



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452

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To: Essex Community Parks & Recreation
From: Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk and Treasurer *CM*
Date: October 24, 2016
Re: RGSC Vote

I have been Town Clerk for 15 ½ years and the November election will be my 32nd election prepping from start to finish. This was the most difficult election to try and figure out how to handle a local vote during a State/Federal election where a portion of voters are outside of their district. It was my decision and mine alone that this would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to organize and to minimize the confusion for those voters in the section of Pearl Street that are part of the Town for State and Federal elections. The Secretary of State agreed it would be difficult, but not impossible.

Let me provide some background information that might help clarify my decision.

The reason the merger vote occurred during a November election in prior years is because from 2000 to 2010 the Village was its own district, so no one voted outside their district for a local election during a state/federal election. The merger vote was strictly a Yes/No vote so I was able to put that question on the state/federal ballot, thereby making it available 45 days prior to the November election. After the 2010 Census, a part of the Pearl Street voters from 173 – 261 Pearl Street belong in the town district during a state/federal election.

The Rec election is not strictly a Yes/No vote. It includes candidates for three board positions. State and local election laws are different. The state requires state/federal ballots to be available 45 days before the election. That date was September 23rd. Petitions for a local election are due the 6th Monday before the election. That date would have been October 3rd. Then ballots have to be prepared, printed and sent to clerk. The 20-day period brings that to October 19th, less than three weeks before the election. To date, we have done approximately 1,800 absentee ballots. Those voters who already voted by absentee would not have received the local ballot. Those voters would have to re-request an absentee ballot for that local vote.

In order to make it work, I would have had to set up a separate room for the village voters at the town district so the Pearl Street voters would vote the state/federal ballot in the gym with the Town District, go to a separate room to vote the local vote, and then they would have to go to the village to vote the village local vote, again in a separate room with separate checklists and poll workers because they would be out of their district and not on the village checklist. The chances of the Pearl Street voters getting a local ballot in the town will throw off numbers at the end of the night as well as having voted outside their district. There is no separate room at the Middle School. I use the gym and lobby to separate the Town district from the Town/Westford shared district. School is in session that day, so there is no other available space. Also, I am using all machines to handle the voters and the large amount of absentee ballots we will need to feed through the voting machine, so the Pearl Street ballots would have to be hand counted at each polling place and tallied in at the end of the night.

I hope this offers some clarification for holding the RGSC vote as a separate election in December.

TOWN MANAGER	PARKS AND RECREATION	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSESSOR	FINANCE	TOWN CLERK	LIBRARY	POLICE
878-1341	878-1342	878-1343	878-1344	878-1345	878-1359	879-0413	879-0313	878-8331