

The NH State Primary is seven weeks away as I write this initial pre-election informational bulletin to our Bedford voters, poll workers, and other interested parties. Bedford was fortunate to have the Presidential primary and our Town and School meetings and elections completed prior to the unprecedented Covid circumstances that we have been experiencing. Your key Bedford election officials, have been working diligently together and with the Secretary of State's office to develop a safe and efficient polling place and related procedures. There have been significant changes and actions taken, however there are more things still to be accomplished prior to September.

My objective in reaching out to you at this time is to provide a summary of the key things that have been done, ask for your patience, and assure you that our Bedford Election Team will begin an extensive informational campaign for everyone in a few weeks. You can expect updates on BCTV, local newspapers, social media, the town website, electronic road signs, and any other way we can communicate with you.

Essential goal: Organization of the best possible healthy and efficient voting place for our Bedford voters and poll workers.

PPE supplies: The State, using Federal targeted funds, is supplying a significant amount of the following: Masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizers, table top (plexi) sneeze guards, paper ballot protective mats and holders. If our Election Team determines we need something else, we will get it.

Absentee Ballots: In anticipation of a large volume of absentee ballots, we will follow the guidelines received from the SOS to process them efficiently. Please help us with this by carefully following all directions included with your ballot, insuring that it is properly submitted and counted. The ballots may be two sided!! Make certain you check this. **Updated** Absentee Ballot request form: <http://sos.nh.gov/AbsBallotAppCOVID.aspx> Complete and either mail to Town Clerk's Office, 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH 03110, hand deliver, fax to 603-472-4573 or you scan and email to: townclerk@bedfordnh.org

New Voter Registration: If you need to register to vote, please do so now! Whether you are voting by Absentee Ballot or in person, please avoid waiting until the last minute. Young people who will have their 18th birthday between now and September the 8th, can register now – you do not have to wait for your birthday! Start by going to the Town Clerk and Supervisor's section on our town website: <https://nh-bedford.civicplus.com/491/Election-Information>

Polling Place Details: We are currently planning to keep the traffic pattern the same as it was at the February primary. The entrance and exit strategy will be modified to provide better voter healthy movement through hallways. Signage will help guide you from entry to exit. The gym layout will be revised to enable better social distancing. A single Ballot Clerk, seated behind a Large Sneeze Shield will check you in. New voter registration is moving to the Lurgio cafeteria for added safety. Clear signage will direct those needing to register to this new location.

Contacts: Town Clerk (absentee voting) townclerk@bedfordnh.org Deputy Clerk (ballot clerks) gmacvane@bedfordnh.org Supervisors of the Checklist (voter registration) checklist@bedfordnh.org Moderator (Polls and Election Info): bklein52@comcast.net

Submitted on behalf of your Bedford Election Team. Bill Klein, Town Moderator