

Town of Mason, New Hampshire

2020 Presidential Primary, February 11, 2020

Held at the Town Hall, 7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Mason, New Hampshire

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls open at 11:02 am.

The total number of voters on the checklist was 1,031. There were 28 same-day voters who registered for a total of 1,059 and 24 absentee voters. 50 Undeclared voters voted Republican and 168 Undeclared voters voted Democrat. A total of 518 residents voted: 226 Republicans and 292 Democrats, representing a 49 percent turnout.

The Moderator administered the oath of office to the following ballot counters: Bob Bergeron, Kathy Chapman, James Dore, Cheryl Ellis, Devan Fletcher, Liz & Garth Fletcher, Maria & Stanley Francis, Peter Goldsmith, Jon Green, Connie & Gerry Lacasse, Bruce & Laura Mann, Pam McGinnity, Tom Mitchell, Charles Moser, Jeannine & Philip Phalon, Carolyn Place, Wendy Reed, Michelle Scott, Doug & Gwen Whitbeck, Brenda Wiley and Patty Young.

The State of New Hampshire Primary Election results are as follows:

Republican (17 candidates on the ballot)

Rick Kraft	12
Mary Maxwell	12
Eric Merrill	13
Donald J. Trump	190
Joe Walsh	2
Bill Weld	20 <i>There were 6 write-in votes</i>

Democratic (33 candidates on the ballot)

Deval Patrick	3
Bernie Sanders	79
Joe Sestak	1
Tom Steyer	13
Elizabeth Warren	23
Andrew Yang	7
Joseph R. Biden	17
Corey Booker	1
Pete Buttigieg	71

Tulsi Gabbard 9
Amy Klobuchar 47 *There were 10 write-in votes*

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls closed at 7:04 pm. Ballot counting ended at 8:25 pm.

Debra A. Morrison
Mason Town Clerk

Town of Mason and Mason School District Election

March 10, 2020

Held at the Town Hall, 7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Mason, New Hampshire

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls open at 11:01 am. The total number of voters on the checklist was 1,043. There were six (3) newly registered voters and 15 absentee voters. A total of 315 residents voted, representing a 30 percent turnout. There was one voter requiring assistance with their ballot. There were 400 town and 400 school ballots printed.

The results of the Town Election on Article 1 are as follows:

Moderator

Catherine Schwenk 272

Selectman

Louise Lavoie 194

Supervisor of the Checklist

John Suiter 4 [write-in votes]

Library Trustee

Elena Kolbenson 271

Trustee of Cemeteries

Jeannine Phalon 276

Trustee of Trust Fund

Pamela McGinnity 269

The results of the Mason School District Election on Article 1 are as follows:

School Board Member

Anne Richards 245

School Board Member

Tim Leak 256

School District Treasurer

Christine Irlbacher 244

School District Moderator

Catherine Schwenk 253

Results of **Article 2** — Shall the Mason School District accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees or officers chosen as printed in the Annual Mason School District Report?

Yes 256 / No 34 / Article 2 carries

Results of **Article 3** — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein, totaling Three Million One Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two Dollars (\$3,168,942.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million One Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One Dollars (\$3,122,271.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mason School District, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **NOTE:** This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles. The School Board recommends this article 5-0.

Yes 198 / No 97 / Article 3 carries

Results of **Article 4** — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the previously established Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No

amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

Yes 210 / No 87 / Article 4 carries

Results of Article 5 — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established School Building and Grounds Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

Yes 207 / No 87 / Article 5 carries

Results of Article 6 — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be added to the previously established Unanticipated Tuition Cost Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020, unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5-0. (Majority vote required.)

Yes 192 / No 99 / Article 6 carries

Absentee ballots were opened at 1:00 pm.

Ballot clerks included Connie Lacasse, Charlie Moser and Garth Fletcher.

All ballot counters took the oath of office and included Bob Bergeron, James Dore, Garth Fletcher, Judy Forty, Maria Francis, Stanley Francis, Peter Goldsmith, Connie Lacasse, Gerry Lacasse, Bruce Mann, Tom Mitchell, Dave Morrison, Charlie Moser, Carolyn Place, Wendy Reed, Doug Whitback, Gwen Whitbeck and Patty Young. No member of the same household sat at the same counting table. Dee Mitchell was the checklist reconciler.

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls closed at 7:03 pm. Ballot counting began at 7:10 pm and concluded at 8:25 pm. Results of this election were announced at 8:27 pm.

Debra A. Morrison

Mason Town Clerk

Mason Town Meeting

March 14, 2020

Held at the Mason Elementary School, 13 Darling Hill Rd.
Mason, New Hampshire

The 2019 Town Report was dedicated to the residents of Mason for supporting and investing in much-needed infrastructure improvements. The Highway Department moved into their expanded facility, the process of restoration of the Town Hall has begun and the saving and restoration of the Sunny Valley Schoolhouse #5 on Valley Rd. has also begun.

Moderator Catherine Schwenk came to the microphone and called the 2020 Town Meeting to order at 9:02 am. She requested that non-voters wear non-voter credentials and sit in the first row to the Moderator's left. There was no request for interpretive services. She indicated the fire and emergency exits and then introduced those sitting at the head table: Select Chair Louise Lavoie, Selectman Charles (Charlie) Moser, Selectman R. Peter (Pete) McGinnity and Town Clerk Debra (Deb) Morrison.

There were 62 voters and 1 nonvoter present with 1,046 names on the checklist, representing a less than ten percent turnout.

The Moderator acknowledged that preparation for this meeting is a coordinated effort of many individuals and requested a round of applause for their efforts.

The Moderator then reviewed the procedure for voters. Voters wishing to speak should use the microphone and address any questions to the Moderator. Residents need to give their name at the microphone when recognized. All amendments and substantive motions must be in writing (please also print your name) and signed by the maker and seconder.

Five voters may make a written request for a secret ballot vote prior to a voice vote or division vote per RSA 40:4A. Voters and seconders must be present at the meeting to request a secret ballot vote.

Every voter is entitled to speak on a debatable motion unless the meeting, by a two-thirds vote, has ordered discussion stopped. A voter is entitled to speak a second time on the same question provided all voters who wish to speak have spoken.

The Moderator then announced the results of the Town and School District elections held on March 10. Total votes cast were 315 out of a total of

1,046, representing a 30 percent turnout. She declared the winning candidates elected to their respective offices.

Moderator: Catherine Schwenk 272

Selectman: Louise Lavoie 194

Supervisor of the Checklist: John Suiter [write-in] 4

Library Trustee: Elena Kolbenson 271

Trustee of Cemeteries: Jeannine Phalon 276

Trustee of Trust Funds: Pamela McGinnity 269

The following articles were voted on at the polls on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Mason School District Results

School Board Member: Anne [Nancy] Richards 245

School Board Member: Tim Leak 256

School District Treasurer: Christine Irlbacher 244

School District Moderator: Catherine Schwenk 253

Results of **Article 2** — Shall the Mason School District accept the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen as printed in the Annual Mason School District Report?

Yes 256 / No 34 / Article 2 carries

Results of **Article 3** — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein, totaling Three Million One Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two Dollars (\$3,168,942.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million One Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One Dollars (\$3,122,271.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Mason School District, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles. The School Board recommends this article 5-0.

Yes 198 / No 97 / Article 3 carries

Results of **Article 4** — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the previously established Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5–0. (Majority vote required.)

Yes 210 / No 87 / Article 4 carries

Results of **Article 5** — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established School Building and Grounds Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5–0. (Majority vote required.)

Yes 207 / No 87 / Article 5 carries

Results of **Article 6** — Shall The Mason School District raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be added to the previously established Unanticipated Tuition Cost Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010), with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 01? No amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board recommends this warrant article 5–0. (Majority vote required.)

Yes 1920 / No 99 / Article 6 carries



The colors were presented by Drew and Samson Hodges and Assistant Scout Master Don Hodges of Troop 4 in Milford (formerly of Troop 264 in Mason). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Samson Hodges. Samson was presented with a compass and congratulations for reaching his Eagle Scout rank. Catherine said that George (Schwenk) would be proud of him.

There was no objection to waiving the reading of the Warrant.

In regards to voting by ballot, it was clarified “to please come out of your seats to the center aisle and receive a yes/no ballot. Come down the center aisle to the ballot box. It is your responsibility to place your vote in the box. You may pocket the other half of the ballot or put it in the wastebasket. Please return to your seat by the side aisle.”

Article 2: Louise Lavoie moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its agents, auditors, committees or officers chosen as printed in the Mason Annual Report.

Article 2 carries unanimously.

Article 3: Charlie Moser moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million, Fifty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars (\$2,050,983) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Jack Flanagan noted that our liability insurance went up \$4,000. Is this through the municipal association? Charlie said that figure is set in a pool and we use Primex. Jack suggested we go outside of Primex to look for other insurance. So noted.

Martha Jacques said she used to be the town prosecutor. “We no longer have a prosecutor and the Chief performs this duty himself. Why do we still have a line item for a prosecutor if he’s doing this on his job time? Why do we pay him an additional \$7,500?” Charlie responded that it’s specialized work and part of his compensation package.

Article 3 carries.

John Lewicke made a motion to advance to Article 12 because of its importance. Seconded by Mike Bromberg. Motion to advance carries.

Article 12: Charlie Moser moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61-64 inclusively, which provides for an optional property tax exemption from the property’s assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying solar energy system equipment under these statutes. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Charlie explained the town has had a solar exemption for some time now. Last year the legislature expanded the definition of solar energy systems. If a municipality readopts after January 2020, solar energy means we would expand the amount of this exemption to include panels, inverters, batteries, etc. — all equipment to supply energy to a building.

John Suiter wants to know how many people are we talking about for this

exemption? Charlie: “I see two now, but I don’t know how many people currently have solar energy systems.” John Lewicke: “This gives a special benefit to a small number of people. We’re paying the difference. This is an expensive hobby and we’re paying an unfair share.” Dotsie Millbrandt: “I regret voting for the solar exemption a few years ago. There are exemptions for many good things, but we all need to pay taxes.”

Mike Judge: “If this encourages more people to go solar, what is the impact to the town?” Charlie said it’s hard to calculate because we don’t know how many people have systems. It just takes the value of the electrical system off the equipment. The government is trying to encourage people to become more carbon neutral.

Michele Scott: “Part of the Energy Commission’s mission is to try to reduce energy consumption. It’s not all about taxes. Rebates from the government will expire in December. Please see their table and think of cleaner air.”

Connie Lacasse: “What happens when there’s a fire and the panels are on the roof? Is it a risk to fire and police and risk for insurance?”

Fire Chief Fred Greenwood said, “Connie, I appreciate you worrying about this. We’ve trained for this and it is a concern, but we fight it in a different way. If it looks like the roof will go, we’re not near it.”

John Suiter said somebody needs to pay for this as it’s coming out the budget. Charlie responded that it doesn’t take anything away, it just doesn’t add to the budget.

Rob Doyle made a motion to move the question. Motion passes, ending discussion.

Article 12 fails.

Article 4: Pete McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand (\$14,000) to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Pete explained this article helps us to budget to replace police cruisers and will not increase the tax rate so we can just purchase them.

Article 4 carries unanimously.

Article 5: Louise Lavoie moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-One Thousand Dollars (\$61,000) for the purpose of repair and maintenance of the Town’s paved roads, or take any other action relative thereto. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Louise explained that this is a continuation of a project started back in 2015. “We’ve taken on a couple of pretty large projects, including Russell Rd. We returned that road to dirt last year and we’ve had the engineering done on it to replace a culvert. This will help complete the culvert project. We’ll let it sit this year to compact and will repave in 2021.”

John Lewicke: “Why is there not a similar article to help the dirt roads with crushed rock, and how much will that cost?” Louise: “We increased [the budget] for more aggregate and will be purchasing different sized stone to address this. We also signed a contract that will allow the town to apply calcium chloride ourselves.”

Road Agent Dave Morrison said, “We’ve only had two mud seasons this year compared to the four last year. We did have to buy a lot of stone. Our supplier increased their costs and hopefully we should have some money left to apply more crushed stone. We’re checking out other options as well.”

John Suiter asked how many miles of paved roads we have. Dave said there are about 20 to 22 miles each of paved and dirt. John asked why the paved roads are getting more attention. Louise replied that that was not exactly true. Pete McGinnity explained that the actual maintenance of dirt roads is cheaper than for paved roads. John added that he thought Dave was doing a great job.

Dave said that there’s a lot of maintenance on dirt roads. “For paved road restoration, we have to hire people to come in.”

Bette Goen: “I live on that dirt road [Russell]. We weren’t happy after improving our property for 40 years. Fifty-50 dirt/paved roads? Welcome to Mason. If we insist on paving, you’re going to price retirees out of this town. The highway dept. is doing the best they can on an affordable budget.”

Connie Lacasse: “Wasn’t Briggs Rd. going to be finished?” Louise said the road was so deteriorated it had to be taken back to dirt. Dave said, “We were hoping to do it with our own equipment, but it was so thick we couldn’t break it up without reclaiming it, and we didn’t have the money to reclaim it.” Connie said they were told this would have a finished coat. Charlie explained there is no plan to pave Briggs. Ann Moser made a motion to move the question which carries unanimously.

Article 5 carries.

Article 6: Charlie Moser moved and it was seconded to if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Charlie says we have \$50,400 in capital reserve. Fire Chief Fred Greenwood says that with the cost of a new engine — between \$600K – \$700K — he’s looking at a program through the federal government to get a free one like Temple did. “If we have money set aside, it will reduce the hit. We plan to get rid of engine 4, the computers on it aren’t friendly all the time. Engine 3 is very reliable.” He has a person cruising the web sites looking for something, however, the used fire truck market is thin. One may be available from the federal government.

John Suiter asked what we’ll do with the old truck. Fred said we’ll get what we can for them.

Article 6 carries unanimously.

Article 7: Pete McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Highway Department Equipment Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Pete said this is putting money aside for a rainy day. “We usually try to buy used equipment to reduce the burden on the taxpayers.”

Jack Flanagan noted on p. 22 that, “we didn’t spend all of the budgeted money from last year. Why don’t we use that?” Pete explained that we start with a zero-based budget every year and we don’t always spend all the money for various reasons. “If the money is not spent, it goes back into the general fund. We then look at the general fund and if there’s money, we take it out and use it to adjust the tax rate, essentially giving it back to the taxpayers. We had one truck that wouldn’t pass inspection. Because the fund amount was raised last year, we were able to replace that truck with no additional funds needed.”

Rob Doyle made a motion to move the question and the motion carries.

Article 7 carries.

Article 8: Louise Lavoie moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of creating and maintaining recreational trails on town properties, and further to authorize withdrawal of said sum from the Forestry Maintenance Fund. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Louise said the forestry fund has \$106K and this has no impact on the tax rate. The Forestry Committee is also partnering with the Conservation Commission.

John Suiter asked if the trails include the railroad tracks. Liz Fletcher said this money will be used on the quarry emergency road. The bridge needs to be replaced so an ambulance can get into the quarry.

Article 8 carries unanimously.

Article 9: Charlie Moser moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Seventy-Two Dollars (\$4,072) for the purpose of reimbursement of the Conservation Commission for the legal and appraisal expenses related to the acquisition of Lot E-18, and to further authorize withdrawal of said sum from the Forestry Maintenance Fund. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Charlie explained that last year the town received two parcels of land — Wolf Rock [on Scripps Lane] and the corner of Greenville and Wilton Roads. There are expenses associated with these acquisitions. Reimbursement is appropriate since one of them is managed by the Forestry Committee.

Article 9 carries.

Article 10: Pete McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$54,000) for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new police cruiser with funding as follows: Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to come from the Police Revolving Fund and the balance of Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000) to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Pete explained that this will not affect the tax rate at all. The police revolving fund comes from detail work and is another account that builds and can support any police related needs.

Article 10 carries unanimously.

Article 11: Louise Lavoie moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Hall Renovation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for funding renovations to the Town Hall, and to raise and appropriate the amount of Three Thousand Ten Dollars (\$3,010) to place in said fund. This amount of Three Thousand Ten Dollars (\$3,010) to come from unassigned fund balance (this represents a donation previously received by the Wolf Rockers Square Dance Club. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by Selectmen.

Louise said that the Wolf Rockers gave us the balance of their funds after disbanding last year. This fund will allow us to put this money into a fund to also allow all the fundraising done by the town to help renovate the town hall.

Ann Moser said, "Curt Dunn would have approved of this."

Article 11 carries unanimously.

Article 13: Pete McGinnity moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$24,490) for the purpose of completing an engineering study for improvements to the Abbot Hill Rd. and Starch Mill Rd. intersection. This special article is a special article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Pete said this will be used for the wetland permits, etc. needed for that intersection where we have many issues with the culverts and flooding. "The same engineer did Russell Rd. and we'll be able to apply for grants to get the funds to improve that intersection somewhere between \$200K to \$300K."

Barbara DeVore said that this is money well spent. A portion of the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund goes to the culvert projects.

Article 13 carries unanimously.

Article 14: Louise Lavoie moved and it was seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$8,993) for the purpose of purchasing and installing an alarm system at the Highway Garage. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Selectmen.

Louise said they chose this to be a separate article instead of burying it in budget. It was recommended by Primex to protect the town from major loss of our equipment, which was evaluated to be \$493,000 for insurance purposes.

Mike Judge asked if this reduces our rates. Louise responded that this really protects our equipment from loss. Pete said municipal insurance is very different from homeowner insurance. Primex insures most of the municipalities in the state, so we're part of a larger pool and is based upon the number of claims made in that year. Mike asked who monitors those alarms. Louise said a third party monitors through Hollis Dispatch.

Article 14 carries unanimously.

On motion of Michael Bromberg and duly seconded, Town Meeting was adjourned Sine Dai at 10:37 am.

Following Town Meeting, Moderator Catherine Schwenk administered oaths of office to Louise Lavoie, Pamela McGinnity and John Suiter.

Debra A. Morrison
Mason Town Clerk

Town of Mason, New Hampshire **Preprocessing of Absentee Ballots for the State Primary**

Thursday, September 3, 2020

On Thursday, September 3, 2020, the following people met at 4:30 pm at the Town Hall to preprocess the absentee ballots received back to this day in order to allow more expeditious processing on election day: Selectman Charlie Moser, Moderator Catherine Schwenk, Town Clerk Deb Morrison, Ballot Clerk Connie Lacasse and Supervisor of the Checklist Dotsie Millbrandt.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this year, the Secretary of State's office has permitted Town Clerks and Moderators to preprocess absentee ballots on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Monday before the election to help with the anticipated increase of absentee ballot requests.

The process includes opening of the outer envelope only of the absentee ballot and checking that signatures on the affidavit envelope inside have been properly executed. The Moderator reads out the name of the person returning the ballot, opens the outer envelope, inspects the affidavit envelope and the Ballot Clerk takes a yellow highlighter and crosses through the name indicating that this ballot has been preprocessed.

There were three ballots rejected due to the affidavit envelope not having been signed. After the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm, Deb went back to the office and called all three people. One individual came back to the office and filled out a new request and absentee ballot. The other two (from the same household) ultimately came and voted on election day. There were 66 ballots that were preprocessed.

Debra A. Morrison
Mason Town Clerk

Town of Mason, New Hampshire

State Primary Election

September 8, 2020

Held at the Town Hall, 7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Mason, New Hampshire

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls open at 11:01 am.

The total number of voters on the checklist was 1,056. There were five (5) same-day voters registered and 83 absentee voters. 64 Undeclared voters voted Republican and 67 Undeclared voters voted Democrat. A total of 403 residents voted: 230 Republicans and 173 Democrats, representing a 38 percent turnout.

The ballot clerks were Connie Lacasse (am and pm), Charles Moser (am) and Garth Fletcher (pm).

The Moderator administered the oath of office to the following ballot counters: Robert Bergeron, Linda Cotter-Cranston, Connie LaCasse, Rob Doyle, Garth Fletcher, Maria & Stanley Francis, Peter Goldsmith, Jon Green, Connie Lacasse, Tammy McCracken, Pam McGinnity, Tom Mitchell, Dave Morrison, Charlie Moser, Jeannine & Philip Phalon, Carolyn Place, Michelle Scott, Walter Ulrich, Brenda Wiley and Patricia Young.

The State Primary Election results are as follows:

Republican

Governor

Chris Sununu	200
Karen Testerman	28
Nobody	0

US Senator

Corky Messner	143
Gerard Beloin	2
Don Bolduc	72
Andy Martin	4 [<i>There was 1 write-in candidate</i>]

Representative in Congress

Steven Negron	121
Matthew D. Bjelobrk	12

Lynn F. Blankenbeker	71
Eli D. Clemmer	12
Executive Councilor	
Dave Wheeler	164
Bob Clegg	50
State Senator	
Kevin Avard	205
State Representatives	
John Lewicke	157
Diane Pauer	155
Edward Dana Arnold	30
Sheriff	
Joshua Homes	60
Christopher Connelly	124 <i>[There was 1 write-in candidate]</i>
County Attorney	
John J. Coughlin	117
Dan Hynes	71
County Treasurer	
David G. Fredette	178 <i>[There was 1 write-in candidate]</i>
Register of Deeds	
Edward J. Sapienza	68
Jack Flanagan	123
Register of Probate	
Elizabeth Ann Moreau	129
David S. Recupero	41 <i>[There was 1 write-in candidate]</i>
County Commissioner	
Robert H. Rowe	172
Delegate to State Convention	
Colton Skorupan	105 <i>[write-in candidate]</i>
	<i>[There were 12 more write-in candidates]</i>

Democratic

Governor

Dan Feltes	44
Andru Volinsky	117 [<i>There were 2 write-in candidates</i>]

US Senator

Paul J. Krautmann	10
Jeanne Shaheen	158
Tom Alciere	4

Representative in Congress

Ann McLane Kuster	166
Joseph Mirzoeff	6

Executive Councilor

Debora B. Pignatelli	153 [<i>There was 1 write-in candidate</i>]
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State Senator

Melanie Levesque	160 [<i>There was 1 write-in candidate</i>]
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State Representative

Brian Rater	119
Chris Wheeler	108 [<i>There were 2 write-in candidates</i>]

Sheriff

Bill Barry	140 [<i>There were 2 write-in candidates</i>]
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County Attorney

Michael Conlon	139 [<i>There was 1 write-in candidate</i>]
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County Treasurer

William Bryk	142
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Register of Deeds

Jim O'Connell	49
Mary Ann Crowell	96

Register of Probate

Elizabeth Ropp	143
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County Commissioner

Suzanne Ketteridge	96
Julie Radhakrishnan	43

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls closed at 7:05 pm. Ballot counting began at 7:32 and ended at 8:50 pm.

Debra A. Morrison
Mason Town Clerk

Town of Mason, New Hampshire
Preprocessing of Absentee Ballots for the
State General Election

Thursday, October 29, 2020

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, the following people met at 4:32 pm at the Town Hall to preprocess the absentee ballots received back to this day in order to allow more expeditious processing on election day: Selectman Charlie Moser, Moderator Catherine Schwenk, Town Clerk Deb Morrison, Deputy Town Clerk Suzanne Kelly, Ballot Clerk Garth Fletcher and Supervisor of the Checklist Dotsie Millbrandt.

Raymond Buckley, appointed by the NH Democratic Party, was there as an official challenger and observed the process.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this year, the Secretary of State's office has permitted Town Clerks and Moderators to preprocess absentee ballots on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Monday before the election to help with the anticipated increase of absentee ballot requests for the 2020 Primary and General Elections.

This process includes opening of the outer envelope only of the absentee ballot and checking that signatures on the affidavit envelope inside have been properly executed. The Moderator reads out the name of the person returning the ballot, opens the outer envelope, inspects the affidavit envelope and the Ballot Clerk takes a yellow highlighter and highlights the name, indicating that this ballot has been preprocessed.

There were two ballots rejected due to no affidavit envelope enclosed. After the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm, Deb went back to the office and called both people. There were 180 ballots out of 187 that were preprocessed.

Debra A. Morrison
Mason Town Clerk

Town of Mason, New Hampshire

State General Election

November 3, 2020

Held at the Mason Elementary School, 13 Darling Hill Rd.
Mason, New Hampshire

Moderator Catherine Schwenk declared the polls open at 8:03 am. There were 1,079 voters on the voter checklist. A total of 957 residents voted, representing an 84 percent turnout. There were 188 absentee ballots cast and 62 newly registered voters.

The Moderator expressed her appreciation to Chris Rush and Wally Brown for setting up the facilities for this election.

The Moderator announced that the outer envelopes of the absentee ballots would be opened in accordance with RSA 659:50 and were subsequently recorded beginning at 10 am per RSA 659:49. Selectman Charlie Moser assisted the Moderator during this process. There were 180 absentee ballots that had been previously preprocessed on Thursday, October 29.

Ballot clerks were Eric Millbrandt and Dee Mitchell in the morning, Garth Fletcher and Sandy LeClair in the afternoon.

Bryan Townsend from the Attorney General's office reviewed the election facilities and process and gave us an A+ rating. He noted our process and setup regarding non-masked voters (those unwilling or unable to wear a mask) was excellent and unique. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this separate voting booth was set up in the cafeteria, away from the general public, with Deputy Town Clerk Suzanne Kelly allowing in one unmasked voter at a time, while Dave Morrison was the "runner," taking their ID to the ballot clerks and collecting their voting materials.

State Trooper Frank Dicenti from Troop B also stopped by to see how things were going and to offer assistance if needed.

During the ballot count process, it was announced that no counters from the same household are to sit together at the same table.

The following ballot counters have taken the oath of office: Bob Bergeron, Kathy Chapman, Bob Doyle, Devan Fletcher, Garth Fletcher, Peter Goldsmith, Jon Greene, Tammy McCracken, Pam McGinnity, Jennifer Messer, Tom Mitchell, Dave Morrison, Brianna Phalon, Jeannine Phalon, Emilie Phillips, Carolyn Place, Michelle Scott and Walter Ulrich.

The New Hampshire General Election results are as follows...

President / VP

Donald J. Trump	535
Joseph R. Biden	380
Jo Jorgensen	31 <i>[There were 3 write-in candidates]</i>

Governor

Chris Sununu	672
Dan Feltes	253
Darryl W. Perry	23 <i>[There was 1 write-in candidate]</i>

US Senator

Corky Messner	483
Jeanne Shaheen	407
Justin O'Donnell	45

Representatives in Congress

Steven Negron	497
Ann McLane Kuster	380
Andrew Olding	47

Executive Councilor

Dave Wheeler	272
Debora B. Pignatelli	322

State Senator

Kevin Avard	546
Melanie Levesque	367

State Representatives

John Lewicke	556
Diane Pauer	497
Brian Rater	309
Chris Wheeler	326 <i>[There was 1 write-in candidate]</i>

Sheriff

Christopher Connelly	552
Bill Barry	326

County Attorney

John J. Coughlin	516
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Michael Conlon	296
Nicholas Sarwark	62

County Treasurer

David Fredette	508
William Bryk	291
Richard Manzo	76

Register of Deeds

Jack Flanagan	537
Mary Ann Crowell	328 <i>[There were 2 write-in candidates]</i>

Register of Probate

Elizabeth Ann Moreau	535
Elizabeth Ropp	336

County Commissioner

Robert H. Rowe	536
Suzanne Ketteridge	338

The Moderator declared the polls closed at 7:06 pm. Ballot counting began at 7:30 pm and concluded at 9:45 pm.

As followup to the election, a representative from the Secretary of State's office came on November 9, 2020 to pick up all ballots cast by the Town of Mason, including absentee ballots, for a recount of certain offices. These ballots will not be returned to the Town, but will be sent to Archives for storage.

Debra A. Morrison
Mason Town Clerk