CHAPTER 121

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§2501. Applicability of provisions

Except as otherwise provided by this Title or by charter, the method of voting and the conduct of a municipal election are governed by Title 21-A. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]

1. Clerk to perform duties of Secretary of State. When Title 21-A applies to any municipal election, the municipal clerk shall perform the duties of the Secretary of State prescribed by Title 21-A.
[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

2. Qualifications for voting. The qualifications for voting in a municipal election conducted under this Title are governed solely by Title 21-A, section 111.
[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

3. Determining and counting write-in votes. A municipality may choose the method of determining and counting write-in votes according to this subsection. Once a municipality has voted to accept the option under this subsection, the option applies to all municipal elections until the municipal officers hold a public hearing and the legislative body of the municipality votes to rescind the option at least 90 days before the next election of candidates by secret ballot.

A. After the municipal officers hold a public hearing, at least 90 days prior to an election of candidates by secret ballot, the legislative body of a municipality may vote to be governed by the provisions of Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 2, paragraph C and Title 21-A, section 722-A. Votes for a write-in candidate are counted only if that candidate has filed a timely declaration of write-in candidacy with the municipal clerk in accordance with Title 21-A, section 722-A, except that votes for write-in candidates who have not filed a declaration of write-in candidacy must be counted if:

(1) The printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate for the office; or

(2) A properly nominated candidate for the office listed on the ballot withdraws from the race before or on election day. [PL 2015, c. 160, §1 (NEW).]

B. In a municipality that has not voted under paragraph A to be governed by Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 2, paragraph C and Title 21-A, section 722-A, votes cast for write-in candidates must be counted if:

(1) The printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate for the office;

(2) A properly nominated candidate for the office listed on the ballot withdraws from the race before or on election day; or

(3) The number of write-in votes for an office as determined by a machine count or initial hand count exceeds the number of votes in that count for a candidate printed on the ballot.

Votes for write-in candidates may be counted even if none of the criteria listed in subparagraphs (1) to (3) are met in a municipality that has not voted to be governed by Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 2, paragraph C and Title 21-A, section 722-A. [PL 2015, c. 160, §1 (NEW).]

Nothing in this subsection requires a municipal clerk to count or tally write-in votes for a fictitious person, a deceased person or a person from outside the municipality when residency is a qualification of office or who is otherwise not qualified to be a candidate for the office for which the person is a write-in candidate.
[PL 2015, c. 160, §1 (NEW).]

4. Ballot questions. Notwithstanding the provision of Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7 requiring sequential numbering of ballot questions, municipal officers may elect to list municipal initiative and referendum questions on the ballot using sequential capital letters of the alphabet instead of sequential numbers. All other provisions of Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7 apply.
[PL 2019, c. 58, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §D2 (RPR). PL 2015, c. 160, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 58, §1 (AMD).

§2502. Campaign reports in municipal elections

1. Reports by candidates. A candidate for municipal office of a town or city with a population of 15,000 or more is governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A, except that registrations and campaign finance reports must be filed with the municipal clerk instead of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, sections 1001 to 1020-A by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before an election for office. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to those sections.

A. [PL 2009, c. 366, §10 (RP); PL 2009, c. 366, §12 (AFF).]
[PL 2011, c. 389, §60 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 389, §62 (AFF).]

2. Municipal referenda campaigns. Municipal referenda campaigns in towns or cities with a population of 15,000 or more are governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter 4. The registrations and reports of political action committees and ballot question committees must be filed with the municipal clerk. A town or city with a population of less than 15,000 may choose to be governed by Title 21-A, chapter 13, subchapter 4 by vote of its legislative body at least 90 days before a referendum election. A town or city that votes to adopt those provisions may revoke that decision, but it must do so at least 90 days before an election subject to that subchapter.
[PL 2011, c. 389, §60 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 389, §62 (AFF).]

3. Public access to records. A town or city that receives registrations or reports pursuant to this section must keep them for 8 years.
[PL 2011, c. 389, §60 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 389, §62 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 483, §22 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 567, §2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 645, §15 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 366, §10 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 366, §12 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 389, §60 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 389, §62 (AFF).

§2503. Reapportionment

1. Adoption by ordinance. Districts established for the purpose of electing, from each district, an equal number of municipal officers may be adjusted, by ordinance, by the municipal legislative body subject to the following conditions.

A. Each district must be formed of compact, contiguous territory. Its boundary lines may follow the center lines of streets. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §2 and Pt (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Each district must contain as nearly as possible the same number of inhabitants as determined according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, but districts may not differ in number of inhabitants by more than 10% of the inhabitants in the smallest district created. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The ordinance must include a map and a description of the districts. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. The ordinance takes effect on the 30th day after adoption by the legislative body. The new districts and boundaries, as of the effective date, supersede previous districts and boundaries for the purposes of the next regular municipal election, including nominations. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Failure to enact ordinance. The municipal legislative body must enact the reapportionment ordinance within 12 months after the Legislature has reapportioned the House and Senate districts pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part First, Section 3 and Article IV, Part Second, Section 2 or after a court decision finalizing the reapportionment of districts. The ordinance must be enacted at least 90 days before a regular municipal election occurring within that 12-month period or the previous reapportionment ordinance applies to that election. If the legislative body fails to enact an ordinance within the 12-month period or at least 90 days before a regular election occurring after the 12-month period, all municipal officers to be elected must be elected at large and serve until their terms expire. Such at-large elections continue until the legislative body enacts an ordinance in accordance with subsection 1 at least 90 days before a regular municipal election.

[PL 2001, c. 537, §1 (AMD); PL 2001, c. 537, §2 (AFF).]

3. Referendum. Except when the municipal legislative body is the town meeting, the voters of the municipality may require the municipal legislative body to reconsider any ordinance adopted under subsection 1. If the legislative body does not repeal an ordinance so reconsidered, the voters may approve or reject it at a municipal election.

A. Any 5 voters may commence referendum proceedings by filing an affidavit with the municipal clerk stating:

(1) They will constitute the petitioners' committee;

(2) They will be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form;

(3) Their names and addresses;

(4) The address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent; and

(5) The ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

Promptly after the affidavit of the petitioners' committee is filed, the clerk shall issue the appropriate petition blanks to the petitioners' committee. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW);

PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Petitions under this subsection must meet the following requirements.

(1) Petitions must be signed by a number of voters of the municipality equal to at least 15% of the total number of voters in the municipality at the last presidential election.

(2) All papers of a petition shall be uniform in size and style and shall be assembled as one instrument for filing. Each signature must be executed in ink or indelible pencil and must be followed by the address of the person signing. While being circulated, petitions must have the full text of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered contained in or attached to the petition.

(3) When filed, each paper of a petition must have an affidavit, executed by the circulator of the petition, attached to it stating:

(a) That the circulator personally circulated the paper;

(b) The number of signatures on the paper;

(c) That all the signatures were signed in the circulator's presence;

(d) That the circulator believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be; and

(e) That each signer had an opportunity before signing to read the full text of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

(4) Petitions must be filed within 30 days after the municipal legislative body adopts the ordinance sought to be reconsidered. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The following procedure shall be followed after the petition is filed with the municipal clerk.

(1) Within 20 days after the petition is filed, the municipal clerk shall complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars which render it defective. The clerk shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered mail. A petition certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures may be amended once if the petitioners' committee files a notice of intention to amend it with the clerk within 2 days after receiving the copy of the clerk's certificate and files a supplementary petition upon additional papers within 10 days after receiving a copy of the certificate. This supplementary petition must comply with the requirements of paragraph B, subparagraphs (2) and (3). Within 5 days after it is filed, the clerk shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the petition as amended and promptly send a copy of that certificate to the petitioners' committee by registered mail as in the case of an original petition. If a petition or amended petition is certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not elect to amend the petition or request review under subparagraph (2), within the time required, the clerk shall promptly present the clerk's certificate to the municipal legislative body and the certificate is then a final determination as to the sufficiency of the petition.

(2) If a petition has been certified insufficient and the petitioners' committee does not file notice of intention to amend it or if an amended petition has been certified insufficient, the committee, within 2 days after receiving the copy of the certificate, may file a request that it be reviewed by the municipal legislative body. The legislative body shall review the certificate at its next meeting following the filing of the committee's request and approve or disapprove it. This determination is then final as to the sufficiency of the petition.

(3) A final determination as to the sufficiency of a petition is subject to court review. A final determination of insufficiency, even if sustained upon court review, does not prejudice the filing of a new petition for the same purpose. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. When a petition is filed with the clerk under this subsection, the ordinance sought to be reconsidered is suspended from taking effect. This suspension ends when:

(1) There is a final determination of insufficiency of the petition;

(2) The petitioners' committee withdraws the petition;

(3) The council repeals the ordinance; or

(4) Thirty days have elapsed after a vote of the municipality on the ordinance. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. The following procedure shall be followed if a petition is determined to be sufficient.

(1) When a petition has been finally determined sufficient, the municipal legislative body shall promptly reconsider the referred ordinance by voting its repeal. If the legislative body fails to repeal the referred ordinance within 30 days after the date the petition was finally determined sufficient, it shall submit the referred ordinance to the voters of the municipality.

(2) The vote of the municipality on a referred ordinance shall be held at least 30 days and not more than one year after the municipal legislative body's final vote on the ordinance. If no regular municipal election is to be held within this period, the legislative body shall provide for a special election; otherwise the vote shall be held at the same time as a regular election occurring within this period, except that the legislative body, in its discretion, may provide for a special election at an earlier date within the prescribed period. Copies of the referred ordinance shall be made available at the polls.

(3) The form of the ballot for the repeal of the ordinance shall be substantially as follows:

"Shall the ordinance entitled '.....' be repealed?

YES / / NO / /"

(The voters shall indicate their choice by a cross or check mark placed in the appropriate box opposite the words YES or NO.)

(4) A petition may be withdrawn at any time before the 15th day prior to the day scheduled for a vote of the municipality. The petitioners' committee must file with the municipal clerk a request for withdrawal signed by at least 4 members of the petitioners' committee. Upon filing this request, the petition has no further effect and all proceedings on the petition shall be terminated. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. If a majority of the voters who vote on a referred ordinance vote for its repeal, it is considered repealed upon certification of the election results. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §16 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §16 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Exception. This section does not apply to municipalities whose charters specify different methods of reapportionment.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A116,C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A116,C10 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 537, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 537, §2 (AFF).

§2504. Circulation of petitions for local initiative

No municipality may enact any charter provision or ordinance prohibiting the circulation of petitions for any local initiative. A petition related to any local initiative, including, without limitation, petitions filed under section 2522, section 2528, subsection 5, the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 21, or a municipal charter provision authorizing local initiatives, may be circulated as provided in Title 21-A, section 903-A. [RR 1999, c. 1, §43 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 92, §2 (NEW). RR 1999, c. 1, §43 (COR).

§2505. Recall of municipal officials

Except as otherwise provided by the municipality's ordinances or charter, an elected official of a municipality may be recalled from office pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, "official" has the same meaning as section 2604, subsection 2. [PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

1. Petition for recall. On the written petition pursuant to subsection 5 of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election, an election must be held to determine the recall of an elected official of that municipality.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

2. Notice of intention. In order to initiate a recall election under subsection 1, the initiator of the petition shall file a notice of intention of recall with the municipal clerk of the municipality. A notice of intention of recall under this subsection must include the name, address and contact information of the person filing the notice and the name and position of the official subject to recall under this section. Only a person registered to vote in the municipality may file a notice of intention of recall under this subsection.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

3. Petition forms. Within 3 business days of receipt of a notice of intention of recall under subsection 2, the municipal clerk shall prepare petition forms for the collection of signatures under subsection 4 and send notice to the initiator of the petition under subsection 2 that the petition forms are available. The municipality may charge the initiator of the petition a reasonable fee for preparing and providing the petition forms under this subsection. A petition form under this subsection must include:

A. At the top of the form, the name and position of the official subject to recall, the name and contact information of the initiator of the petition and the date by which the signatures must be submitted to the municipal clerk under subsection 4; [PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

B. Spaces for each voter's signature, actual street address and printed name; and [PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

C. Space at the bottom of the form for the name, address and signature of the person circulating the petition form. [PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

4. Collection and submission of signatures. A petition form under subsection 3 may be circulated or signed only by a registered voter of the municipality. A circulator of a petition form shall fill in the information required under subsection 3, paragraph C and sign the form prior to submission of the form to the municipal clerk. The initiator of the petition under subsection 2 shall collect the petition forms

from all circulators and submit the signed petition forms to the municipal clerk within 14 days of receipt of notice from the clerk that the petition forms are available under subsection 3. A municipal clerk may not accept a petition form submitted more than 14 days after sending notice of availability to the initiator under subsection 3, and any voter signatures on that form are invalid.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

5. Petition certification and notification. Within 7 business days of receiving petition forms under subsection 4, the municipal clerk shall determine whether the petition forms meet the criteria under subsection 4 and certify the validity of any signatures on the petition forms. If the municipal clerk finds that the number of valid signatures submitted under subsection 4 meets or exceeds the requirements under subsection 1, the clerk shall certify the petition and immediately send notification of the certification to the municipal officers, the initiator of the petition and the official subject to the recall. If the municipal clerk finds the number of valid signatures submitted under subsection 4 does not meet the requirements for a petition under subsection 1, the municipal clerk shall file the petition and the petition forms in the clerk's office and notify the initiator of the petition.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

6. Scheduling recall election. Within 10 business days of certification of the petition under subsection 5, the municipal officers shall schedule a recall election to determine whether the official subject to the recall petition should be recalled. The election must be held no less than 45 days nor more than 75 days after certification of the petition under subsection 5 unless a regular municipal election is scheduled to be held within 90 days of the certification of the petition under subsection 5, in which case the recall election must be held on the date of the regular municipal election. If the municipal officers fail to schedule a recall election within 10 days of certification of the recall petition under subsection 5, the municipal clerk shall schedule the recall election pursuant to the date requirements of this subsection.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

7. Ballots for recall election. If the official subject to the recall does not resign from office within 10 business days of certification of the recall petition under subsection 5, the ballots for the recall election under subsection 6 must be printed. A ballot for a recall election under this section must read:

"Do you authorize the recall of (name of official) from the position of (name of office)?

( ) Yes ( ) No"

[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

8. Results of recall election. Within 2 business days of a recall election under subsection 6, the municipal clerk shall certify and record the election results and notify the municipal officers of those results. If a majority of voters vote to remove the official, the recall takes effect on the date the election results are recorded pursuant to this subsection.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

9. Limitation of recall. An elected official may be the subject of a recall petition under this section only if the official is convicted of a crime, the conduct of which occurred during the official's term of office and the victim of which is the municipality.
[PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 324, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 2

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

§2521. Call of town meeting

Each town meeting shall be called by a warrant. The warrant must be signed by a majority of the selectmen, except as follows. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. First town meeting. The first town meeting shall be called in the manner provided in the act of incorporation.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Majority of selectmen. If, for any reason, a majority of the selectmen do not remain in office, a majority of those remaining may call a town meeting.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Petition of 3 voters, if no selectmen. When a town, once organized, is without selectmen, a notary public may call a meeting on the written petition of any 3 voters.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Petition by voters, if selectmen refuse. If the selectmen unreasonably refuse to call a town meeting, a notary public may call the meeting on the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2522. Petition for article in warrant

On the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10, the municipal officers shall either insert a particular article in the next warrant issued or shall within 60 days call a special town meeting for its consideration. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §2 and Pt (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2523. Warrant

The warrant for calling any town meeting must meet the following requirements. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Time and place. It shall specify the time and place of the meeting.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Business to be acted upon. It shall state in distinct articles the business to be acted upon at the meeting. No other business may be acted upon.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Notification. It shall be directed to a town constable, or to any resident by name, ordering that person to notify all voters to assemble at the time and place appointed.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Attested copy posted. The person to whom it is directed shall post an attested copy in some conspicuous, public place in the town at least 7 days before the meeting, unless the town has adopted a different method of notification.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

5. Return on warrant. The person who notifies the voters of the meeting shall make a return on the warrant stating the manner of notice and the time when it was given.

A. If an original town meeting warrant is lost or destroyed, the return may be made or amended on a copy of the original warrant. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2524. General town meeting provisions

The following provisions apply to all town meetings. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Qualified voter. Every voter in the town may vote in the election of all town officials and in all town affairs.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Moderator elected and sworn. The clerk, or in the clerk's absence a selectman or constable, shall open the meeting by:

A. Calling for the election of a moderator by written ballot; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Receiving and counting the votes for moderator; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Swearing in the moderator. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Moderator presides. As soon as the moderator has been elected and sworn, the moderator shall preside over and supervise the voting at the meeting and may appoint a deputy moderator to assist the moderator. If the moderator is absent or is unable to carry out the duties, the clerk, or in the clerk's absence a selectman or constable, may call for the election of a deputy moderator to act in the absence of the moderator.

A. All persons shall be silent at the moderator's command. A person may not speak before that person is recognized by the moderator. A person who is not a voter in the town may speak at the meeting only with the consent of 2/3 of the voters present.

(1) If any person, after a command for order by the moderator, continues to act in a disorderly manner, the moderator may direct that person to leave the meeting. If the person refuses to leave, the moderator may have that person removed by a constable and confined until the meeting is adjourned. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. When a vote declared by the moderator is immediately questioned by at least 7 voters, the moderator shall make it certain by polling the voters or by a method directed by the municipal legislative body. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The moderator shall serve until the meeting is adjourned. The moderator is subject to the same penalties for neglect of official duty as other town officials. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Votes recorded by clerk. The clerk shall accurately record the votes of the meeting.

A. If the clerk is absent, the moderator shall appoint and swear in a temporary clerk. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

5. Written ballots. The clerk shall prepare the ballots. Ballots shall be of uniform size and color, and must be blank except that 2 squares with "yes" by one and "no" by the other may be printed on them.

The moderator shall ensure that each voter receives only one ballot for each vote taken.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

6. Location of meetings. Town meetings may be held outside the corporate limits of the municipality if the municipal officers determine that there is no adequate facility for the meeting within the municipality. The proposed location must be:

A. Within an adjoining or nearby municipality; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Not more than 25 miles from the corporate limits of the municipality holding the meetings; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Reasonably accessible to all voters of the town. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2525. Annual meeting

1. Officials required to be elected. Each town shall hold an annual meeting at which the following town officials shall be elected by ballot:

A. Moderator; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Selectmen; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. School committee. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Other officials. A town, at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting, may designate other town officials to be elected by ballot. The election of officials at the last annual town meeting is deemed to be such a designation until the town acts otherwise at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting at which the election will be held.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 659 (AMD).]

3. Limitation. A town official may not be elected on a motion to cast one ballot.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 659 (AMD).

§2526. Choice and qualifications of town officials

Unless otherwise provided by charter, the following provisions apply to the choice and qualifications of town officials. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Manner of election. In a town with a population greater than 4,000, according to the last Federal Decennial Census, election shall be by plurality. Except as provided in section 2528, subsection 10, in a town with a population of 4,000 or under, election shall be by majority.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Appointment in writing. The appointment of any town official or deputy must be in writing and shall be signed by the appointing party.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Qualifications. In order to hold a municipal office, a person must be a resident of the State, at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States.

A. In order to hold the office of selectman, a person must be a voter in the town in which that person is elected. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Selectmen and overseers. The following provisions apply to selectmen and overseers.

A. A town may determine at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting whether 3, 5 or 7 will be elected to each board and their terms of office.

(1) Once the determination has been made, it stands until revoked at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

(2) If a town fails to fix the number, 3 shall be elected. If a town fails to fix the term, it is for one year. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. When others have not been elected, the selectmen shall serve as overseers of the poor. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. A selectman may also serve as a member of the board of assessors. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. A town, in electing selectmen and overseers, may designate one of them as chairman of the board.

(1) If no person is designated as chairman, the board shall elect by ballot a chairman from its own membership, before assuming the duties of office. When no member receives a majority vote, the clerk shall determine the chairman by lot. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. If the town fails to fix the compensation of these officials at its annual meeting, they shall be paid $10 each per day for every day actually and necessarily employed in the service of the town. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

5. Assessors. The following provisions apply to assessors.

A. A town may determine at a meeting of its legislative body held at least 90 days before the annual meeting whether a single assessor will be appointed under subparagraph (3) or a board of 3, 5 or 7 will be elected and the term of office of the assessor or assessors. In towns where the municipal legislative body is the town meeting, the determination is effective only if the total number of votes cast for and against the determination equals or exceeds 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election.

(1) Once a determination has been made, it stands until revoked at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

(2) If a town fails to fix the number, 3 shall be elected. If a town fails to fix the term, it is for one year.

(3) When a town has chosen a single assessor under this paragraph, the selectmen shall appoint the assessor for a term not exceeding 5 years. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. In addition to the method provided by paragraph A and notwithstanding the provision of any town charter to the contrary, the municipal officers of any town, or the municipal officers of 2 or more towns acting jointly, may enact an ordinance providing for a single assessor. The municipal officers shall appoint the assessor for a term not exceeding 5 years.

(1) Seven days' notice of the meeting at which the ordinance is to be proposed shall be given in the manner provided for town meetings.

(2) In towns where the municipal legislative body is the town meeting, the ordinance is effective immediately after the next regular town meeting if enacted at least 90 days before the meeting. The ordinance stands until revoked by the municipal legislative body or the municipal officers at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual town meeting. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. When a town has not elected a full board of assessors, the selectmen shall serve as assessors as provided in Title 36, section 703. A selectman who is an assessor pursuant to this paragraph and Title 36, section 703 or any person who serves as both a selectman and a tax assessor may resign the position of assessor without resigning the office of selectman. The position of assessor must then be filled by appointment pursuant to section 2602, subsection 2. A person elected to the State Legislature who resigns the position of assessor pursuant to this paragraph may continue to serve concurrently as selectman and member of the State Legislature. If a person who is serving in the State Legislature or in another office incompatible with the position of assessor resigns the position of assessor pursuant to this paragraph before that person has performed any duties as tax assessor, that person may not be deemed to have vacated the previously held position of State Legislator or other office that is incompatible with the office of assessor. [PL 2003, c. 234, §1 (AMD).]

D. A town, if it elects a board of assessors, may designate one member as chairman of the board.

(1) If no person is designated as chairman, the board shall elect by ballot a chairman from its own membership, before assuming the duties of office. When no member receives a majority vote, the clerk shall determine the chairman by lot. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. If the town fails to fix the compensation of assessors at its annual meeting, they shall be paid $10 each per day for every day actually and necessarily employed in the service of the town. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. This subsection does not apply to any municipality which is incorporated into a primary assessing area. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

G. Notwithstanding any other law when a vacancy occurs on an elected board of assessors, the municipal officers shall fill that vacancy as provided in section 2602, subsection 2. [PL 1991, c. 270, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 234, §1 (AMD).]

6. Board of assessment review. The following provisions apply to a board of assessment review.

A. Any municipality may adopt a board of assessment review at a meeting of its legislative body held at least 90 days before the annual meeting. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The board of assessment review consists of 3 members and 2 alternates appointed by the selectmen. The municipality, when adopting such a board, may fix the compensation of the members. Initially, one member must be appointed for one year, one member for 2 years and one member for 3 years, and one of the alternates must be appointed for one year and one alternate for 2 years. Thereafter, the term of each new member or alternate is 3 years. [PL 1991, c. 235 (AMD).]

C. Any town adopting a board of assessment review may discontinue the board by vote in the same manner and under the same conditions as in adopting the board. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Municipalities may provide by ordinance for a board of assessment review consisting of 5 or 7 members and up to 3 alternates. The terms of office of members and alternates may not exceed 5 years and initial appointments must be such that the terms of office of no more than 2 members or alternates will expire in any single year. [PL 1991, c. 235 (AMD).]

E. Any town, by ordinance, may designate a board of appeals appointed under section 2691 as the board of assessment review. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. A board of assessment review shall annually elect from its membership a chairman and a secretary. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

G. The procedure of a board of assessment review is governed by section 2691, subsection 3. [PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. A, §26 (AMD).]

H. This subsection does not apply to any municipality which is incorporated into a primary assessing area. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. A, §26 (AMD).]

7. Road commissioners. The following provisions apply to road commissioners.

A. A town may determine at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting whether one or more road commissioners will be chosen and the term of office which may not exceed 3 years.

(1) Once the determination has been made, it stands until revoked at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

(2) If a town fails to fix the number, one shall be chosen. If a town fails to fix the term, it is one year. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. A road commissioner appointed by the selectmen may be removed from office for cause by the selectmen. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The board of selectmen may act as a board of road commissioners. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

8. Treasurers and tax collectors. Treasurers and tax collectors of towns may not simultaneously serve as municipal officers or as elected or appointed assessors until they have completed their duties and had a final settlement with the town.

A. The same person may serve as treasurer and tax collector of a municipality. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2009, c. 57, §1 (AMD).]

9. Sworn in. Before assuming the duties of office, a town official or deputy shall be sworn by the moderator in open town meeting, by the clerk, or by any other person authorized by law to administer an oath, including a notary public or dedimus justice.

A. Unless the oath is administered in the clerk's presence, the person who administers it shall give the official or deputy sworn a certificate, which must be returned to the clerk for filing. The certificate must state:

(1) The name of the official or deputy sworn;

(2) The official's or deputy's office;

(3) The name of the person who administered the oath; and

(4) The date when the oath was taken. [PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. A, §27 (RPR).]

B. The clerk shall be sworn to accurately record the votes of town meetings and to discharge faithfully all the other duties of that office, until another clerk is elected and sworn. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. After the town meeting, the clerk shall immediately issue a warrant directed to a constable containing the names of persons chosen for office who have not been sworn.

(1) The constable shall immediately summon the named persons to appear before the clerk within 7 days from the time of notice to take the oath of office.

(2) The constable shall make a return immediately to the clerk.

(3) The town shall pay the constable a reasonable compensation for these services. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. The clerk shall record the election or appointment of each official or deputy, including the clerk's own, and the other information specified in paragraph A. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. A record by the clerk that a person was sworn for a stated town office is sufficient evidence that the person was legally sworn for the office. The entire oath need not be recorded. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. A, §27 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A17,C8,10, D3 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 235 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 270, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 234, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 510, §§A26,27 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 57, §1 (AMD).

§2527. Alternative nomination procedure

When any town accepts this section at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting, the following provisions apply to the nomination of all town officials required by section 2525 to be elected by ballot, except for the moderator, and to the nomination of any other officials which the town designates by a separate article in the warrant at the time of acceptance. No change may be made thereafter in the nomination of town officials, except at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Nomination papers; certificate of political caucus. The nomination of candidates for any office shall be by nomination papers or certificate of political caucus as provided in section 2528, subsection 4.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Attestation and posting. The names of candidates nominated and the office for which they are nominated shall be attested by the clerk and posted at least 7 days before town meeting.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2528. Secret ballot

The following provisions govern a town's use of a secret ballot for the election of town officials or for municipal referenda elections. A vote by secret ballot takes precedence over a vote by any other means at the same meeting. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Acceptance by town. When any town accepts this section at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting, the provisions of this section apply to the election of all town officials required by section 2525 to be elected by ballot, except the moderator, who shall be elected as provided in section 2524, subsection 2.

A. The provisions of this section relating to the nomination of town officials by political caucus apply only when a town separately accepts those provisions at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting. If any town accepts those provisions, they remain effective until the town votes otherwise. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. A town may accept only the provisions of subsection 4, relating to the nomination of town officials, as provided in section 2527. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Designation, number and terms of officials. At the time of acceptance, the town shall determine, by a separate article in the warrant, which other officials are to be elected according to this section, and may determine the number and terms of selectmen, assessors and overseers according to section 2526.

A. After the determination under this subsection, a town may not change the designation, number or terms of town officials, except at a meeting held at least 90 days before the annual meeting. [PL

1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Voting place specified; polls. The warrant for a town meeting for the election of officials must specify the voting place, which must be in the same building or a building nearby where the meeting is to be held. The warrant for a town meeting for the election of officials that occurs at the same time as voting in federal, state or county elections, but not at the same time as a town meeting held for other purposes, may specify the same voting places as those used by the town for federal, state or county elections. The warrant must specify the time of opening and closing the polls, which must be kept open at least 4 consecutive hours.

A. In the warrant for a town meeting under this section, the municipal officers may designate the date of the election and designate another date within 14 days of the date set for elections as the time for considering the other articles of business in the warrant. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2003, c. 569, §1 (AMD).]

4. Nomination papers; caucuses. The nomination for any office shall be made by nomination papers or by political caucus as provided in this subsection.

A. The municipal clerk shall make nomination papers available to prospective candidates during the 40 days before the filing deadline. Before issuing nomination papers, the clerk must complete each sheet by writing in the name of the candidate and the title and term of office being sought.

(1) Nomination papers must be signed by the following number of voters based on the population of the town according to the last Federal Decennial Census of the United States:

(a) Not less than 3 nor more than 10 in towns with a population of 200 or less;

(b) Not less than 10 nor more than 25 in towns with a population of 201 to 500; and

(c) Not less than 25 nor more than 100 in towns with a population of more than 500.

(2) Each voter who signs a nomination paper shall add the voter's residence with the street and number, if any. The voter may sign as many nomination papers for each office as the voter chooses, regardless of the number of vacancies to be filled. [PL 1995, c. 102, §1 (AMD).]

B. At the end of the list of candidates for each office, there must be left as many blank spaces as there are vacancies to be filled in which a voter may write in the name and, if residence in the municipality is not a requirement to hold office, municipality of residence of any person for whom the voter desires to vote. A sticker may not be used to vote for a write-in candidate in any municipal election other than a primary election. [PL 1991, c. 83, §1 (AMD).]

C. Completed nomination papers or certificates of political caucus nomination must be filed with the clerk during business hours by the 60th day prior to election day. They must be accompanied by the written consent of the person proposed as a candidate agreeing:

(1) To accept the nomination if nominated;

(2) Not to withdraw; and

(3) If elected at the municipal election, to qualify as such municipal officer.

When these papers and certificates are filed, the clerk shall make them available to public inspection under proper protective regulations. The clerk shall keep them in the office for 6 months. [PL 2017, c. 248, §9 (AMD).]

D. A nomination paper or a certificate of political caucus nomination that complies with this section is valid unless a written objection to it is made to the municipal officers by the 58th day prior to election day.

(1) If an objection is made, the clerk shall immediately notify the candidate affected by it.

(2) The municipal officers shall determine objections arising in the case of nominations. Their decision is final. [PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §9 (AMD).]

E. Notwithstanding this subsection, when the municipal officers determine to fill a vacancy under section 2602, which must be filled by election, the municipal officers may designate a shorter time period for the availability of nomination papers, but not less than 10 days before the filing deadline, and may designate a shorter time period for the final date for filing nomination papers, but not less than the 14th day before election day. Notice of the designation shall be posted in the same place or places as town meeting warrants are posted and local representatives of the media shall be notified of the designation. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §9 (AMD).]

5. Referendum questions. By order of the municipal officers or on the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10, the municipal officers shall have a particular article placed on the next ballot printed or shall call a special town meeting for its consideration. A petition or order under this subsection is subject to the filing provisions governing nomination papers under subsection 4.

The municipal officers shall hold a public hearing on the subject of the article at least 10 days before the day for voting on the article. At least 7 days before the date set for the hearing, the municipal officers shall give notice of the public hearing by having a copy of the proposed article, together with the time and place of hearing, posted in the same manner required for posting a warrant for a town meeting under section 2523. The municipal officers shall make a return on the original notice stating the manner of notice and the time it was given.

A. The requirement for public hearing is not a prerequisite to the valid issuance of any bond, note or other obligation of a municipality authorized to borrow money by vote under any such particular article. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. If a particular article to be voted on by secret ballot requests an appropriation of money by the municipality, the article, when printed in the warrant and on the ballot, must be accompanied by a recommendation of the municipal officers.

(1) If by town meeting vote or charter provision, a budget committee has been established to review proposed town expenditures, the recommendations of the budget committee shall be printed in addition to those of the municipal officers.

(2) If the action affects the school budget, a recommendation by the school board shall be printed in addition to those of the municipal officers and the budget committee, if any. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. If the warrant for a town meeting contains only articles for the election of the moderator and one or more referendum questions to be voted on by secret ballot, the municipal officers may specify the same voting places as those used by the town for federal, state or county elections. [PL 2003, c. 569, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 569, §2 (AMD).]

6. Ballots, specimen ballots and instruction cards. The clerk shall prepare ballots, specimen ballots and instruction cards according to the following provisions.

A. The ballot shall contain the names of properly nominated candidates arranged under the proper office designation in alphabetical order by last name. It may contain no other names. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. At the end of the list of candidates for each office, there must be left as many blank spaces as there are vacancies to be filled in which a voter may write in the name and, if residence in the municipality is not a requirement to hold office, municipality of residence of any person for whom the voter desires to vote. A sticker may not be used to vote for a write-in candidate in any municipal election other than a primary election. [PL 1991, c. 83, §2 (AMD).]

C. Any question or questions required by law to be submitted to a vote must be printed either below the list of candidates or on a separate ballot from the ballot listing candidates. Notwithstanding the provision of Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7 requiring sequential numbering of ballot questions, the questions may be listed on the ballot using sequential capital letters of the alphabet instead of sequential numbers in accordance with section 2501, subsection 4. All other provisions of Title 21-A, section 906, subsection 7 apply. If a separate ballot is used, this ballot must be a different color than the ballot listing candidates. [PL 2019, c. 58, §2 (AMD).]

D. There must be a place on the ballot for the voter to designate the voter's choice. [PL 2019, c. 636, §20 (RPR).]

E. Words of explanation such as "Vote for one" and "Vote yes or no" may be printed on the ballot. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. Ballots must be uniform in size. On the ballot must appear "Official Ballot for the Town of ....," the date of election and a facsimile of the signature of the clerk. [PL 1993, c. 608, §7 (AMD).]

G. A sufficient number of ballots shall be printed, photocopied or otherwise mechanically reproduced and furnished, and a record of the number shall be kept by the clerk. The printed ballots shall be packaged in convenient blocks so that they may be removed separately. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

H. Ten or more specimen ballots printed on paper of a distinctive color without the endorsement of the clerk shall be provided. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

I. Instruction cards containing the substance of Title 21-A, sections 671 to 674, 681, 682, 692 and 693, to guide voters in obtaining and marking ballots and to inform them of penalties for improper conduct shall be printed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

J. The ballots and specimen ballots shall be packed in sealed packages with marks on the outside specifying the number of each enclosed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

K. When voting machines are used, the clerk shall prepare and furnish ballot labels that comply, as nearly as practicable, with the provisions of this section which apply to ballots. [PL 1987, c.

737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 636, §20 (AMD).]

6-A. Candidate withdrawal; new ballots. The following provisions govern the withdrawal of a candidate from an elective race.

A. A candidate may withdraw from an elective race by notifying the municipal clerk in writing of the candidate's intent to withdraw and the reason for withdrawal at least 60 days before the election. This notice must be signed by the candidate and must be notarized. [PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §10 (AMD).]

B. Within the 60-day period before an election, the municipal clerk may allow a candidate to withdraw from an elective race. A candidate who requests to withdraw within the 60-day period before an election shall notify the municipal clerk in writing of the candidate's intent to withdraw and the reason for withdrawal. This notice must be signed by the candidate and must be notarized. [PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §10 (AMD).]

C. The municipal clerk shall ensure that new ballots are produced, if necessary, to reflect the withdrawal of a candidate from an elective race. [PL 1993, c. 608, §8 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §10 (AMD).]

6-B. Inspection of ballots in an election. Upon receipt of a package or box containing absentee ballots for an election, the municipal clerk may open the sealed package or box of ballots and verify that the ballots do not contain any errors and that the correct number of ballots has been received. The clerk may then proceed to issue absentee ballots in response to pending requests. Upon receipt of a package or box containing regular ballots for an election, the clerk may open, in the presence of one or more witnesses, the sealed package or box of ballots and verify that the ballots do not contain any errors and that the correct number of ballots has been received. Ballots to be used for testing electronic tabulating devices may be removed at this time and immediately marked with the word "TEST" across the front side of the ballot in black or blue indelible ink. The clerk shall keep a record of the number of ballots used for testing purposes and seal the record with the test ballots in a container labeled "TEST BALLOTS" at the conclusion of the testing. The clerk shall then reseal the package or box of regular ballots and secure the package or box of ballots until election day, when it is delivered to the warden at the polling place.

[PL 2007, c. 19, §1 (NEW).]

7. Specimen ballot posted. At least 4 days before the election, the clerk shall have posted in one or more conspicuous, public places a specimen ballot or a list, substantially in the form of a ballot, containing the name and office designation of each candidate.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

8. Ballot clerks. Before the polls are opened, the municipal officers shall appoint the necessary number of ballot clerks as provided in Title 21-A, section 503-A. When there are vacancies after the polls are opened, the moderator shall appoint replacement clerks. The ballot clerks must be sworn before assuming their duties.

A. On election day, before the polls are opened, the clerk shall deliver the ballots to the ballot clerks and shall post an instruction card at each voting compartment and at least 3 instruction cards and 5 specimen ballots in the voting room outside the guardrail enclosure. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The ballot clerks shall give a receipt to the clerk for the ballots received by them. The clerk shall keep the receipt in the clerk's office for 6 months. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL

1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Ballots may not be delivered to the voters until the moderator has been elected. The moderator may appoint a qualified person to act as temporary moderator during a temporary absence from the polling place. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. The municipal officers shall prepare a duplicate incoming voting list for the use of the ballot clerks. The law pertaining to incoming voting lists applies equally to duplicate incoming voting lists. [PL 2019, c. 64, §4 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 64, §4 (AMD).]

9. After votes counted, ballots delivered to clerk. After the ballot clerks have counted and tabulated the votes cast, the moderator shall deliver the ballots to the clerk who shall seal them in a suitable package and keep them in the clerk's office for 2 months.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

10. Election by plurality vote; tie vote. Election must be by plurality vote. In the case of a tie vote, the meeting must be adjourned to a day certain, when ballots are again cast for the candidates tied for the office in question, unless all but one tied candidate withdraw from a subsequent election by delivering written notice of withdrawal signed by the candidate and notarized to the municipal offices within the 7-day period following the election. After the 7-day period has expired, the municipal officers shall call a run-off election between the remaining candidates by posting a warrant in the manner required for calling a town meeting. If only one candidate remains, that candidate is declared the winner and sworn into office.

If the meeting is adjourned sine die before a tie vote is resolved or the tie vote is discovered after the meeting adjourns sine die and more than one candidate remains, a new meeting must be called to conduct a run-off election by the method described in this subsection.

[PL 1997, c. 733, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A18-20,C8, C10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 83, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 323 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 608, §§6-8 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 13, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 102, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 733, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 569, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 19, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 248, §9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §§9, 10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 58, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 64, §4 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 636, §20 (AMD).

§2529. Absentee ballots

If a town has accepted section 2528, absentee ballots may be cast at all regular and special elections to which section 2528 applies, including elections for town meeting members where the representative town meeting form of government is used. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Procedure. The absentee voting procedure outlined in Title 21-A shall be used, except that the clerk shall perform the duties of the Secretary of State.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Absentee ballot. The absentee ballot requirements of Title 21-A, section 752 apply.

[PL 1993, c. 608, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 608, §9 (AMD).

§2530. Ballot inspection

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 608, §10 (RP).

§2530-A. Candidate's inspection of ballots and incoming voting lists

This section provides for the preliminary inspection of ballots and incoming voting lists cast in any election for municipal office. Inspection procedures for other offices do not apply to elections for municipal office. [PL 2011, c. 255, §3 (AMD).]

If a candidate other than a declared winner in an election applies in writing to the municipal clerk within 5 days after the result of a city election or an election under section 2528 has been declared, the municipal clerk shall permit the candidate or the candidate's agent, after payment of any fee required under subsection 9, to inspect the ballots and incoming voting lists under proper protective regulations for the purpose of determining whether or not to request a recount under section 2531-B. The final day of the 5-day period ends at the close of regular business hours in the office of the municipal clerk. The candidate requesting the inspection may request a random or complete inspection of the ballots and incoming voting lists. [PL 2011, c. 255, §3 (AMD).]

Any inspection of ballots and incoming voting lists is subject to the following provisions. [PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

1. Notice. The inspection may be permitted only after written notice by the municipal clerk to:

A. The ward officers who signed the election returns in a city or the moderator in a town; and [PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

B. All candidates for the office specified in the application. [PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

This notice must state the time and place of the inspection and provide the persons listed in paragraphs A and B with a reasonable opportunity to be present and heard in person or to be represented by counsel. [PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

2. When deposit is required.

[PL 2011, c. 255, §4 (RP).]

3. Amount of deposit.
[PL 2011, c. 255, §4 (RP).]

4. Forfeiture or refund of deposit.
[PL 2011, c. 255, §4 (RP).]

5. Time of inspection. The inspection must be held within 5 days after the municipal clerk receives the written application requesting an inspection.
[PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

6. Packages resealed. After each inspection, the municipal clerk shall reseal the packages of ballots and the incoming voting lists and shall note the fact and date of inspection on them.
[PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

7. Candidate defined. As used in this section and section 2531-A, "candidate" means any person who has received at least one vote for the municipal office in question.

[PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

8. Calculation of time. The periods established in this section must be calculated according to the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 6(a). The final day of any period calculated pursuant to this section ends at the close of regular business hours in the office of the municipal clerk. Actions required to be taken by the end of a day certain that are taken after the close of regular business hours in the office of the municipal clerk on the day certain are not timely.
[PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW).]

9. Municipal clerk may assess fee. The municipal clerk may assess a fee for the inspection of ballots as provided in this section. The fee may not exceed the actual costs to administer the inspection of ballots conducted in accordance with this section.
[PL 2011, c. 255, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 608, §11 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 255, §§3-5 (AMD).

§2531. Recount hearing

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 608, §12 (RP).

§2531-A. Recount hearing

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 608, §13 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 712, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 255, §6 (RP).

§2531-B. Recount of an election for office

This section governs all recounts in any election for municipal office. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

1. When deposit is required.

[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (RP).]

2. Amount of deposit.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (RP).]

3. Forfeiture or refund of deposit.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (RP).]

4. Recount request and procedure. A candidate, including a write-in candidate, other than the declared winner in an election may apply to the municipal clerk in writing for a recount. Written recount requests must be received by the clerk within 5 business days after the day of the contested election or within 5 business days after an inspection pursuant to section 2530-A in order to be valid.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

5. Public proceeding. A recount is a public proceeding open to public attendance, subject to reasonable restrictions necessary to protect recount integrity or resulting from space limitations.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

6. Recount security. The municipal clerk shall maintain control over the ballots and other recount materials. No recount personnel other than the clerk may have access to the areas where ballots are

stored unless accompanied by the clerk or the clerk's designee. A person who causes a disruption of the recount process may be removed from the area at the discretion of the clerk.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

7. Amount of deposit. A candidate requesting a recount shall pay a deposit to the municipal clerk when the recount is requested in an amount determined by the municipal clerk, which must be at least 50% of the reasonable estimate of the cost to the municipality performing the recount.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

8. Deposit not required. Notwithstanding subsection 7, a deposit is not required for a recount if the percentage difference of the total votes of the official tabulation is equal to or less than:

A. Two and one-half percent, if the combined vote for the candidates is 1,000 or less; [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

B. Two percent, if the combined vote for the candidates is 1,001 to 5,000; or [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

C. One and one-half percent, if the combined vote for the candidates is 5,001 or over. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

For purposes of this subsection, "percentage difference" means the difference between the percentage of the total votes for an office received by the candidate requesting a recount and the percentage of the total votes for that office received by the nearest winning candidate.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

9. Forfeiture or refund of deposit. If a recount changes the result of an election, a deposit under subsection 7 must be returned to the candidate who paid the deposit. If the recount does not change the result of the election, the municipality shall calculate the actual cost to the municipality of performing the recount. If the deposit was greater than the actual cost, the overpayment must be refunded to the candidate who paid the deposit. If the actual cost was greater than the deposit, the candidate who requested the recount shall pay the remainder of the actual cost to the municipality. A candidate who is not required to pay a deposit pursuant to subsection 8 may not be charged for the recount regardless of whether the recount changes the result of the election.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

10. Date of recount and notice. When a recount request has been filed pursuant to subsection 4, along with a deposit if a deposit is required pursuant to subsection 7, the municipal clerk immediately shall set a date for the recount, which must be held as soon as reasonably possible at a date and time that affords the candidate who requested the recount a reasonable opportunity to be present. The municipal clerk shall notify the public, the municipal officers, the candidate who filed the recount request and all other candidates on that election ballot of the recount date and location. Notice must be posted pursuant to Title 1, section 406.
[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

11. Procedure at recount. A recount in an election for municipal office must be conducted according to the procedures in this subsection unless the municipal legislative body adopts the recount procedures of Title 21-A, section 737-A and the rules adopted pursuant to that section, except that Title 21-A, section 737-A, subsections 1, 5 and 12 and the duties of the State Police do not apply.

A. The municipal clerk shall publicly explain the recount procedure at the start of the recount and shall supervise the sorting and hand counting of the votes in public with assistance from counters appointed by the clerk. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

B. A candidate may provide counters to conduct the recount under the supervision of the municipal clerk. If an insufficient number of counters is provided, the clerk shall supply counters. Municipal

officers and candidates on that election ballot may not serve as counters. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

C. The municipal clerk and counters shall follow all applicable laws and the rules for determining voter intent adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 6. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

D. If any ballots are disputed as to voter intent, the candidates may resolve the dispute by consensus in accordance with rules for determining voter intent adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Title 21-A, section 696, subsection 6. If consensus cannot be reached, those disputed ballots must be set aside. If the number of disputed ballots potentially affects the outcome of the recount, the municipal clerk shall forward the disputed ballots to the clerk of the nearest Superior Court in the county in which the election was held. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

E. Upon written request, the municipal clerk shall make the incoming voting list and absentee ballot materials, along with all records required by law to be kept in connection with the election, available for inspection, unless those materials have been requested as part of a state recount. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

F. After the recount, the municipal clerk shall reseal the package of ballots and incoming voting list and shall note on the package the fact that the recount was held and the date of the recount. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

G. In order to withdraw from a recount, a candidate must notify the municipal clerk of the intent to withdraw and the reason for withdrawal. The notice must be signed by the candidate, notarized and delivered to the municipal clerk prior to or during the scheduled recount. In the event of a withdrawal, the final election day tabulation is considered the final result. [PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 558, §1 (AMD).]

12. Results of recount. Within 24 hours after the results of the recount are determined, the municipal clerk shall prepare, sign and issue a final recount tabulation.

[PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 255, §7 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 191, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 288, §1 (RPR). PL 2019, c. 558, §1 (AMD).

§2532. Referendum recount procedure

In the case of a referendum, a recount must be granted upon written application of 10% or 100, whichever is less, of the registered voters in the municipality. The application must designate a person to be the official representative of the registered voters requesting the recount including the person's legal name, mailing address, residence address and telephone number. An official representative for the registered voters opposing the recount may be established by submission of an affidavit signed by 10 registered voters of the municipality. The time limits, rules and all other matters applying to candidates under section 2531-B apply equally to a referendum recount, except that provisions in section 2531-B applicable to the candidate requesting the recount and candidates not requesting the recount apply, for purposes of this section, to the official representative of the referendum recount and the official representative, if any, of the voters opposed to the recount, respectively. [PL 2019, c. 288, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 608, §14 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 255, §8 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 191, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 288, §2 (AMD).

§2533. Title to municipal office

Within 30 days after election day, a person who claims to have been elected to any municipal office may proceed against another who claims title to the office by the following procedure. [PL 1993, c. 608, §15 (AMD).]

1. Procedure. The person must bring a complaint in the Superior Court alleging the facts upon which the person relies in maintaining the action. The action must be brought in the county in which the defendant resides. The court shall hear and decide the case as soon as reasonably possible.
[PL 1993, c. 473, §42 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

2. Appeal procedure. The party against whom the judgment is rendered may appeal to the Supreme Judicial Court within 10 days after entry of the judgment. The appellant must file the required number of copies of the record with the clerk of courts within 20 days after filing the notice of appeal. Within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed, the parties must file briefs with the clerk of courts. As soon as the records and briefs have been filed, the court shall immediately consider the case and shall issue its decision as soon as reasonably possible. Final judgment must be entered accordingly.
[PL 1993, c. 473, §42 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

3. Court to issue order. As soon as final judgment has been rendered, the Superior Court, on request of the prevailing party, shall issue an order to the party unlawfully claiming or holding the office, commanding that party to immediately surrender it to the person who has been adjudged lawfully entitled to it, together with all the records and property connected with it. The prevailing party may assume the duties of the office as soon as the term begins.
[PL 1993, c. 473, §42 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

4. Costs. The court shall allow costs to the prevailing party as the court determines reasonable and just.
[PL 1993, c. 473, §42 (NEW); PL 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 473, §42 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 473, §46 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 608, §15 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 3

CITY ELECTIONS

§2551. Warrant or notice for city election

Except as otherwise required by municipal charter, each city election must be called by a warrant or by a notice of election posted in compliance with Title 21-A, section 621-A. The warrant must meet the requirements listed in Title 21-A, section 622-A. [PL 2005, c. 59, §1 (RPR); PL 2005, c. 59, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 59, §1 (RPR). PL 2005, c. 59, §2 (AFF).

§2552. Designation of officials

1. Assessors and assistant assessors. The following provisions apply to assessors and their assistants.

A. Assessors and their assistants shall be chosen annually on the 2nd Monday of March to serve for one year and until others are chosen and qualified in their places, unless the city charter provides otherwise. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. In addition to the assistant assessors chosen under a city charter, the municipal officers may authorize the assessors to appoint any necessary assistants to serve during the municipal year in which they are appointed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of any city charter to the contrary, the city council, by ordinance, may provide for a single assessor whose powers and duties are the same as for towns, and who is appointed for a term not exceeding 5 years. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

2. Board of assessment review. The following provisions apply to a board of assessment review.

A. Any city choosing a single assessor may adopt a board of assessment review by vote of the city council at least 90 days before the annual city election. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).]

B. The board of assessment review shall consist of 3 members appointed by the city council. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The city council, when adopting a board of assessment review, may fix the compensation of the board's members. One member shall be appointed for one year, one member for 2 years and one member for 3 years. Thereafter, the term of each new member is 3 years. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Any city adopting a board of assessment review may discontinue the board by vote of the city council at least 90 days before the annual city election, in which case the board ceases to exist at the end of the municipal year. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §5 (AMD).]

E. Cities with a population of 5,000 or more may provide by ordinance for a board of assessment review consisting of 5 or 7 members. The terms of office of members must not exceed 5 years and initial appointments must be such that the terms of office of no more than 2 members will expire in any single year. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. This subsection does not apply in any city which is incorporated into a primary assessing area. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §§4, 5 (AMD).]

3. Constable. When a vacancy occurs in the office of constable, the municipal officers may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Warden and clerk. A warden and clerk for each ward shall be elected by secret ballot at the regular election of municipal officers.

A. They shall assume the duties of office on the Monday following election. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. They shall hold office for one year and until others are chosen and qualified in their places. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

5. Officials elected by aldermen and common council. In the election of any official by the board of aldermen or jointly by the aldermen and common council in which the mayor has a right to give a deciding vote, if the candidates have an equal number of votes, the mayor shall determine which of them is elected.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

6. Officials appointed by the municipal officers. Whenever appointments to office are made by the municipal officers, they shall be made by the mayor with the consent of the aldermen and may be removed by the mayor.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10,D4,5 (AMD).

§2553. Nomination to city office by petition

A person may be nominated to any city office by nomination petition following the procedure prescribed by Title 21-A, chapter 5, subchapter II. A person seeking nomination under this section may use a political designation only if permitted by the city charter. The petition and consent must be filed with the clerk at least 14 days before election day. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2554. Ballots, specimen ballots and instruction posters

Except as otherwise provided by its charter, the ballots, specimen ballots and instruction posters for use in a city election are governed by the following provisions. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Prepared by clerk. The clerk shall prepare, at the city's expense, the ballots, specimen ballots and instruction posters for use in a city election a reasonable time and as nearly as practicable before each election, in accordance with section 2528, subsection 6.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1-A. Inspection of ballots in an election. The municipal clerk may inspect ballots in accordance with section 2528, subsection 6-B.
[PL 2007, c. 19, §2 (NEW).]

2. Write-in votes. In any city election, a voter may write in the name and municipality of residence of any person for whom the voter desires to vote in the blank space provided at the end of the list of candidates for office. A sticker may not be used to vote for a write-in candidate in any city election other than a primary election.
[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §21 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

3. Specimen ballots and instruction posters. At least 4 days before election day, the clerk shall post a specimen ballot in one or more conspicuous, public places in each ward. Before the election, the clerk shall publish a composite specimen ballot containing the names of all the nominees in a newspaper having general circulation in the city. On election day, when the polls are opened, the clerk shall post an instruction poster in each voting booth, and 3 instruction posters and 5 specimen ballots in the voting room outside the guardrail enclosure.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A21,C8,C10 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 19, §2 (AMD).

§2555. Election by plurality

In a city election, unless otherwise provided by municipal charter, the person who receives a plurality of the votes cast for election to any office is elected to that office. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§2556. Recount; challenge for office

Sections 2531-B to 2533 apply in a city and govern recounts of elections for office, referenda and the procedure for challenging a person who claims title to an office. [PL 2011, c. 255, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 608, §16 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 255, §9 (AMD).

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