

# Special Committee on Voter Confidence Meeting Minutes

Approved on June 7, 2022

**Meeting date:** May 24, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

**Location:** Derry Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
14 Manning Road  
Derry, NH 03038

## **In Attendance:**

**Commission:** Bradford E. Cook (Co-Chair), Richard Swett (Co-Chair), Ken Eyring, Andrew Georgevits, Amanda Merrill, Jim Splaine, Douglass Teschner, and Olivia Zink

**Secretary of State's Office:** Secretary of State David Scanlan, Anna Fay, David Lang, and Jennie Taggart

Committee Co-Chair Brad Cook opened the meeting at 1:00 P.M. He thanked Dan Healy, Derry Town Clerk; Tina Guilford, Derry Town and School Moderator; and Nicole Merrill, President of the New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association, for their hospitality.

The Committee received written communications, Co-Chair Cook admitted the letters into record. He announced there was a sign-up sheet for local elected officials and the public to testify.

The members of the Committee stated their names and town/city of residence.

Co-Chair Richard Swett moved to approve the 05/13/2022 draft minutes. Seconded by Andrew Georgevits. All in favor. None opposed.

Secretary of State David Scanlan welcomed everyone, explained the mission of Committee and thanked the members.

## **Local Elected Officials Testimony**

Jonathan Kipp, Londonderry Town Moderator, spoke about his experience during the 2020 election process. He had three suggestions to increase voter confidence: voter education, preprocessing absentee ballots, and voter machine testing.

The Committee discussed preprocessing absentee ballots, clarifying that the actual ballots are not counted prior to Election Day. Secretary Scanlan said preprocessing had expired after COVID.

The Committee and Mr. Kipp also discussed voter education, school involvement, and online education for local elected officials.

Peter Basiliere, Milford Town and School Moderator, spoke about the use of affidavit ballots and the long hours poll workers have on Election Day. He suggested using social media and technology, streamlining the registration and voting process, and allowing voters to change party

affiliation on Election Day could increase voter confidence. He mentioned preprocessing absentee ballots, ballot sample testing, and voting machines.

Committee member Teschner thanked elected officials.

Tina Guilford, Derry Town and School Moderator, discussed preprocessing absentee ballots, the need for voter education on filling out ballots and changing party affiliation, overvotes and voter frustrations on Election Day. She suggested the Secretary of State's office make voter education videos. Ms. Guilford talked about hosting candidate forums and asked about adding candidate contact information to town websites.

Secretary Scanlan said adding candidate contact information online is okay as long as all candidates are included.

Dan Healy, Derry Town Clerk, voiced concerns over why local elected officials were not asked to be on the Special Committee.

Secretary Scanlan explained he did not choose any elected officials because direct participation could be perceived as self-serving in the Committee's findings.

Co-Chair Cook reiterated that town/local officials are invited to all public meetings.

Peter Griffin, Windham Town Moderator, discussed his planning process for elections. He suggested better collaboration with legislators and follow-ups with voting officials.

The Committee and Mr. Griffin discussed the Windham audit and local elected official trainings.

Judy Strakalaitis, Derry Supervisor of the Checklist, spoke about the Windham audit, the CARES Act, absentee ballots, and overvotes.

Joan Dargie, Milford Town Clerk, spoke about voter education, moving the deadline date for party affiliation changes, preprocessing absentee ballots, Windham voting machines, drop boxes, and election training.

Representative Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien of Derry, D-6, spoke about the 2016 election and the investigation. She suggested using educational materials and social media to increase community interest.

Josie Ewing, Plymouth Town Clerk, talked about her 2020 election experience, absentee voting, and strategies to recruit election workers, training, and ways to target new voters. She also spoke about the challenges college communities face.

Nicole Merrill, Windham Town Clerk and President of NHCTCA, spoke about absentee voting confusion, preprocessing, and training webinars. She suggested increasing communication between elected officials and the Secretary of State's office, moving the deadline for changing party affiliation, sending push text notifications to voters, and livestreaming ballot testing/recounts.

Lisa Dufort, Newport Town Clerk, spoke about webinar trainings and hand-counting ballots. She suggested using civics classes, social media, and education to reach out to young voters. Ms.

Dufort also said communicating more with smaller towns could help make training more appealing.

Bob Romeril, New Ipswich Town Moderator, spoke about disinformation, the Windham audit, voting machines, and transparency. He suggested new technology, voter education, the continued training of elected officials, and post-election audits of machines could improve the election process and voter confidence.

Secretary Scanlan stated NH legislators are busy addressing issues with voting machines. He explained some ballots with stray or crossed-out marks were identified as overvotes, but on human observation, the voter's intended pick was clear.

### **Public Testimony**

Peter Burling, Cornish, spoke about his experience with Election Day recounts. He said New Hampshire's system is accurate, fair, and that people believe in it.

Barbara Glassman, Nashua, gave testimony on optical scanners, computerized voting machines, software issues, hand-counting paper ballots, SB366, and SB79. She suggested routine, mandatory audits be hand-counted and publicly observed.

Mary Eisner, Derry, stated that she was involved with the Windham ballot recount and has complete trust and confidence in the election process.

Richard Tripp, Derry, talked absentee ballot folds, same day registration, voting machines, and how a lack of information creates conspiracy theories.

Al Brandano, Kensington, spoke about risk-limiting audits, voting machines, and 2022 Legislative Service Requests (LSR). He handed out a packet of information to the Committee to review.

John Romanowski, Londonderry, voiced his concerns over election integrity. He mentioned the voting checklist, ballots, college student voting, and "ballot harvesting". Mr. Romanowski suggested adding a QR code and serial numbers to ballots would make them more secure and traceable.

Committee member Zink said all ballots are counted and verified by election workers. Co-Chair Swett reassured Mr. Romanowski that ballot harvesting does not occur in New Hampshire.

Corinne Dodge, Derry, described her experience as a poll worker. She suggested educating voters to discourage false information.

Mike Appolo, Derry, testified that when using older computer systems, it leaves room for error. He also spoke about voting machine software, the changes in the 2020 election process, and absentee ballots.

William Hall, Durham, spoke about the election process in his town. He suggested that voters register before Election Day, add a barcode to the ballot to make it traceable, and require State Voter IDs for college students.

Kelsey Douville, Hooksett, spoke on behalf of Kyri Claflin, Supervisor of the Checklist in Concord. The testimony mentioned 2020 election procedures and absentee ballot tracking. Ms. Claflin's testimony also discussed the adoption of an online voter registration system.

Tom Murray, Windham, asked that the record show that he represents himself and is not speaking on behalf of the Government Integrity Project. He spoke about voting machines, overvotes, and the Bedford and Windham election issues. He suggested mandatory training for elected officials.

Co-Chair Cook asked Mr. Murray to send a written list of his suggestions to the Committee.

Louise Spencer, Concord, gave testimony on ballot harvesting, SB418, and voter confusion. She requested that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's office investigate and write a report on confirmed cases of voter fraud in NH.

### **Other Business**

The Secretary of State's Chief of Staff, Dave Lang, informed the Committee that the SOS staff is working on the ADA/WCAG complaint captions for the video of the previous meeting. He said the video will be posted online once the captions are complete.

There was discussion about emails, testimony, press releases, the upcoming meeting schedule, and the Committee's mission statement.

The next SCVC meeting is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in Portsmouth.

Committee member Amanda Merrill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Co-Chair Swett seconded it. All voted in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44pm.

**Addendum to the minutes – additional notes (in bold) written by Ken Eyring, approved by the Special Committee on Voter Confidence on June 7, 2022**

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Co-Chair Richard Swett moved to approve the 05/13/2022 draft minutes. Seconded by Andrew Georgevits. All in favor. None opposed.

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**Local Elected Officials Testimony**

Jonathan Kipp, Londonderry Town Moderator, spoke about his experience during the 2020 election process. He had three suggestions to increase voter confidence: voter education, preprocessing absentee ballots, and voter machine testing.

The Committee discussed preprocessing absentee ballots, clarifying that the actual ballots are not counted prior to Election Day. Secretary Scanlan said preprocessing had expired after COVID.

The Committee and Mr. Kipp also discussed voter education, school involvement, and online education for local elected officials.

Peter Basiliere, Milford Town and School Moderator, spoke about the use of affidavit ballots and the long hours poll workers have on Election Day. He suggested using social media and technology, streamlining the registration and voting process, and allowing voters to change party affiliation on Election Day could increase voter confidence. He mentioned preprocessing absentee ballots, ballot sample testing, and voting machines.

**Mr Basiliere also made the following suggestions/observations:**

- 1. Educate about safeguards in place. Processes in place – when followed – will ensure integrity.**
- 2. Need to streamline the voting process.**
- 3. Need to admit when something goes wrong. Need to be frank with the voters**
- 4. Lastly, technology is a key tool for us. They use ePollBooks to streamline the process. Provides accurate and timely. First come, first served.**
- 5. Expressed concerns of tabulators to be used in widespread fashion in 2024. Will be very old in 2024. As long as ballots must be counted before polls closed... count by hand will be going all night long.**
- 6. What alternative tabulator could be used? Involve as many people who are interested. They have safety and security features in place. Not every community needs to use a tabulator.**
- 7. Tabulators provide ability to produce results on election night.**

Committee member Teschner thanked elected officials.

Tina Guilford, Derry Town and School Moderator, discussed preprocessing absentee ballots, the need for voter education on filling out ballots and changing party affiliation, overvotes and voter frustrations on Election Day. She suggested the Secretary of State's office make voter education videos. Ms. Guilford talked about hosting candidate forums and asked about adding candidate contact information to town websites. **She suggested that voters have the ability to switch party affiliation on election day. 2020 was the only time it was allowed.**

Secretary Scanlan said adding candidate contact information online is okay as long as all candidates are included.

Dan Healy, Derry Town Clerk, voiced concerns over why local elected officials were not asked to be on the Special Committee.

Secretary Scanlan explained he did not choose any elected officials because direct participation could be perceived as self-serving in the Committee's findings.

Co-Chair Cook reiterated that town/local officials are invited to all public meetings.

Peter Griffin, Windham Town Moderator, discussed his planning process for elections. He suggested better collaboration with legislators and follow-ups with voting officials.

The Committee and Mr. Griffin discussed the Windham audit and local elected official trainings. **He does not think the training that is provided by the Secretary of State should be mandatory. He does not think there should be a certification process for election officials.**

Judy Strakalaitis, Derry Supervisor of the Checklist, spoke about the Windham audit, the CARES Act, absentee ballots, and overvotes.

Joan Dargie, Milford Town Clerk, spoke about voter education, moving the deadline date for party affiliation changes, preprocessing absentee ballots, Windham voting machines, drop boxes, and election training.

Representative Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien of Derry, D-6, spoke about the 2016 election and the investigation. She suggested using educational materials and social media to increase community interest.

Josie Ewing, Plymouth Town Clerk, talked about her 2020 election experience, absentee voting, and strategies to recruit election workers, training, and ways to target new voters. She also spoke about the challenges college communities face. **She said Absentee ballots should be pre-folded before shipped to towns. Liked idea of drop box in town hall but not outside.**

Nicole Merrill, Windham Town Clerk and President of NHCTCA, spoke about absentee voting confusion, preprocessing, and training webinars. She suggested increasing communication between elected officials and the Secretary of State's office, moving the deadline for changing party affiliation, sending push text notifications to voters, and livestreaming ballot testing/recounts. **She said agrees the party affiliation change deadline should be closer to election day and that there should be an option to return to undeclared automatically.**

Lisa Dufort, Newport Town Clerk, spoke about webinar trainings and hand-counting ballots. She suggested using civics classes, social media, and education to reach out to young voters. Ms. Dufort also said communicating more with smaller towns could help make training more appealing. **She said the Secretary of State's on-demand webinars were crucial and helpful.**

Bob Romeril, New Ipswich Town Moderator, spoke about disinformation, the Windham audit, voting machines, and transparency. He suggested new technology, voter education, the continued training of elected officials, and post-election audits of machines could improve the election process and voter confidence. **He said, there is nothing to point to to say that we have remedied the issues in Windham.**

Secretary Scanlan stated NH legislators are busy addressing issues with voting machines. He explained some ballots with stray or crossed-out marks were identified as overvotes, but on human observation, the voter's intended pick was clear.

### **Public Testimony**

Peter Burling, Cornish, spoke about his experience with Election Day recounts. He said New Hampshire's system is accurate, fair, and that people believe in it. **He said the State should help fund town election workers.**

Barbara Glassman, Nashua, gave testimony on optical scanners, computerized voting machines, software issues, hand-counting paper ballots, SB366, and SB79. She suggested routine, mandatory audits be hand-counted and publicly observed. **She said ballots should be public documents.**

Mary Eisner, Derry, stated that she was involved with the Windham ballot recount and has complete trust and confidence in the election process.

Richard Tripp, Derry, talked absentee ballot folds, same day registration, voting machines, and how a lack of information creates conspiracy theories. **He said there is a problem with former residents moving to a different town but still voting in the previous town. They need to re-register.**

Al Brandano, Kensington, spoke about risk-limiting audits, voting machines, and 2022 Legislative Service Requests (LSR). He handed out a packet of information to the Committee to review. **He said the Commission on Voter Confidence should refute the facts that are presented in Hacking Democracy in NH. He said he had over 1,000 affidavits that show that voters voted from an address they did not live at.**

John Romanowski, Londonderry, voiced his concerns over election integrity. He mentioned the voting checklist, ballots, college student voting, and "ballot harvesting". Mr. Romanowski suggested adding a QR code and serial numbers to ballots would make them more secure and traceable. **He expressed concern about "I don't know that my vote counts". My ballot goes into a machine, gets tallied and we get the results. He also said that when voters are assisted with filling out their ballots, there should be a signature line by the person who assisted the voter. This would allow for verification.**

Committee member Zink said all ballots are counted and verified by election workers. Co-Chair Swett reassured Mr. Romanowski that ballot harvesting does not occur in New Hampshire.

Corinne Dodge, Derry, described her experience as a poll worker. She suggested educating voters to discourage false information.

Mike Appolo, Derry, testified that when using older computer systems, it leaves room for error. He also spoke about voting machine software, the changes in the 2020 election process, and absentee ballots. **He said that NH as a state has kicked the can down the road. Our computers are from the 1980s. Windham showed vulnerabilities. Voting machines are a black box, and voters do not see what occurs after the ballot is inserted. He also said that Voter ID laws are not disenfranchisement.**

William Hall, Durham, spoke about the election process in his town. He suggested that voters register before Election Day, add a barcode to the ballot to make it traceable. **He said that out of state students are not residents and they go home to another state where they have their**



**licenses and registrations. NH should If someone wants to vote, their license and registration should be in NH.**

Kelsey Douville, Hooksett, spoke on behalf of Kyri Claflin, Supervisor of the Checklist in Concord. The testimony mentioned 2020 election procedures and absentee ballot tracking. Ms. Claflin's testimony also discussed the adoption of an online voter registration system.

Tom Murray, Windham, asked that the record show that he represents himself and is not speaking on behalf of the Government Integrity Project. He spoke about voting machines, overvotes, and the Bedford and Windham election issues. He suggested mandatory training for elected officials. **He said voting machines are not accurate and referenced the Windham audit, when none of the Windham machines matched when processing all of the ballots.**

Co-Chair Cook asked Mr. Murray to send a written list of his suggestions to the Committee.

Louise Spencer, Concord, gave testimony on ballot harvesting, SB418, and voter confusion. She requested that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's office investigate and write a report on confirmed cases of voter fraud in NH.

### **Other Business**

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