

Voting In Vermont Transcript

Female: Do you solemnly swear or affirm that whenever you give your (information) touching any matter that concerns the state of Vermont

Male 1: In Vermont taking the voters oath is the first step to participating in our democratic tradition. Voting and democracy go hand in hand, here in Vermont we have a long history of being involved whether in town meeting or in presidential elections, having our say is the hallmark of being a Vermont. Today over 7 out 10 of Vermont eligible voters exercise their democratic rights by voting and now casting your ballot is easier than ever, yet not ever one feels they can exercise their right to vote.

Male 2: Can we vote on Election Day? It seems I can never get to the poll when they are open.

Male 1: You can vote early, anytime 30 days before Election Day either at your town clerk's office or at home, just call or stop by your clerk's office to get a ballot

Female: this is your material, this is your ballot, mark it the way you want and put it in this envelope, seal it, make sure you fill this so that the ballot would count and then send it back to us in this envelope.

Male 1: If you are sick or disabled, a ballot can be brought to your home by two justices, there's even curbside voting, this is when a ballot is brought out to you, if you can't manage to get to the polling place because of a disability.

Female 2: There are so many signs and people, it can be very confusing. How would I know what to do? Would I need my ID?

Male 1: There are a lot of signs and people at the polling place on Election Day. The people outside cannot block your way in, they can offer you materials but you do not have to take them, once inside the polling place you would be asked to state your name, you do not have to show an ID, once your name is been found and check off the master voting list, you will be handed a ballot. Voting is private; you will be shown to a curtain space where you can vote. There are 3 kinds of ballot we use in Vermont: A paper ballot and two types of machine ballots, in any case you must put a mark beside your candidate of choice, you cast your ballot by either folding or placing the paper ballot in the ballot box or by inserting the machine ballot into the voting machine. Election workers are always on hand to help if you need it.

Female 3: What if I make a mistake on the ballot? Can I get help if I need it?

Male 1: You have the right to ask for assistance and either two election workers would assist you or you can ask the person of your choice, if you make a mistake on your ballot, you may request another one.

Female 4: What if I can't remember the names of the candidates I want to vote for?

Male 1: You can bring a list of the people you wish to vote for or their brochures into the voting booth but remember to take those materials when you are done, you are also entitled to bring a person of your choice to the voting booth to help you. If you need you may also bring a magnifying glass or other aids along to assist you.

Male 3: Can I write in names and not vote for some of the candidates on the ballot?

Male 1: You can write in and vote for candidate for any office you wish, you do not have to vote for every office on the ballot. The votes for the candidates that you do choose will still be counted. Remember before you can vote, you must register and take the voters oath, the many places to do this include your town clerk's office, the department of vehicles and other state offices with your mail-in and driver's license renewal and county fairs and other public events. Anyone can help you fill out the form, you need only sign your name, it's that easy. Remember though, it's important to register only in the town where you actually live, to learn more about voting in Vermont visit the secretary of state website at WWW.sec.state.vt.us or call 1-800-439-VOTE.

It's every citizen's right to vote. Why don't you?