

**ELECTIONS ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED 1/28/21**  
**THE SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**UPDATED 1/28/21 – 9:00 AM**

**MAIL OUT**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS**

- Make permanent mail out to all active registered voters for general elections
- Postage should be paid by the state - both outgoing and return
- They ballots should be mailed centrally

**MUNICIPALITIES**

- Allow them to mail out

**EARLY BALLOTS**

- eliminate the need for the inner certification envelope

**RETURN OPTIONS**

- Expand electronic returns to more people
- Allow multiple return options
- Authorize the use of drop boxes
- Eliminate the requirement for an in-person polling place

**RETURN BALLOTS**

- Use postmark date rather than received date
- Allow early processing

**CHECKLISTS**

- More frequent and easier purges
- Allow removal when tax department gets death certificate

**PRIMARIES**

- Adjust the timing for local ballots when done at primary time
- Find an alternative to the three ballots
- Allow people to request a particular ballot
- Require candidates to maintain the same principle party affiliation in the General Election as they declared in the Primary.

**MISC ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- Allow for the curing of ballots
- Require signature verification
- Clarify the use of nicknames on ballots
- Require write-ins to declare in order to be counted
- Clarify what constitutes a defective ballot
- State should be the holder of the checklists - not the town clerks

## **MISC**

Review the major party requirements

Prohibit corporate contributions

Study and implement public financing

Collect more detailed data - e.g. how many ballots come in after date

Deadlines for independents and minor party candidates

Requirement to be candidate - must have voted in all general and state elections

Rank Choice voting for federal offices

Presidential nominating process

Allow major parties to use rank choice voting in their primary

In GA joint sessions blank votes should be counted as votes therefore part of majority vote

Coordinate date, etc of town and school elections

Review the faithless electro issue

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

1. make sure town clerks who might be hired are independent from Selectboard for elections
- 2- provide translation services - Spanish, Arabic, ASL, Braille and more
- 3- allow 16 year old to vot in state and locally
- 4- consistent voting hours
- 5- make Election Day a holiday

Bruce Olsson–Written Testimony

Chair, Vermont Democratic Party - 1/27/2021

For purposes of tomorrow's discussion, the Vermont Democratic Party supports the following items:

- Universal vote by mail with an option to vote in person on Election Day
- Increased funding for the Secretary of State's office for additional staff and any necessary technological upgrades to support vote by mail
- A curing process for voters who may have incorrectly filled out their ballot
- Requiring candidates to maintain the same principal party affiliation in the general election as they declared in the primary