

13:03:35 From Louise Spencer : Ode to Billy Joe  
13:04:57 From Kyri : Congratulations, Louise! I think you're the winner.  
13:05:16 From Louise Spencer : One of my favorite songs!  
13:07:07 From Kyri : Now I've got an ear worm.  
13:07:19 From Vicky Turner : Ode to Billie Joe, Brad  
13:13:14 From jeskeland : I am more than happy to do that!  
13:16:34 From Louise Spencer : Still not seeing the draft report on the website. Would be great if it could be posted. Otherwise very hard to put this discussion in context.  
13:17:19 From Louise Spencer : In addition to urging people to vote absentee, people should be encouraged to register ahead of time, either in person or by mail (or by OV if available).  
13:17:44 From Louise Spencer : The goal is to reduce crowds and lines on election day.  
13:22:40 From Louise Spencer : COVID19 is not just another one of 30 corona viruses. It is a novel and dangerous virus that has killed over 100000 Americans. Please name another coronavirus that has done that.  
13:24:32 From Steven Goldstein : One issue that has not been brought up - since the primary is a day after labor day, setting up the polling places could be difficult since we probably cannot get access to schools on the day before. And if we need to process absentee ballots on a later day, it would take some time to get the tabulators set up back in city halls if we have to vacate the school on Wednesday.  
13:25:05 From Katy Cutshall : And not jus 100k people - 100k people in 3 months not to mention long lasting negative effects for many others.  
13:25:33 From Louise Spencer : Yes, Katy..thank you for making those critical points.  
13:29:29 From Kyri : It would be helpful if we could follow along with a copy of the report.  
13:31:41 From Louise Spencer : Report please.  
13:32:24 From Steven Goldstein : Yes please.  
13:36:48 From Pam Smarling : I see the link to the report now but it leads to an error message  
13:38:14 From Louise Spencer : I was able to download it. It is a PDF document. Thank you!!  
13:38:44 From Kyri : Can't find it Louise. Where is it?  
13:40:15 From Louise Spencer : Under proposed action items on the page where you find the agendas. You may need to refresh :)  
13:40:17 From Vicky Turner : It would be nice to get some firm guidance on this.  
13:40:47 From Kyri : Got it. Thank you.  
13:44:17 From Steven Goldstein : /Thank you.  
13:44:31 From Vicky Turner : Agree with Kathy. Voters who wear a mask shouldn't have to wait.  
13:45:41 From Kyri : Looking at the report, it looks like sneeze guards for supervisors and ballot clerks at the polls are not a firm recommendation?  
13:50:52 From Vicky Turner : SoS should have some latitude after researching options and consulting with other states for expert advice, over what type(s) of initial mailings work the best  
13:51:08 From Vicky Turner : EDDM to every household is around 100,000

13:52:08 From Judy Strakalaitis : What abt absentee registration?

13:53:35 From Vicky Turner : There is language to that effect, Kate, but it is buried. I like the idea of having it at the outset. Also the advice that the committee strongly recommends that the SoS consult with an Election Mail Specialist and play let's make a deal with the USPS ought to be up front and center.

13:53:52 From Louise Spencer : I agree Judy that absentee registration should be paid, particularly if the registration form is sent with the ballot. People will be very confused that one is paid and the other. They may also try to put everything in one envelope.

13:54:20 From Vicky Turner : NCOA data could help to update the checklist

13:55:07 From Louise Spencer : How much extra would it be to include pre-paid registration return.

13:57:14 From Vicky Turner : Options similar to this:

13:58:25 From Vicky Turner : "Options similar to this" leaves the door open to there being a fourth option that is even better.

13:58:51 From Vicky Turner : up to 3.3 oz

14:05:19 From Kyri : If you put the "official election mail" image on the envelope it will flag it for voters and will teach them to look for it. It's very distinctive.

14:05:51 From Chuck Mitchell : There is a cost factor between the post card and an envelope with folded sheets.... the handling costs will be significant.

14:06:19 From Judy Strakalaitis : Because you need to be a registered voter for other reasons. It should be de-coupled from voting.

14:06:50 From Vicky Turner : Other states send out a voter unique postcard with a barcode identifier on it. The return postcard would be QBRM - postage is only paid if the voter returns it. Voter tears the postcard off, it returns to a central location, where the barcode is scanned, and the absentee ballot request goes to the local clerk. Saves a ton of time and labor, as well as paper and postage. The technology exists to do this.

14:07:17 From Judy Strakalaitis : But people need to be able to register any time, they don't need to wait til abs ballots are available.

14:09:34 From Louise Spencer : The hotline needs a live person who can answer questions.

14:09:50 From Judy Strakalaitis : AAG said it does

14:10:15 From Judy Strakalaitis : Dave Scanlan has said repeatedly it applies to absentee regs

14:10:21 From Kyri : The SOS and AG have said that the covid excuse for absentee voting also applies to absentee registration.

14:10:38 From Louise Spencer : We are trying to reduce the number of people who show up on election day which will at many polling places means lines and crowds well over 10 people...sometimes hundreds of people.

14:10:40 From Mary Wilke : In my polling place, the registration lines are very long. Don't we want to avoid them?

14:11:02 From Judy Strakalaitis : CLERKS do not handle returned abs regs. Supervisors do. Are we still going through this?

14:11:35 From Kyri : Teach voters to recognize the Official Election Mail graphic and to look for that when their ballots or registration packet arrives.

14:11:49 From Louise Spencer : The public health policy imperative is to limit the bottlenecks and lines on election day. Whatever we can do to make absentee registration easier and more accessible will help reduce risk to voters

and election workers.

14:11:50 From Vicky Turner : Judy, it's different in different places

14:11:53 From Jean Lightfoot : Clerks CANNOT handle any registrations. Just like Supervisors CANNOT deal with the sending and receiving of absentee ballots.

14:11:59 From Judy Strakalaitis : Supervisors will be the people who deal with whether abs reg returned establishes qualifications. Talk to SUPERVISORS.

14:12:50 From Vicky Turner : Clerks do take in registrations and review them as they are being filled out in ,my town. We supervisors have the final approval and enter the data

14:12:56 From Kathy Seaver : Jean - Super Clerks have to deal with the registrations because they have no supervisors who are in electioNet.

14:12:56 From Judy Strakalaitis : It may be handled differently in practice in different towns. But by law it is the supervisors who evaluate applications and decide.

14:12:59 From Jean Lightfoot : I think that maybe City Clerks deal with registrations, but in most of the TOWNS the Supervisors do the registrations, is that correct?

14:13:10 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes

14:15:24 From Judy Strakalaitis : Vicky, clerks have a ministerial function only. They check things are filled out in person etc Just the way tax collectors apply state motor vehicle laws as a ministerial function.

14:15:27 From Kyri : When the census went out, 39% of households responded after 2 mailings. Of those, 96% of them completed their census online.

14:16:18 From Judy Strakalaitis : All the fake census forms sent as fundraisers drove down mail returns also.

14:16:32 From Louise Spencer : That's very helpful data Kyri

14:16:49 From Jean Lightfoot : Thanks, Kathy. It seems like there are generalizations being made and, clearly, it can't be done!

14:17:09 From Judy Strakalaitis : Candidates and parties often send out absentee ballot applications. So it must be clear that the SOS one is from the state.

14:17:11 From Louise Spencer : Yes all of you election folks are true public servants. Thank you!

14:17:28 From Kyri : Good point, Judy.

14:18:04 From Louise Spencer : Please include return postage for return absentee registrations. This is going to be a huge point of confusion when the ballot and registration come together!

14:19:33 From Vicky Turner : Cost estimates for absentee ballot returns are based on prepaid postage, which is a permitted process. SoS pays the postage, saving 5 cents per envelope, then distributes them to the towns

14:19:42 From Louise Spencer : The clerks and SOCs made clear that it creates issues if the ballot and the registration come back in the same envelope since the registrations cannot be done until the ballot is processed.

14:19:46 From Olivia Zink : Yes, I think you want to reimbursing communities for mailing out ballots minus the 10%. Increase postage cost.

14:21:02 From Jean Lightfoot : Louise - it's the other way around. The Abs. Ballot cannot be processed until the Abs. Registration is accepted and processed. LOL See, I said it was confusing!

14:21:49 From Louise Spencer : Again, please remember that there are also

HAVA funds available. We still have not heard if the Secretary of State intends to use any of those funds in this time of emergency.

14:21:52 From Kyri : Has anyone consulted with "Ballot Scout"? It is a company that works with SOS and elections officials to set up the most cost-effective postage plans.

14:22:48 From Kyri : It is a great idea to use a graphic design company to help put together simple graphics.

14:23:13 From Kyri : You could use it for the website, for distribution to print media, and for information sheets.

14:23:22 From Vicky Turner : That looks interesting, Kyri

14:24:18 From Kyri : I think it's usually wise to consult experts who have some experience with what it is you want to do.

14:25:13 From Vicky Turner : Registration packet usually rides with ballots or ballot applications. Am I right about this, Kathy?

14:25:27 From Judy Strakalaitis : But it needs to be available separately!

14:26:13 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes, Vicky. But absentee registration must be available any time to anyone who qualifies for the disability exemption.

14:26:35 From Chuck Mitchell : i'd prefer more money for the postage costs of mailing out the absentee ballots and hiring extra staff. But only after sufficient funds be made available for PPE for all poll workers.

14:26:37 From Jean Lightfoot : Exactly, Kathy. That's the way we've always done it in Hopkinton.

14:26:47 From Vicky Turner : I agree Judy. It is hard to estimate postage for that since we have never done it that way before...

14:26:58 From Judy Strakalaitis : That's why some clerks wont send them out now.

14:27:09 From Louise Spencer : Consulting experts on postage, publicity and design would be money well spent.

14:30:54 From Judy Strakalaitis : Thank you, Kathy.

14:30:57 From Louise Spencer : It seems like it would be helpful for the Secretary of State to issue guidance on the point that Ms. Seaver and Ms. Hanna are making.

14:31:00 From Jean Lightfoot : Not all Town Clerks will do that. Kathy does it well, but others don't. There is no clear explanation from the SOS about this. It should be reiterated from that office.

14:31:11 From Vicky Turner : What Kathy is doing is best practice. Guidance needs to be especially clear this year. I agree with Kathy.

14:31:44 From Louise Spencer : It seems more important than ever this year that the Secretary of State send out guidance whenever possible on issues such as this so that there is consistency and clarity.

14:31:48 From Judy Strakalaitis : Absolutely.

14:32:15 From Jean Lightfoot : The SOS needs to state it clearly - that absentee registration is allowable - not obliquely hidden within the absentee ballot instructions. And, show the link to the form for this purpose.

14:32:40 From Judy Strakalaitis : Providing consistent wording for town websites is very important so that every applicant in the state is told the same thing.

14:33:24 From Louise Spencer : Absolutely, Jean. And I think Judy makes a critical point, too.

14:33:41 From Vicky Turner : That was figured into the totals

14:33:45 From Kyri : The SOS and AG have still not released their official guidance memo on absentee registration. We have been expecting this for over a month.

14:34:19 From Judy Strakalaitis : Yes. Jean!

14:34:26 From Vicky Turner : I figured that in at a 5% base rate, which I subtracted from the turnout

14:34:39 From Olivia Zink : 75,305 voted Absentee in 2016

14:34:50 From Judy Strakalaitis : I've been expecting it since Gov's announcement on April 3 and AG/SOS memo on April 10.

14:35:11 From Judy Strakalaitis : You're quick, Olivia.

14:35:45 From Louise Spencer : Is Asst. AG Nick Chong Yen able to give an update on the status of the official guidance memo/directive?

14:35:47 From Vicky Turner : we also figured two different absentee participation rates

14:35:48 From Jean Lightfoot : Olivia has all that stuff at her fingertips - or in her head! I'm not sure.

14:36:30 From Vicky Turner : repeat please tom?

14:37:00 From Louise Spencer : Would the committee please ask for an update from the Asst. AG as the SoS guidance could well impact all of the discussions here.

14:37:50 From Louise Spencer : Any that is not covered by CARES can be paid for from the HAVA funds and the committee should recommend this if they feel the expense is important.

14:38:48 From Vicky Turner : Both outgoing and return postage numbers assume a 5% base registration rate, which was subtracted from the turnout numbers. It is just an estimate

14:38:53 From Kyri : Connecticut is using most of their Cares Act grant to pay for postage.

14:39:27 From Kyri : Postage and PPE

14:41:29 From Kyri : The stats do back that up, Mr. Van Loan.

14:42:01 From Liz Tentarelli : More to the point, the voter who doesn't need to go to the post office to buy stamps is more likely to use the absentee ballot.

14:42:10 From Vicky Turner : What Gene is saying is backed up by real numbers in states that do vote by mail. Paying return postage for ballots increases turnout considerably.

14:43:17 From Louise Spencer : In these times when both individuals and towns under such economic stress, it would be helpful for the committee to recommend that all of these postage expenses be covered. HAVA funds can also be used if CARES is not sufficient.

14:43:43 From Louise Spencer : Please ask the Deputy Secretary about using HAVA funds to keep the towns whole.

14:44:45 From Vicky Turner : The quality and content of your initial mailing could save postage farther down the line

14:45:16 From Kyri : This is an emergency.

14:45:22 From Louise Spencer : There is \$15 million in HAVA funds!!!

14:45:40 From Kyri : If the SOS is saving for a rainy day, this is it.

14:45:52 From Louise Spencer : What are the HAVA funds committed for? The \$15 million has been sitting there for quite some time.

14:46:07 From Kyri : They are not committed.

14:46:10 From Louise Spencer : This is an emergency. Thank you Ms. Hanna

14:47:06 From Vicky Turner : An online absentee ballot application and voter registration application could save a ton of printing, postage, and labor costs, especially at the town level.

14:47:11 From Louise Spencer : The state cannot downshift these costs to towns and to voters!! Use the federal money to help out taxpayers!!

14:47:28 From Kyri : We need to do what's necessary to avoid a Wisconsin primary situation here in the fall.

14:48:01 From Vicky Turner : We never even researched QBRM and nonprofit postage rates, which other states use for election postage.

14:49:50 From Louise Spencer : Not only are these reasonable priorities they are necessary priorities. Thank you Sen. Sherman.

14:50:26 From Louise Spencer : Is there a plan for use of the HAVA funds? It would be helpful for the public to know.

14:50:32 From Kyri : Mr. Scanlan said on the first day of these meetings that the security funds were available if needed.

14:52:39 From Jean Lightfoot : The towns are struggling financially as it is. They need to be made whole - and I suggest it come from the HAVA funds.

14:53:55 From Louise Spencer : Yes Mr. Van Loan, the state paying up front will help to save on accounting costs. Let's cut those wherever possible.

14:56:13 From Kyri : The cost for return absentee request forms and absentee registration package would go way down if there were online forms for some of these things.

14:56:59 From Kyri : Mail costs, that is.

14:57:00 From Vicky Turner : I totally agree, Kyri. Also the automation of the data entry will save A LOT of labor costs.

14:57:09 From Jean Lightfoot : I agree with Rep. Griffin. We have one that could be modified to be more secure so absentee ballots could be dropped there.

14:59:56 From Louise Spencer : Thank you Rep. Griffin!

15:00:31 From Louise Spencer : Let's just make sure we can afford it...again, HAVA funds if necessary!

15:06:16 From Louise Spencer : Again not to be a broken record but HAVA

15:12:29 From Olivia Zink : HB 1672 will be heard tomorrow in the senate election law

15:12:39 From Kyri : Wait, so we're not expecting absentee registration guidelines to be forthcoming? Did I misunderstand?

15:13:56 From Louise Spencer : Now guidelines forthcoming? Is that right? Asst AG Nick Chong Yen can you also please comment?

15:15:13 From Kyri : Mr. Scanlan, can you clarify that the SOS/AG absentee registration guidance is not coming out until after this committee issues its final report?

15:15:19 From Louise Spencer : I think it is unacceptable that the SOS and AG have failed to provide a guidance that was promised 5 - 6 weeks ago and that was necessary to the work of the Secretary of State's own appointed committee. How is this possible?

15:16:23 From Melanie Levesque : We have been getting a lot of feedback from the cities saying they need the ability to start counting early.

15:17:36 From Melanie Levesque : We have suggestions for a bill on this which the SOS has shown some interest in.

15:21:25 From Louise Spencer : Yes Senator Sherman! Thank you!!  
15:21:26 From Judy Strakalaitis : It is same day registration, not  
absentee  
15:21:47 From Kyri : Maybe the voter can't make it to Kinkos to get  
photocopies.  
15:21:53 From Judy Strakalaitis : But they don't have a copy  
15:22:24 From Judy Strakalaitis : yes. but it is not a problem.  
15:23:00 From Olivia Zink : My birth certificate is at my mom's house not  
at my house. I am going to turn 40 this year but my mom will not give me the  
original document.  
15:23:12 From Judy Strakalaitis : That's why we can't wait to send  
absentee registrations til ballots are available  
15:23:36 From Olivia Zink : My passport has expired so I do not have proof  
of citizenship at my house currently  
15:23:43 From Judy Strakalaitis : Add phone number to the forms  
15:23:59 From Judy Strakalaitis : It is done on a rolling basis.  
15:24:19 From Sharon Kierstead - Alton SOC : Yes, phone number!  
15:24:25 From Melanie Levesque : Thank you Gene!  
15:24:35 From Jean Lightfoot : Most of us Supervisors don't wait until the  
last minute. I think if we hear from the TC that there are a lot of things  
building up, we get together and bring things up to date.  
15:24:45 From Judy Strakalaitis : The work can be done without a session.  
Entered in electionet. Then approved at a later session.  
15:25:25 From Judy Strakalaitis : We can encourage registration by  
absentee by not coupling it with ballots!  
15:26:14 From Judy Strakalaitis : Need a change to affidavits bc they  
require certain witnesses like notaries.  
15:26:29 From Judy Strakalaitis : We will end up with 3000 same day  
registrations  
15:26:32 From Jean Lightfoot : Phones!  
15:26:37 From Judy Strakalaitis : Exactly.  
15:26:39 From Kyri : Thank you, Dr. Sherman!  
15:27:01 From Louise Spencer : Please recommend this - 2020 election  
only.  
15:27:02 From Vicky Turner : What if we have a hurricane and the cell  
towers are out?  
15:27:05 From Katy Cutshall : Don't assume everyone has cell phones  
15:27:11 From Judy Strakalaitis : Affidavits need to have witness  
requirements changed.  
15:27:18 From Vicky Turner : September is hurricane season  
15:27:19 From Kyri : Can the voter upload documents or email their  
documents to their clerk? Is that allowed?  
15:28:03 From Judy Strakalaitis : My co-supervisor said she would not know  
how to send a photo of document.  
15:28:04 From Louise Spencer : Mr. Cook, please read the SB3 decision from  
Judge Anderson.  
15:28:21 From Louise Spencer : This is a very unfortunate decision.  
15:28:33 From Kyri : Judy, wouldn't the supervisor just need to receive  
it, not send it?  
15:28:46 From Louise Spencer : Not Anderson's decision...that is a good one.

The vote just taken is unfortunate.

15:29:03 From Judy Strakalaitis : It puts way more people at the polls bc they cant register ahead easily without a photocopier.

15:30:50 From Judy Strakalaitis : Very worried that abs registration is not made easy and therefore will increase contact at registration at the polls.5-10 mins per applicant. Exchange of docs between 3-4 people minimum.

15:31:48 From Kyri : As a supervisor over 60 with a health condition, please make it easy for people to register absentee because I don't need a lot of people in line in front of me if they don't have to be.

15:32:08 From Judy Strakalaitis : One major city which usually has 800 polling places for their election yesterday could only have 200 bc they cld not get staff.

15:32:24 From Vicky Turner : What about paying for additional clerical hours prior to election day? This will be significant.

15:32:50 From Judy Strakalaitis : Same Kyri.

15:33:45 From Louise Spencer : Staffing is going to be a major issue on election day given how many of our poll workers are retired, over 60

15:34:10 From Vicky Turner : Deploying efficient systems that reduce laborious hand data entry will save extra clerical labor and speed up turnaround time

15:34:32 From Jean Lightfoot : Extra staff would be very difficult in our time because our TC doesn't have enough space as it is.

15:34:42 From Jean Lightfoot : In our town.

15:35:06 From Louise Spencer : Excellent point Vicky Turner

15:35:36 From Judy Strakalaitis : Supervisors are largely unpaid or small stipend

15:36:55 From Jean Lightfoot : I don't mind the additional work, but the space requirements for the volume of absentee ballots and the additional personnel needs create a serious space problem in many towns.

15:39:31 From Kyri : You don't have to prove you are proficient in English to vote. I believe that was made illegal in the VRA of 1964.

15:39:46 From Vicky Turner : Voting specific vocabulary if different from basic proficiency in English conversation.

15:40:25 From Louise Spencer : That does not mean in cannot be translated into Spanish and other languages.

15:40:37 From Melanie Levesque : Is there anything to help facilitate registering during covid?

15:40:41 From Kyri : Don't we have a large population of Spanish speakers?

15:40:58 From Liz Tentarelli : Mr Scanlon, that is the problem--statutes are written by college educated lawyerly types--voters need simplified language about the process. SB3 case in point.

15:40:59 From Connie Lane : They could put the instructions in several languages on the website.

15:41:03 From Jean Lightfoot : Yes, Kyri, we do.

15:42:26 From Kyri : A good website reduces other expenses.

15:42:39 From Louise Spencer : Health and Human Services has it's information available in dozens of languages. <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/>

15:43:48 From Louise Spencer : There is NO excuse for not making instructions available in in multiple languages. What's truly surprising is that it is not already the Secretary of State's practice.

15:44:10 From Louise Spencer : This underscores why having decision makers at the table who represent diverse populations is so essential.

15:44:58 From Jean Lightfoot : 100% agree, Louise. Why are we still thinking that NH is 99% white and English speaking?

15:45:02 From Judy Strakalaitis : Election officials suggested the same thing back in one of the first hearings. Don't remember who specifically said it. It's great that the college student suggested it and captured the attention.

15:46:19 From Judy Strakalaitis : in a big way. He was effective in demonstrating how feasible it is.

15:46:53 From Louise Spencer : The fact that the statute is in English in no way dictates that instructions cannot and shouldn't be available in multiple languages. "In accordance with RSA 659"34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false information when registering to vote...etc" is not exactly easily accessible language to native English speakers let alone ESL speakers.

15:47:19 From Vicky Turner : Secure online forms are used for so many other aspects of our lives. We can do this securely with a well designed form that links to ElectioNet.

15:47:44 From Kyri : How many secure online forms do we all fill out on a regular basis? More than a few.

15:48:06 From Kyri : Plus we have security funds to make sure our security measures are up to snuff.

15:48:20 From Jean Lightfoot : We can apply for a mortgage online! That sure has a lot of personal information.

15:48:56 From Vicky Turner : Make the distinction between a fillable pdf (which would be downloaded and emailed or printed and mailed) and an online form that is linked to the database.

15:49:36 From Vicky Turner : Both of these involve minimal information, as they would be for applications only

15:50:20 From Judy Strakalaitis : It is important to include it.

15:50:58 From Judy Strakalaitis : NH has a tradition of making it easy for candidates to get on the ballot.

15:52:58 From Judy Strakalaitis : PLEASE suggest the party change affidavit at check in the primary be eliminated. Created by EO 43. Counterproductive and won't be available for most voters.

15:54:55 From Connie Lane : Any one can challenge the memo issued by the SOS and AG about Covid 19 being a disability. We should have legislature pass a bill that adopts the language of this memo.

15:55:51 From Liz Tentarelli : It's been a blast hanging out with you guys for the past several weeks.

15:56:19 From Liz Tentarelli : We're here because we agree it's important!

15:56:23 From Jean Lightfoot : Thank you to each of you for all your time and serious thought on these issues. it means a lot to have been able to observe and participate.

15:57:00 From Louise Spencer : Thank you to the committee for all of your hard work and dedication! And thank you for engaging with the election officials and the public participants.

15:57:20 From Louise Spencer : Yay Vicky!! Thank you!!

15:57:43 From Jean Lightfoot : Thank you Kate!

15:58:17 From Louise Spencer : Thank you Kate!!

15:58:20 From Connie Lane : Excellent point, Kate. Thank you.  
16:00:55 From Jean Lightfoot : Me, too, Rep. Griffin!  
16:01:04 From Connie Lane : Even if published, relying on the memo alone  
is risky. It is an interpretation of a statute and EO. Get a specific EO AND a  
new statute.  
16:01:11 From Judy Strakalaitis : Supervisors got explicit instructions  
from SOS/AG that says "Therefore all New Hampshire citizens are able to register by  
mail" Please ask SOS for that memo.