

**William Keefe, Moderator
Town of Wilton**

October 9, 2020

Re: Elections in the Age of Covid – Part II

Dear Voters,

You *may* have heard that the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. Especially for those of you who did not vote in the primary this is a *partial* summary of what to expect:

Polling Place. The election will again be in the WLC High School gym. Voting will start at the usual time (8 AM) and end as usual at 7 PM. Based on our experience in the primary we think in person voting will be reasonably safe due to the size of the gym, everyone's cooperation wearing a mask, sneeze guards, one-way foot traffic, spread-out voting stations and lots of Purell.

Vote Absentee. If you have any concerns 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 during the Clerk's office hours. Absentee ballots must be **received** no later than 5 PM on Election Day to be counted. If we haven't received your absentee ballot by 5 PM you will need to vote in person.

Every Vote Received On Time Will Be Counted. We'll again use the new tabulator to count most ballots. (Write-in and Federal overseas 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 Processing. We expect a lot of absentee ballots and we'll start casting them at 9 AM. Partial processing of absentee ballots will begin before Election Day at a day and time to be announced. You can check on the status of your absentee ballot by calling the Town Clerk's office (654-9451 x 1) or going to the NH Secretary of State Voter Information Look-up: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx>

Not Registered? Call the Town Clerk's office (654-9451 x 1) to schedule an appointment to register. You can also register to vote on Election Day at the High School.

Thank A Poll Worker. All of this doesn't just happen. Our success running elections depends in large part on our volunteer poll workers who spend part or all of Election Day making Wilton voting safe and accurate. No hugs this year but do thank them for their commitment to the greatest of our democratic traditions.

Very truly yours,


William Keefe