

14:07:18 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Why did we not reschedule this session if it overlaps? We were made aware of this on the 21st

14:13:31 From Louise Spencer : It states at the very top for use by people who are "physically disabled".

14:14:24 From Jean Lightfoot : Is that form available at the SOS website, and easily findable?

14:14:51 From Mary Wilke : I've searched for it on the SOS website but haven't been able to find it

14:15:36 From Ruth : He is saying the voter needs to fill out 2 separate registration forms? Did I hear that right??

14:15:58 From Jean Lightfoot : No, just the request and then the actual form.

14:16:21 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Please note that many citizens are unaware that REAL ID is not proof of Citizenship. This is always an issue

14:18:46 From Liz Tentarelli : As far as I can figure out, the only proof of citizenship is birth certificate (assuming one hasn't changed one's name since then), US passport, or naturalization papers. Problem is that such documents are kept in bank safe deposit boxes, by many people, and banks aren't open. So this is a big problem for many people.

14:19:14 From Vicky Nawoichyk : I could not agree with you more Liz

14:19:23 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Nothing electronic is allowed

14:19:45 From Vicky Nawoichyk : we just had to update the EO#43 because fax & email were not allowed

14:20:31 From Judy Krassowski : Jean Lightfoot, that form is currently unavailable for public access and it seems that it must be requested

14:21:04 From Vicky Nawoichyk : If we do not have all the required documentation of ID, age, domicile & citizenship the voter cannot be registered as this is a requirement. We have to reject the application which rejects to vote

14:21:08 From Vicky Nawoichyk : This is a pickle we are in

14:21:11 From Jean Lightfoot : Thanks, Judy. That means our TC will still not allow someone to register absentee without requesting an absentee ballot.

14:21:25 From Judy Krassowski : Jean, that's how this looks

14:21:50 From Judy Krassowski : Jean, all the paperwork works together

14:22:22 From Jean Lightfoot : Yes, it does. And, unless an absentee ballot is requested, then our TC sees no way to register to vote absentee.

14:22:42 From Olivia Zink : Jean - you can find the form on page 208 of the 2018 Election Procedure Manual (2018-2019) <http://sos.nh.gov/ElecOff.aspx> under training

14:23:48 From Judy Krassowski : Olivia for the win!

14:24:27 From Kyri : Nobody is faster with the links than Olivia!

14:25:11 From Olivia Zink : It only has one of the two forms. It doesn't have both forms

14:26:01 From Liz Tentarelli : Any government that makes it so hard to find a key document as has just been illustrated is not doing its job of serving the people. That Olivia can find it is a credit to Olivia, not to the Secretary of State's website.

14:26:46 From Kyri : Olivia has been trying to navigate that site for quite a while now.

14:26:52 From Kyri : She's got some experience

14:27:55 From Liz Tentarelli : So there's Mr. Scanlon's statement: we

don't want people downloading this document.

14:28:22 From Liz Tentarelli : Yes, Mr. Cook! Put them up there!

14:28:43 From Kyri : Control

14:29:45 From Mary Wilke : If they were written in plain English and the procedures were straightforward probably there wouldn't be so many mistakes.

14:29:54 From Judy Krassowski : It is an interesting question. If the public can access, the control could be QUALITY CONTROL at the checklist end; this leads to online voter registration with a paper printout if needed - so much easier all around

14:30:16 From Kyri : That's right, Judy.

14:31:49 From Jean Lightfoot : Thank you, Olivia. Found the forms - It does say only for voters with disabilities. But, under the EO, I guess I could argue to my TC that this is the form to use for COVID. Not sure how you actually communicate this to a voter who is not actually physically disabled, but just afraid.

14:33:39 From Liz Tentarelli : I think the challenge for all us in voter support organizations like Open Democracy and League of Women Voters etc. is to put this in simple language. I have been hoping that this committee would get around to that, even hiring a professional to do some wording that we could all use. Now I'm not sure it's going to happen.

14:34:52 From Judy Krassowski : That's where Olivia's concept of the sticky note comes in - with some text that says in a more succinct manner, oh btw, this also applies to your concerns about not wanting to catch Covid-19 while coming to the polls

14:35:36 From Judy Krassowski : The sticky note could be slapped on forms as they go out - or on people - however - the education has to happen somehow

14:38:37 From Liz Tentarelli : I was around in 2012 when photo ID first went into effect. The education of town officials was not sufficient to prevent signs going up in towns reading "You must have a drivers license to vote:" LWV members were barging into town offices to demand that kind of wording be taken down, replaced with "bring a photo ID if you can." Same with town websites. I think the challenge will be just as big this time around, to make clear that ANYONE can vote absentee.

15:01:42 From Vicky Nawoichyk : They are just starting to present on Cyber security

15:02:27 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : The Derry Town Clerk told me yesterday he will not send out absentee registrations to anyone.

15:02:43 From V Turner : Wow.

15:03:14 From Liz Tentarelli : This is why we need an Exec Order--to let TCs know they need to do this.

15:03:16 From Melanie Levesque : We should be able to download the Absentee voter reg form and the Voter reg form from the sos website. Although it is duplicative. We should be able to remote notary if necessary per governors Emergency Order. Educate people on the process. Streamline the process. This is a state of emergency. I Agree with Kathy.

15:03:48 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : The abs registration is an application. No one is registered to vote until the supervisors consider the application and qualifications. There is no harm in making the application widely available.

15:03:48 From Louise Spencer : rss 656:16 specifically provides that a

person may apply to “the city or town clerk or the secretary of state for a voter registration form provided for in RSA 654:7”

15:03:56 From V Turner : I agree with Kate also. We currently have a huge bottleneck here.

15:04:37 From Louise Spencer : Thank you Ms. Hanna - your point is very important.

15:04:40 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : My town clerk is adamant and accused my statement of the law as twisting for political purposes.

15:05:12 From Donna Stamper : YES! Kate less barriers not more!

15:05:34 From Vicky Nawoichyk : COVID is now considered a disability

15:05:48 From V Turner : Then you need to modify the absentee registration form to fit the current times.

15:05:58 From Vicky Nawoichyk : We do not approve the applications if they are missing information

15:06:06 From Vicky Nawoichyk : I agree with V

15:07:54 From claudia : could whoever is on the phone mute herself.

15:07:55 From V Turner : We also need to add the fillable forms where the voter enters data on the front end to apply for an absentee ballot and/or an absentee registration application, as was demonstrated by Luke Cuomo the other day.

15:08:01 From Louise Spencer : Deputy Secretary Scanlon did you respond to Ms. Hanna’s request that the registration forms be posted on the website?

15:08:54 From Mary Wilke : And it would be helpful to put in the FAQs under a heading “who can register by absentee?” that people worried about catching COVID, people with physical disabilities and people who are out of town may use absentee registrations. Right now it’s hard to find anything about the right to use absentee registration even for people who traditionally have been allowed to do so.

15:09:49 From V Turner : We already have that front-end functionality in ElectionNet. That is simply changing how the data gets input and who inputs it. The system then validates the data, and that information gets passed on to the TC or CC.

15:09:58 From Mary Wilke : What’s related to safety is that we want to encourage as many people as possible to use absentee procedures, and if they’re difficult to use then people won’t use them and will feel a need to go in person or forego their right.

15:09:59 From Kyri : A clear and user friendly website is critical for voters to learn what is possible for voting and how to do it.

15:10:38 From Louise Spencer : Yes we have long known there has been a problem with the SoS website which makes it all the more appalling that HAVA funds have not been spent to update it and make it voter friendly.

15:10:58 From Kyri : These pieces are inter-related.

15:11:00 From Louise Spencer : We are paying the price for the prior negligence now.

15:11:02 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : The CARES money is to make elections safe. The way to do that is not have a throng of 2500 people registering on elec day. Public information is THE issue to conducting elections safely.

15:11:13 From Kyri : It is critical that the committee understand this.

15:11:33 From Louise Spencer : Exactly.

15:12:30 From Kyri : Thank you, Mr. Cook.

15:12:37 From Louise Spencer : Yes, Mr. Cook has it right.

15:12:39 From Kyri : Great explanation

15:13:03 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Yes, Mr Cook! It is far less expensive than staffing the polls and providing PPE.

15:13:11 From Ruth : The Covid situation has brought into sharp focus the fact that the SOS website is horrendously non-user-friendly. That's even apart from the internally contradictory statements, as noted by EVL earlier. If you want people to vote, you don't place one barrier after another in their path.

15:14:00 From Kyri : Great explanation, Dr. Sherman.

15:14:09 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Thank you Mr. Sherman

15:15:04 From Louise Spencer : A friend of mine was told yesterday by the Secretary of State's Office that the website was due to be update in a month but we have heard nothing of that here. It would be helpful to hear from the SOS office if the website is under construction.

15:15:21 From Louise Spencer : Thank you Senator Sherman.

15:15:40 From Jean Lightfoot : Change that Absentee Ballot Request for Physical Disability for this one year to say INCLUDING COVID-19 under EO #.

15:16:18 From Kyri : People are going to behave differently during a public health emergency. People don't want to come to the polls. As an election official, I want people to stay home and still vote.

15:16:28 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Because they cant register when town halls are open. Abs reg is critical.

15:16:33 From Louise Spencer : That may be the case in "normal" times but we are not in "normal" times, Rep. Griffin.

15:17:45 From Jean Lightfoot : This is not "normal" times. Both absentee and polling places are important, but right now, absentee registration is the most urgent to get addressed.

15:17:54 From Steven Goldstein : Working on the polls without addressing absentee regisgtration and voting

15:17:59 From Kyri : Rep. Griffin seems to think this pandemic is not very serious and will be gone by fall.

15:18:18 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Nearly 1/4 of Derrys voters register in last month and elec day.

15:18:31 From Melanie levesque : We need to educate people to send ballots in early.

15:18:32 From Kyri : The public health officials disagree with Rep. Griffin.

15:18:34 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : CLERKS DO NOT REGISTER ON ELECTION DAY

15:19:03 From Jean Lightfoot : I heard that, too. Once again, why doesn't a legislator understand what a Supervisor does?

15:19:03 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Not only will we have COVID to worry about we also have to worry about FLU season\

15:19:11 From Vicky Nawoichyk : So this will complicate things more

15:19:13 From Louise Spencer : \$ can be spent to educate and encourage people to register ahead of time...that's the point.

15:19:18 From Kyri : If you educate people that they can register and vote absentee, they will do it. Public education is key.

15:19:22 From Ruth : Rep. Griffin is concerned about the safety of polling places, as are we all. But the best way to reduce crowding on election day is

making the absentee voting process clearer and easier.

15:19:28 From Louise Spencer : Yes, Mr. Cook.

15:20:28 From Steven Goldstein : If we concentrate only on what happens at the polls and ignore registering and voting by mail, then the entire process will be MORE crowded and less safe for voters and election officials.

15:21:07 From Louise Spencer : And where is the EO on voter registration? It certainly would be helpful to have that available to the committee.

15:21:53 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Our population in southern NH is mobile. Many people move between major elections. The town clerk is only open til 6. No one prefers to said in line for 3 hours to register and then another line to vote. If they could register conveniently ahead of time, they would.

15:23:03 From Kyri : The control of registration has nothing to do with forms available, but at the point of registration by the clerk or supervisor.

15:23:07 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : The AG and SOS already declared covi dmeets the disability exemption. Legally they must be allowed to use disability exemption to register absentee.

15:24:00 From Jean Lightfoot : They need to make a 2020 version of the forms. They do this all the time. Not a big deal.

15:24:13 From Louise Spencer : Can someone on the committee please ask the AG's office when the EO will be available. Does it address any issues related to the forms and procedures for registering absentee?

15:24:37 From Ruth : Luke could probably create all the necessary forms in a few minutes.

15:24:43 From Kyri : That's a good question, Louise. Mr Cook is pretty attentive to the comments. Perhaps he'll see this.

15:26:04 From V Turner : If we do not want to post the registration form on the website, we should then make sure that people can be able to apply for the registration form online OR dowload the application form online.

15:26:53 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : People have been eligible to use the disability exemption to register absentee since the AG/SOS announcement on April 10. And yet callers are still being told registration is NOT available now 2 months later. Clerks need to understand the process and the emergency orders allow it.

15:27:12 From Katherine Prudhomme O'Brien : I will talk to the Derry Clerk about this. I had business at town hall recently, it was a long wait but not 3 hours.

15:27:13 From Kyri : We're moving away from from having forms accessible pretty quickly.

15:27:26 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Hotline to call if a resident cant get the forms sent by clerks?

15:27:31 From V Turner : We are trying to divert people from the polls in as many ways possible.

15:27:32 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Right.

15:28:16 From Kyri : Not all clerks got the memo.

15:28:46 From V Turner : I agree with Kathy. The screening happens when the forms are RETURNED, not when they are ASKED FOR.

15:28:49 From Vicky Nawoichyk : How about a session on WMUR

15:29:02 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Why can we not have someone represent this and do a PSA

15:29:16 From Vicky Nawoichyk : This is way to important to talk about communication and not take action on it

15:29:31 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Over Communication is ok during this time

15:29:49 From Kyri : "Reach out in multiple modalities" is the right idea.

15:30:15 From Louise Spencer : Do we know how many town offices are currently open and how many are closed? Are people able to reach a live person to answer their questions?

15:30:27 From Jean Lightfoot : The forms are misleading to the normal person. They need to be adjusted to add in the COVID for 2020 only!

15:30:52 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Most towns are working but the doors are locked.

15:30:57 From V Turner : Ours will continue to be closed, as it shares a lobby with the PD, and there isn't enough space to ensure social distancing.

15:31:10 From Vicky Nawoichyk : I know Exeter is open but closed to public traffic they are apt only

15:31:31 From Kathy Seaver : Louise, I asked that question also, and everyone who answered said that they were open, just not letting people in and that they were waiting on customers either curbside or remotely. Again, not everyone answered.

15:31:32 From Jean Lightfoot : Hopkinton is closed, but available for appointment only.

15:31:46 From Vicky Nawoichyk : I think many small town offices will remain closed given social distancing is near impossible in hallways etc

15:32:02 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Mine has a drive through. Callers requesting to register have been told they cant until the clerks hear from the state. So in 8 weeks, there is one reg from drive-through, which an asst did ag TC instructions. Message with caller's number was tossed on purpose.

15:32:06 From Katherine Prudhomme O'Brien : the first thing to do in Derry is find out what is going on and what the TC's reasoning is. I'll ask him today or tomorrow

15:32:10 From V Turner : Not seeing people in person feels more like closed than open to me.

15:32:29 From V Turner : More than double

15:32:48 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Yeah V, under SOE all town offices were to be closed to public

15:33:08 From Vicky Nawoichyk : at least until May 31

15:33:58 From Louise Spencer : It seems critical that voters be able to talk in real time with someone who can answer their questions about the forms and procedures. Perhaps there could be a way for a registrant to swear to an affidavit over the phone or by zoom or some other means than face to face.

15:35:20 From Supervisors of the Checklist Derry NH : Katherine, the issue is that he thinks he is in charge of voter registration. He is not. The supervisors have authority over registration and the voter checklist. The clerks role in registration is ministerial online. I wrote to him yesterday and reiterated all this. He has not responded yet. This is just an ongoing issue with no reading the law, guidance from SOS, and so on.

15:37:00 From Kyri : Is this questionnaire on the sos website?

15:38:13 From V Turner : Can we buy irons with CARES money?

15:39:01 From Mary Wilke : Kyri, I don't see the questionnaire on the sos website under the Select Committee.

15:39:52 From Kyri : Mr. Scanlon, where can we see the questions that you sent out to clerks? Is it possible to see them?

15:40:42 From Ruth : All of the surveys and forms and questionnaires being discussed should be viewable on the SOS website.

15:41:00 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Can you tell us what towns responded to the questionnaire?

15:41:13 From Kyri : I was under the impression the National Guard was going to distribute PPE to towns and cities.

15:41:34 From Kyri : The Dept. of Health talked about that last week.

15:43:42 From Louise Spencer : I don't see how this committee can determine how CARES money needs to be spent unless it understands what the SOS intends to spend and on what, including whether any of the HAVA funds will be used.

15:45:46 From Louise Spencer : Mr. Fitch's comments raise these questions.

15:47:19 From Jean Lightfoot : Our town would definitely like to know how these grants will work.

15:47:40 From Kyri : Are you thinking each town will choose what it wants for PPE? or there will be a recommendation and centralized purchase?

15:48:04 From Jean Lightfoot : Will we run into a supply problem as the election approaches? Just as we did as the pandemic cranked up. If so, we should be ordering things now!

15:48:08 From Kyri : The Dept. of Health testified to this last week.

15:48:36 From Louise Spencer : I would hate to see the bulk of the CARES money spent on accounting issues. Please try to streamline and centralize the process.

15:48:52 From Jean Lightfoot : I totally agree, Louise!

15:49:00 From Kyri : The Dept of Health guy said we'd save money with centralized purchasing.

15:49:07 From Kyri : And they distribute.

15:49:16 From Jean Lightfoot : Let's get purchasing, then!

15:49:48 From Kyri : Sorry, dept of Safety.

15:49:59 From Kyri : Correction to all my above comments.

15:51:21 From Donna Stamper : National Guard could help with trucks and distribution

15:51:21 From Louise Spencer : Is the Secretary of State's office willing to spend ANY money beyond CARES and what it might normally spend to ensure safe and secure elections during COVID?

15:51:36 From Louise Spencer : If not, why not?

15:52:13 From Liz Tentarelli : If SOS is saving HAVA \$ for a rainy day, someone should point out that 2020 is that day!

15:53:05 From Ruth : If it's true that HAVA funds were spent on the Archives building, then that says a lot about priorities.

15:53:37 From Louise Spencer : It is true, Ruth.

15:53:43 From Mary Wilke : If the federal govt. didn't step in, would we not do anything to address COVID in elections? Do we know for sure that \$3.2 M is exactly what we need for safe inclusive elections? Assuming not, then shouldn't the State contribute?

15:54:04 From Kyri : Most definitely, Mary.

15:54:47 From V Turner : You can nuance that by having a multiplier: x number of masks per voter

15:55:09 From Mary Wilke : Or are we willing to settle for "not quite

safe” or “not quite inclusive” in order to avoid the State making any contributions from HAVA?

15:55:35 From Kyri : That is a worry.

15:57:34 From Ruth : Maybe the poll workers will "not quite show up".

15:57:56 From Liz Tentarelli : Thank you to the entire committee, and Mr Scanlon and Mr Fitch, for all the work you are doing to make sure our elections go well.

15:59:39 From Kyri : The committee is working so hard and being so thoughtful about our concerns. I do appreciate it.

16:00:34 From Ruth : They have a difficult job here.

16:01:48 From Kyri : Yes, Ruth. It's not easy to do a job with hundred of critics.

16:02:21 From Louise Spencer : Yes, we are very appreciative of the committee and all of their work. Thank you for welcoming the public comment and input. And thank you for your leadership, Mr. Cook.

16:03:14 From Donna Stamper : Yes it's a huge job. I also appreciate their thoughtful deliberation. It is so complicated.

16:03:49 From Kyri : People show their driver's license all the time. That is not a cyber security risk.

16:05:21 From Judy Krassowski : This is really quite something to see you all work through this process - we do not envy any of you this job, and thank you for your patience with us and our questions. This is civil discourse at its best. Thank you!

16:05:43 From Kyri : Please, a witness when you need to be social distancing is not a very helpful requirement

16:07:07 From Kyri : Thank you, Mr. Scanlan.

16:07:28 From Kyri : I didn't say impossible.

16:08:38 From V Turner : And maybe impossible for some. We have to consider the people who can't risk that.

16:09:46 From Kyri : Was that a yes?

16:11:13 From Kyri : In the end, we are grateful you all are doing this work.

16:11:51 From Mary Wilke : Thank you SO much to the committee for your diligence and hard work!