

**TOWN OF CANAAN**  
**Office of the Board of Civil Authority**  
**Po Box 159**  
**318 Christian Hill**  
**Canaan, VT 05903**

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## Canaan Election Day Policies

### POLLING HOURS

The Canaan Board of Civil Authority (BCA) has established voting hours of 8:00 am – 7:00 pm. 17 VSA §§ 2494, 2561.

### POLLWATCHERS

Up to two representatives of political parties, a candidate or political committees have a right to be present and observe voters at the entrance checklist. People interested in poll watching should contact the town clerk in advance of an election. The presiding officer will set out chairs and mark the floor where poll watchers can observe and hear the name of each voter restated by the entrance checklist election official. **Poll watchers cannot set up their own table or require voters to give them their names.** When in the polling place, **poll watchers may not use their cell phones**, including all functions such as texting, recording, or photographing. **Poll watchers must not speak to voters in a manner of business.** Talking that interrupts the work of the election officials is not permitted. **If poll watchers do not comply with this policy, they will be warned. If they continue not to comply, they will be required to leave.**

Poll watchers who represent a political party, a candidate or a political committee may challenge voter's right to vote on two grounds only:

- 1) That a voter has already voted in the same election.
- 2) That the voter is not actually the person whose name appears on the checklist.

If a voter is challenged, members of the BCA present must convene immediately to hear the facts and rule on the matter. Asserting that the voter does not reside in Canaan is not one of the permitted grounds for a challenge. 17 VSA §2564.

### CAMPAIGNING OUTSIDE POLLING PLACE

Campaigning is protected under the United States Constitution's First Amendment and is therefore permitted. Candidates and supporters are asked to check in with the town clerk when they arrive to be familiarized with this policy. They may stand only on either grass lots next to Christian Hill Road. No one is permitted to interfere with any voter entering or exiting the polling place. Campaigners may not block the sidewalk, ramp or stairs. Legally parked cars that contain campaign signs are allowed.

In addition to Vermont's election laws, state statutes that apply to behaviors in a public place also apply to the polling place. If a voter has a complaint about actual harassment outside the polling place, an election official will contact the police to resolve the problem. 17 VSA §2508.

Phone: 802-266-3370  
Fax: 802-266-8253

## SIGNS OUTSIDE THE POLLING PLACE

Campaign signs measuring no more than 3' x 2' may be placed the day before an Election Day, but must be limited to only the two grass lots immediately in front of the Town Office, bordering Christian Hill Road. Candidates and supporters can place one sign in the designated area. Signs need to be removed by noon on the day after the election or else they will be discarded. 17 VSA §2508. Please check with the town clerk prior to placing your sign to ensure it is in the designated area.

## CAMPAIGN PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL AT THE POLLING PLACE & CANAAN TOWN OFFICE

On Election Day, no campaign literature, stickers, buttons, clothing, or any other type of information about the candidates or other political material may be placed, handed out or allowed to remain in the Canaan Town Office. Please note further clarification below. No campaigning of any kind by any person for a candidate or issue or certain political party is permitted in the polling place. 17 VSA §2508 Items that are general in nature, but support a certain ideology or sayings are acceptable. For example: items containing "MAGA, MAHA, Don't Tread on Me, MoveOn.org".

Voters may bring a small card or folded paper to remind them how to vote or a label or sticker to affix to the ballot to vote for a write-in candidate if these materials are not displayed to others in the room. 17 VSA §2587(e).

No person in the polling place is allowed to wear, display or hand out political material that contains:

- 1) A candidate on the ballot.
- 2) An organized political party.
- 3) Support or opposition for a question on the ballot. §2508.

A person wearing a button or sticker will be asked politely to remove them while in the polling place. Clothing, hats or buttons with general political material are allowed.

These provisions about campaigning also apply to the town clerk's office during the early or absentee voting period. §2508(a)(1)(C). If a voter chooses not to remove the article of clothing, their right to vote will not be infringed upon, however, they will be asked to leave the building. The presiding officer of the election will accompany them outside or to their vehicle and they may vote curbside. A ballot will be handed to them in a manilla folder. They will then vote in private, and hand the manilla folder back to the presiding officer. Once inside the presiding officer will inform the ballot clerks of who voted to have them be recorded on the checklist. Once recorded the presiding officer will deposit the ballot into the ballot box.

These policies are based on Vermont State Statutes Chapter 17 and the 2023 & 2024 Election Procedures: Guide for Town Clerks, Presiding Officers, Representative District Clerks, Senatorial District Clerks, County Clerks, Boards of Civil Authority, Election Officials, Candidates and Voters. Prepared by the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State, July 2024.