



Board for Registration of Voters

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 6:00 PM,

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

Members in attendance: Karen Rowell, Alison Harte, Miriam Stoll, Lauren Ebersol, Lesley Gendron, Jeanne Keller, Colleen Montgomery, Kevin Lewis

Members Absent: Michelle Lefkowitz, Adam Franz, Annie Schneider, and Youth member Will Cunningham

Also in attendance: Sarah Montgomery, Assistant City Clerk

2. Agenda

Colleen Montgomery made a motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Alison Harte. Passed unanimously.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Meeting Length

The meeting was set to end at 7pm.

5. Adopt Minutes

Jeanne Keller made a motion to adopt the minutes. Seconded by Colleen Montgomery. Passed unanimously.

6. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

7. Clerk's Report

Sarah Montgomery reported that there are currently 29,843 registered voters in Burlington. Out of this number, 6,080 are challenged. In August, 532 new voters registered, 299 were transferred into other VT towns, and 29 were removed from the checklist. Janet Stambolian asked if any of the voters removed from the checklist were due to the error with the DMV registrations, where voters who indicated they did not want to be registered to vote, were registered. Sarah Montgomery answered yes, 11 of the purged voters were removed due to that error. Karen Rowell shared that she finds it is disturbing that there is no way within the system to catch fraud. Miriam Stoll asked what changes might be made to the DMV registration process based on this issue that was found. Sarah Montgomery answered that the Secretary of State's office is working closely with the DMV to identify procedural improvements needed – she will update the board as she receives further updates. Kevin Lewis asked if the individuals removed were all individuals who were ineligible to be registered. Sarah Montgomery answered that they opted out of being registered to vote, not that they were necessarily ineligible. Kevin noted that on Election Day, he did help several voters who had thought that they had registered through the DMV, but who were not registered. Jeanne Keller also had this experience.

Sarah Montgomery reported that, for the August election, 9,149 voters participated, which is equal to 30.97% of Burlington's registered voters. Out of these votes, 1,962 were submitted via absentee ballot and the remaining 7,187 were cast in person on Election Day. For the upcoming General Election, ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters no later than October 1st.

8. State Primary Election Review

Board members discussed their election day experiences in the wards they worked in.

Ward 1: Colleen Montgomery had a good conversation with election officials about setting up a practice voting booth for kids, where kids could learn about the voting process. She reported that no big issues came up.

Ward 2: Lauren Ebersol said it was very busy. There were a lot of address changes and challenge responses. It seemed that voters were more aware than usual if they had a registration issue to resolve and were proactive about coming to the BRV table.

Ward 3: Michelle Lefkowitz, who worked in ward 3, was not in attendance.

Ward 4: Kevin Lewis reported on his first day working mostly solo. He said there were no big issues and everything was manageable.

Ward 5: Jeanne Keller reported that it was a very festive atmosphere in ward 5, with new citizens voting for the first time, and many kids coming through. She had a few issues with voters being sent to her when they were correctly registered, but had just been checked in at the wrong district's entrance checklist.

Miriam Stoll said her training shift went well – she split it between ward 5 & ward 1 and noted the different atmospheres between the two polling places. She reported that time went by quickly and she had a great experience.

Ward 6: Alison Harte said the schedule of her volunteers did not correctly match the busy periods – she had help in the beginning when it was slow, but not when it was busier at end of night.

Ward 7: Karen Rowell said it was busier than she has ever seen and commented on how great her volunteers were.

Ward 8: Janet Stambolian reported that she worked with Will Cunningham, who was amazing. She also said the election officials were very organized and experienced.

Lesley Gendron asked if there were any computer issues. Jeanne Keller reported an issue with her VEMs login, where she kept being logged out and needed to reach out to the state for password resets. Lesley suggested checking junk mail for the verification code in the future. Lauren Ebersol noted that sometimes having a different account with the state can also cause login issues.

9. New Business

Miriam Stoll spoke about voter registration tabling, reporting that a few members did tabling during the Church Street sidewalk sale, where they were able to check folks' registration statuses and talk to many people. There was also a different opportunity that board members did not have the availability to attend, so Miriam would like to gather information about members' interest and availability to be better prepared for future opportunities. Miriam Stoll also connected with North Ave News, and they said in order to get an article in the October issue, it will need to be submitted around 9/15. She passed around a survey asking for people's interest in tabling and/or writing an article for the North Ave News.

Jeanne Keller explained a voter registration opportunity Will Cunningham had shared about a naturalization ceremony that is happening at Rice High School on 10/15. Member coverage is already set for this date, but others are welcome to join.

Miriam Stoll is also organizing tabling at the YMCA – she would like one more member to join. She received a few offers of members who can join.

Lesley Gendron added that she would be doing registration tabling at her workplace on September 9th.

Jeanne Keller added that it would be helpful to tell new voters that they will receive a ballot in the mail for the November election if they are newly registering in VT.

The board discussed some ideas for the North Ave publications. Lauren Ebersol and Miriam Stoll will collaborate on the 1st article. Miriam Stoll asked Sarah Montgomery to share a graphic to use.

Janet Stambolian expressed concerns about the USPS delivering ballots. She said it would be helpful to educate voters about the drop box options.

Alison Harte asked if there is any possibility of splitting the 12-hour shift between members to shorten the day. Lesley Gendron said there are likely ways to allow for breaks and/or shorter shifts when all board members are available to work.

10. Adjournment

Kevin Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alison Harte. Approved unanimously.
