

CANDIDATES GUIDE

Welcome to the wonderful world of politics. Whether you are a first time candidate or not this guide should help update you on the regulations surrounding campaigns.

AT THE POLLING LOCATION: Polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. (Presidential 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) All Voters will vote at the Buckfield Community Center/Town Office, located at 34 Turner Street. You may be present at the polls but please read the following guidelines.

YOU MAY:

- State your name
- Wear a nametag (without mention of the office you're running for)
- Shake the voter's hand
- Listen and watch counting procedure
- Bring voters to and from the polls

YOU MAY NOT:

- State that you are running for office
- Ask anyone to vote for you
- Wear any campaign button
- Leave a vehicle parked in voting parking lot with campaign posters on it
- Interfere with the free flow of voters
- Interfere with the count process
- Hand out literature pertaining to anything on the ballot.

Political Advertising:

Campaign buttons may be worn only by persons who are present in the polling place solely for the purpose of voting (dimension of button cannot be larger than 3 inches). A candidate, family member, or other associate of a candidate who is at the polls to greet voters may not wear a campaign button.

Signs bearing political messages relating to an election may not be placed within 250 ft. of the polling place. This also applies to the Absentee Voting location (Town Office 45 days prior to Election) **NO CAMPAIGN LITERATURE, POSTERS, OR SIGNS.**

Examples of how to respond if someone asks you:

Are you one of the candidates?

"Yes, but because I am within 250 ft. of the polling place I may not discuss my campaign with you"

Are you (your name?)

"Yes, I am (name), what is your name? Good to meet you and thank you for coming out to vote"

Which office are you running for?

“I am on the ballot, but I am not legally allowed to discuss this in the polling place. There is a sample on the display board. Thank you for voting.

Who are you running against?

“I’m sorry to sound like I am evading your questions but I am required by law to follow the rules when within 250 ft. of the polling place. His /her name is on the sample ballot in the same section as mine.”

What do you think about (referendum question, political topic on ballot)?

“I wish I had the opportunity to discuss this, but because it’s on the ballot I may not talk about the issue while standing within 250 ft. of the polling place. If you would like to walk over to the parking lot beyond the 250 ft. mark; I would be able to speak to you.”

What other elected positions have you held?

It is okay to discuss your past elected positions, but not the position you now hold if you are running for the same office now.

Would you tell me about your background?

You can discuss anything EXCEPT any reference to your present position if you are running for the same Office you now hold. You are not allowed to mention that you consider your present job to be this campaign. Anything that would promote your campaign is off-limits to discuss.