerk's office must be open from 10:00 a.m. or earlier until at least 12:00 noon for the purpose of receiving applications for addition to the checklist or notices of intent to register from people moving to town or turning 18 before the election. 17 V.S.A. § 2144(a)

Last day for Town Clerk to receive a request for an application for addition to the checklist simultaneously with a request for an early voter or absentee ballot. 17 V.S.A. § 2532(b)(c)

(At least 10 days before Town Meeting) Last day for Town Clerk authorized by voters to approve additions to the checklist to forward to Board of Civil Authority a list of voters added. 17 V.S.A. § 2144b(d)

First day *(after 12:00 noon)* for Board of Civil Authority to revise checklist resulting from application deadline for Town Meeting. 17 V.S.A. § 2142

(At least 10 days before Town Meeting) Selectboard must mail or otherwise distribute Town Meeting warning in annual town report by this date to avoid publishing warning in newspaper. 17 V.S.A. § 2641(b)

(At least 10 days before Annual Meeting) Auditors' Report, or the findings of the public accountant employed in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2651(b), must be distributed. 24 V.S.A. § 1682, 17 V.S.A. § 2651b

Last day for Town Clerk to post sample ballots and official voter information cards in the same places Clerk has previously posted copies of the warning, notice and checklist. 17 V.S.A. § 2522(a)

(10 days before the election) Candidates for local election who are spending more than \$500 must file a campaign finance report with officer with whom nominating papers were filed. 17 V.S.A. § 2822, 2103(13)

February 23: State Withholding Tax Return is due if reporting more than \$2500 but less than \$9000 per quarter. 32 V.S.A. § 5842(a)(3)

February 24: (*Any of the eight days before or the day of the election*) In towns using Australian Ballot, Town Clerk must give pairs of Justices ballots, envelopes, to deliver to ill or physically disabled voters. 17 V.S.A. § 2538(b)(c)

February 27:

(*Five days before Town Meeting*) Treasurer must settle accounts with Auditors. 24 V.S.A. § 1578

Town Meeting Warning must be published in newspaper by this date if town report has not been distributed otherwise. 17 V.S.A. § 2641(b)

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March 2003 Calendar

March 1: (*At least three days prior to election*) By this date Board of Civil Authority must designate pairs of Justices assuring political balance in each pair to deliver ballots to ill and disabled voters in towns using Australian Ballot. 17 § 2538(a)

March 3:

In towns using Australian Ballot, a voter or an authorized person on behalf of a voter, may request an early voter absentee ballot until 5:00 p.m. or the closing of the Town Clerk's office. 17 § 2531(a), 2532(a)

Last day for legislative body to hold public informational hearing on any public question to be voted by Australian Ballot at Town Meeting. 17 § 2680(g)

March 4:

TOWN MEETING DAY (First Tuesday in March). 1 § 371, 17 § 2640(a)

(*Before polls open*) In towns using Australian Ballot, Town Clerk must give Election Officials a list of those voters who have already cast early voter or absentee ballots. 17 § 2548(a)

March 5: (*No later than 24 hours after polls closed*) Presiding Officer and one other Election Official shall transfer the totals from the summary sheets to the return and both sign the return. 17 § 2588

March 9: (*Within five days after Town Meeting*) Town Clerk must certify financial actions of Town Meeting to Treasurer and to Chair of the Selectboard. 24 § 1167

March 10: (*Within six days after Town Meeting*) Town Clerk is to report to the Director of Property Valuation on method adopted at Town Meeting for collection of taxes. 32 § 5167

March 11: (*Within seven days after election*) Last day for Selectboard or Town Clerk to warn a run-off election if there was a tie vote for any Australian Ballot race at Town Meeting. 17 § 2682(e)

March 14:

(*Within 10 days after election*) Last day for a defeated candidate requesting recount of an election voted by Australian Ballot to file a petition with the Town Clerk. 17 § 2683

(*Within 10 days after the election*) Deadline for a voter to file a request for a recount with the Town Clerk of any issue voted by Australian Ballot. 17 § 2688

(Within 10 days after Town Meeting) Last day for Town Clerk to certify to Secretary of State facts of origin and procedure followed for each municipal charter amendment proposal. Clerk shall also certify the result of any vote required before an act of the General Assembly takes effect. 17 § 2663, 2645(b)

Last day for candidates for Town Meeting local election who are spending more than \$500 to file second campaign finance report with officer with whom nominating papers were filed. 17 § 2822

March 19: (Within 15 days after an election) Last day a voter contesting any Australian Ballot vote can file complaint with Superior Court. 17 § 2603(c)

March 26: (15 days after the warning of the run-off election) First day a run-off election may be held. 17:2682(e)

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3: 54: 09 P.M. Wednesday, 12/15/2010

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