

William Keefe, Moderator
Town of Wilton

July 28, 2020

Re: Elections in the Age of Covid

Dear Voters,

Come hell, high water or Covid we will be holding the State Primary on Tuesday, September 8th (the day after Labor Day) and the General Election on Tuesday, November 3rd. There will be quite a few changes this year and this is a *partial* summary of what to expect:

New Polling Place. To give us more room to social distance, both elections will be in the WLC High School gym. Voting will start at the usual time (8 AM) and end as usual at 7 PM.

Vote Absentee. If you have any concern about voting in person, request an absentee ballot. In addition to the usual reasons (being away, illness etc.) this year a fear of Covid is a perfectly acceptable reason to request an absentee ballot. Just remember to get your request in early and mail your ballot at least a week ahead of time (per the US Postal Service) or return it in person to the locked drop box located outside the Town Hall front door. Absentee ballots must be **received** no later than 5 PM on Election Day to be counted.

Counting. We have broken 265 years of tradition hand counting ballots and bought a used optical counting scanner to count ballots. The State has promised to reimburse the cost. We will still cast paper ballots but, at least for the next two elections, we'll use the new counter to count most ballots. (Write-in ballots still need the human touch.) The retention of paper ballots should give us confidence in the results since there will be a paper trail. **Help the machine correctly count your ballot. Fill in the circle!** No more x marks the vote.

Absentee Ballot Counting. We expect a lot of absentee ballots and we'll start counting them much earlier in the day. Partial processing of absentee ballots will begin before Election Day at a day and time to be announced.

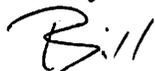
Primary. For the September 8th State Primary if you need to see what party, if any, you are registered to please go to the NH Secretary of State Voter Information Look-up:

<https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/PartyInfo.aspx>

PPE. Poll workers will look different too. The State has promised sufficient PPE gear for poll workers and we'll be wearing it. We also have sneeze guards and voting stations will be spread out. Walking traffic through the process will be one-way.

More To Come. The State is still formulating how voting will work. The Secretary of State's web site is an excellent source for up to date voter information. We may also need to adapt if circumstances change so stay tuned...

Very truly yours,



William Keefe