

14:13:32 From Liz Tentarelli : Rep. Karen Ebel sponsored that bill after difficulties getting her mother's ballot delivered from the nursing home to the town clerk. Thank you, Rep. Ebel!

14:13:44 From Vicky Turner : What about elderly housing?

14:15:11 From Louise Spencer : Redundancy is always helpful so if the information can go out from multiple sources, that would be good. Important, though, that it be consistent.

14:15:38 From Liz Tentarelli : I don't recall the wording allowing delivery from senior living communities as opposed to care communities, but we could check.

14:16:49 From Christine Seibert : Many facilities are long-term care and shorter-term rehabilitation care.

14:19:48 From Vicky Turner : There are many low income housing complexes that have a mix of disabled folks, families, and elderly people who are living independently. Many of them have challenges getting to the polls, but might not have anyone doing outreach to help them get absentee ballots.

14:20:54 From Christine Seibert : Very true, I have come across that firsthand when canvassing, as volunteers we were able to have them fill out the application and mail it.

14:21:24 From Christine Seibert : I do not know what happened when they got their ballot, though.

14:23:03 From Vicky Turner : Yes, Christine, I found that when canvassing as well. They also don't have an administrator or designee to deliver their ballots. This is a problem, as many of them don't have a family member nearby.

14:25:19 From Judy Strakalaitis : When election officials go to nursing homes, they use regular in-person registration.

14:25:54 From Christine Seibert : Even if they are in the same city their Ward more than likely changed as well.

14:26:03 From Judy Strakalaitis : Absentee registration only applies when someone cannot register in person with an election official.

14:26:07 From Brendan Williams : I think that congregate independent senior housing is definitely a concern. They are not licensed, but they house an older population, and, putting them more at risk, they don't have the personal protective equipment that licensed facilities do. As they're not licensed, I'm not sure how you can best contact them.

14:26:26 From Kyri : Non-residents should not be going into these facilities to register voters. It's not safe for the residents.

14:27:09 From Judy Strakalaitis : It is their option to keep current registration or register in town where they live now.

14:27:18 From Brendan Williams : Right, Kyri, and plus it would be illegal right now under the CMS no-visitation order for nursing homes.

14:27:40 From Louise Spencer : Good point, Kyri. Generally a good idea but not in these COVID conditions.

14:27:52 From Louise Spencer : Also good point Brendan

14:27:55 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes. Everyone must register in new town.

14:28:21 From Kyri : The public health crisis will not go away by the fall elections. So they will need to register absentee.

14:28:32 From Judy Strakalaitis : If they send in an absentee ballot request but are still regd in prior town, TC sends abs ballot and abs reg packet.

14:29:03 From Louise Spencer : Thank you Judy S. for your expertise.

14:29:56 From Brendan Williams : We fully support your efforts. I'm jumping off the call for yet another call! You might consider changing the law to allow CCRCs expressly.

14:29:57 From Christine Seibert : Can things even be delivered by hand to nursing homes right now?

14:30:08 From Judy Strakalaitis : Population at the major nursing home we visit to register voters is pretty stable. See lots of the same people for years. That facility is hard hit right now.

14:31:15 From Judy Strakalaitis : All nursing homes need to do is print abs ballot requests now and residents send them in now. That triggers abs registration process. That is what all nursing homes should do now. No need to wait.

14:32:02 From Liz Tentarelli : The bill from 2019 about delivery of ballots from nursing homes is HB531. It mentions specifically nursing homes and residential care facilities.

14:33:02 From Judy Strakalaitis : We don't need to bring abs ballot requests. Nursing homes can print them. When a resident sends the abs ballot request, the clerk checks if they are on the CL. If not, they send the absentee registration packet. That is how nursing homes can handle registration any time.

14:33:31 From Kyri : Thank you, Dr. Friedman. These are all important points.

14:34:03 From Christine Seibert : They can maybe have scheduled times, have two entrances and exits. Have everyone bring their own pen and have extra for those who don't.

14:34:44 From Kyri : Dr. Friedman, can we have covid testing for poll workers and election officials before and after the election days?

14:35:43 From Kyri : What do you think?

14:36:03 From Christine Seibert : This is #1. This might be an even better reason to let people know now ASAP with an ad campaign and the news to go ahead and vote absentee.

14:36:22 From Pete Basiliere : Ideally we will receive guidance by May 22nd because the place, time and date of the September primary must be posted on June 1. The select board needs a few days to make a decision to change location. The space required by social distancing within and outside the polling place will determine whether the usual place can be used.

14:36:48 From Kyri : We're getting pretty down to the wire on these decisions and policies.

14:37:57 From Pete Basiliere : And what if they wear a face mask but it has campaign material on it? Or wear a face mask but it doesn't cover their mouth and nose?

14:38:42 From Louise Spencer : Perhaps we can have a national guard person in full protective gear to deal with people who are refusing to wear a mask or who have a fever.

14:39:35 From Gina Balkus : I am speaking

14:40:01 From Louise Spencer : is your computer volume up Gina

14:40:01 From Gina Balkus : I will try to call back in

14:53:34 From Daniel Frye : David, this is Daniel Frye, and I'm now here. I just emerged from our meeting with the Department of Ed Commissioner, but can speak at your convenience.

14:55:00 From Melanie Levesque to Orville Fitch(Privately) : I like your

background :)

14:56:01 From Vicky Turner : Here's where a user friendly voter portal at the SoS would come in handy

15:01:11 From DEE ANN DECKER : I wonder if the USPS could waive the need for return postage for any absentee ballot.

15:02:00 From Kyri : The USPS is broke. The state needs to pay for return postage on absentee ballots. That's a typical solution in other states.

15:15:06 From Jean Lightfoot : Can she please identify herself?

15:17:04 From bonniewinonamackinnon : Glen Brackett: Hear Hear !! Safety depends primarily on people NOT coming to vote in person.

15:20:19 From Christine Seibert : We need to get on top of the registration. The clerks need PPE asap. Install a partition and have people make an appointment or something.

15:20:43 From Vicky Turner : With absentee registration and voting we have a two-fold problem: dissemination and delivery. (outgoing and incoming). We need to expand WHO can do both.

15:22:41 From Kyri : Thanks, Janice, for speaking on these problems.

15:22:57 From Judy Strakalaitis : The longer it is before a state announcement re party affiliation and absentee registration, the more pent-up demand. And the more people will have to show up in person at the supervisors session on June 2. Lack of direction to TC on how to handle those on an on-going basis is putting us and the public more at risk as time passes.

15:23:05 From Christine Seibert : Very Well Said Janice!!! This is what I go through every day. My clerk is only available by email.

15:23:40 From Judy Strakalaitis : Absentee registration is not mentioned on SOS site or town/city sites.

15:23:58 From Jean Lightfoot : Exactly! There is no real communication from anyone that absentee registration is generally available.

15:24:06 From Vicky Turner : I agree with Judy on both of her previous comments.

15:24:21 From Judy Strakalaitis : There is no form to request an abs registration application.

15:24:26 From Kate Coon : i am sending you these pages, Kate, from the Sos website.

15:24:32 From Jean Lightfoot : I've looked for it and can't find it.

15:24:39 From Kyri : Great point, Janice. That website is a nightmare.

15:24:40 From Kate Coon : it's terrible.

15:24:51 From Jean Lightfoot : Website is an absolute nightmare.

15:24:56 From Kate Coon : the answer janice is no

15:24:56 From Judy Strakalaitis : SOS will have to create a form that people can use to kick off the absentee registration process.

15:25:13 From Vicky Turner : Bingo. Great point Janice!

15:25:37 From Christine Seibert : June 2

15:25:42 From Judy Strakalaitis : Town clerks are NOT sending them out. They are telling callers they don't know and are waiting for direction from state.

15:25:46 From Jean Lightfoot : Our question, exactly - supervisors have no idea how that will be accomplished.

15:25:47 From Christine Seibert : Thank you so much Janice

15:25:56 From Vicky Turner : Party change cannot be done via SoS website

15:26:32 From Kyri : I'm surprised the USPS has not been consulted. Their

a major part of making absentee voting a success.

15:26:54 From Kyri : "They're"

15:27:12 From Judy Strakalaitis : I need to plan how to accommodate the pent-up demand for party changes and abs registration. If town clerks are told how to do it now, that would be a huge help and reduce risk of exposure for supervisors and public.

15:27:47 From Christine Seibert : I would like to see the RSA she is speaking of. I know someone who was recently told she had to come in person to get her absentee application when she had a broken ankle.

15:27:59 From Connie Lane : The SOS should have an accessibility "expert" review its website and all the information relevant to voting. If they need names, I can supply them. "Accessibility" includes using simple language, ease of use, disability issues, etc.

15:28:01 From Judy Strakalaitis : Right. Only way to register or change your registration now is in person with the town clerk. Until they hear otherwise from the state.

15:29:23 From Christine Seibert : Also the forms that they send doesn't have the return address for the local clerks office on it.

15:30:14 From Kyri : The USPS can provide postage-paid absentee ballot envelopes.

15:31:11 From Kyri : <https://civicdesign.org/tool-kit-for-scaling-up-vbm/> This site has a lot of resources for scaling up vote by mail.

15:31:27 From Kyri : <https://about.usps.com/election-mail/election-mail-resources.htm>

15:31:36 From Kyri : <https://about.usps.com/kits/kit600.pdf#page=7>

15:32:13 From Christine Seibert : The issue is that some clerks seem to be telling people that even though they are already registered to vote, they have to still come in to get their absentee ballot application.

15:32:21 From Connie Lane : You can get a permit and pay for the postage. Non-profits often do that.

15:33:21 From Kyri : The USPS can answer all these questions.

15:33:38 From Jean Lightfoot : Ask the official USPS these questions.

15:35:58 From Jean Lightfoot : Identify himself?

15:38:59 From Kyri : NH has only had voter ID since 2012, I believe.

15:40:30 From Jean Lightfoot : Identification?

15:43:50 From Christine Seibert : I second that motion, Kevin!

15:44:54 From Kyri : PPE, N95 masks, face shields, and testing for poll workers and election officials.

15:44:56 From Kyri : Please

15:47:38 From Connie Lane : Can the SOS and AG expand their memo to include absentee voter registration? It is silent on that issue.

15:47:54 From Christine Seibert : Hand sanitizer! What about the booth curtains?

15:48:05 From Kyri : Disinfectant!

15:48:41 From Kyri : I hadn't thought about the curtains. That is an issue.

15:48:55 From Christine Seibert : That's why I won't use redbox

15:49:39 From Judy Strakalaitis : Clarification in writing would help. But Dave told media it applies to registration as well. And confirmed it in the hearings. The issue is that the instruction and abs reg affidavit couple it with

absentee ballots (not abs ballot requests). So clerks feel they cannot act now and are not registering in person or absentee at all.

15:50:40 From Connie Lane : Please have a reading and accessibility expert review that sample ballot.

15:51:12 From Kyri : The same expert should check every bit of the website as well.

15:52:33 From Connie Lane : Yes, Kyri - I suggested that earlier! The ballot should be drafted assuming no more than an 8th grade reading level - ideally, no more than 6th grade.

15:53:04 From Judy Strakalaitis : Supervisors have been told we can accept party changes or other changes in writing. But we haven't been able to have that confirmed in writing so we cannot publicize it. The only option people have is to come to the session on June 2 or be locked into the party they are registering in now for the state primary. We already have issues at the primary with people who didn't understand they needed to change back after voting. In this cycle, the time to change was literally a month after the pres primary. Then town bldgs. closed. We don't want to prevent people who know the law and want to change party affiliation but do not currently have a way to do so by the cutoff date.

15:55:17 From Judy Strakalaitis : Create a form to request an absentee ballot packet. There is no form now.

15:57:03 From Connie Lane : Has the revised ballot been circulated for comment?

15:58:35 From Sam Rounds : advice on absentee party change need to be addressed NOW

15:58:38 From Vicky Nawoichyk : Thank you Dana!

15:59:04 From Judy Strakalaitis : Many absentee ballots are done in person at town clerk. Can TC have accessible voting equipment available by appt at town hall?

16:00:14 From Judy Strakalaitis : Agree, John Lisle. We need expert input .

16:01:40 From Judy Strakalaitis : Can't social distance to register voters. 5-10 mins. Handing docs betw 3 or 4 people.

16:02:30 From Christine Seibert : Use their height.

16:02:45 From Judy Strakalaitis : That will impact the checklist session on June 2. We need answer asap. People must show ID to register to vote or sign affidavit.

16:03:09 From Kyri : We voted in NH for several centuries without voter ID. We've voted with it for 6 years.

16:03:21 From Judy Strakalaitis : Please note we need to know for June 2 session.

16:03:53 From Christine Seibert : Technically we don't check id for absentee to be mailed

16:04:04 From Todd Rainier : Correct, Judy. More time continues to pass without firm, publicized, firm direction.