

Granby Election Information for November 4, 2014

Register Now to Vote in November

Same day voter registration passed in Connecticut in 2013 and will again be available this November. The State legislature has changed our state statutes so that US citizens who are 18 on or before November 4th can register to vote on Election Day. To implement this huge change, which is anticipated to increase voter turnout, unregistered voters can go to Town Hall (not the town's polling site in the Community Gym) on Election Day to register. They must bring proof of identity and proof of residence to vote. If they are registered before 8 pm, they will get to fill out a ballot and then place it in an envelope. If their ballot is uncontested at 8 pm, then it will go to Granby's polling site at the High School where it will be counted separately from the official ballots and the absentee ballots. The Registrar of Voters strongly encourages everyone to register before Election Day, so you can directly place your ballot into the machine to be counted, and avoid any potentially long lines at Town Hall. Unregistered voters in line at Town Hall at 8 pm will not be able to vote on Election Day. Voters need to be aware that voter registration is NON-transferable. If you moved from another town or state, you still need to fill out a new registration card, with your current address, in order to vote. You can do that by mail or online: voterregistration.ct.gov until October 21st. In person registrations are accepted up until October 28th - so the Registrars Office is open all day, from 9 am to 8 pm on this day. You will receive a letter of confirmation within two weeks, please call or email the Registrars if you have any questions.

One Polling Site

For the Gubernatorial Election on Tuesday, November 4th, the polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. All of Granby residents will vote at the same location, in the Granby Community Gym, located in Granby Memorial High School (315 Salmon Brook Street) in the center of town. Traffic is anticipated to be moderate to heavy. It is recommended that drivers access the Community Gym using the High School's entrance off North Granby Road - Route 189, next to Public Works, and leave the polls from Salmon Brook Street - Route 10/202, next to the Middle School. All Granby schools will be closed on Election day, but the Registrars strongly recommend voting between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm if you have the option to do so, as the heaviest voting will be between 6:00 am and 10:00 am, and the second rush will be between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

A Constitutional Amendment Ballot Question

On the November ballot there will be one Federal race for the CT District 1 US House of Representative; Statewide races for Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Attorney General; and local races for the 62nd State House Representative, Judge of Probate for Simsbury Regional, and State Senate for the 7th (Granby District 1) OR 8th (Granby District 2). The following question will also appear statewide on the November ballot:

1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day of an election?

This ballot initiative, if passed, will allow the opportunity for state statutes to be amended by the legislature in future sessions regarding no excuse absentee balloting and early voting. Currently the Connecticut State Constitution prohibits both.

Senior Van Service Available on Election Day

Homebound registered voters can arrange for transportation to the polls by calling the Social Services department at the Senior Center at # 860-844-5353. The service is planned to be offered from 9:00 am to Noon on Election Day and it is strongly recommended that voters call now to arrange for a ride before November 4th.

Voter ID

To check in quickly at the polls, please bring a photo ID. Should you not have a photo ID on election day, but have previously proven your ID, either at the time of your registration or when voting previously, you will need to spend a few minutes at the Moderator table, as there is a state required form to fill out. If you are a brand new voter, and your confirmation letter noted that you have not proven your identity, you **MUST** bring an ID to vote on Election Day; preferably a photo ID or you will be issued a provisional ballot.

Polling Place Vote By Phone

“Vote by Phone” technology will again be utilized for the upcoming Municipal Election on November 4th, 2014. This system is designed to allow people who would prefer to not fill out a paper ballot and for people with disabilities to vote privately and independently on Election Day at the polling site using a specially set up system. To actually cast a vote, you need to be a registered voter and come to the polls on Election Day. We encourage all town residents to try out this system by calling IVS. At the time of this writing, the phone numbers for District 1 and 2 current ballots were unavailable for test voting. However, you can vote on a generic test ballot, 24/7, using the IVS demo line: 1) Call 1-888-661-6366 2) When asked for poll worker ID, enter 1234. When asked for ballot access ID enter 101 (township Addison). 4) Follow the voting instructions to make ballot selections. It will take a little patience to listen to all of the information, but be aware you can vote quickly once you are familiar with this phone system, which allows you to skip past instructions or hearing the entire ballot.

Pollworkers are Needed for this November

Pollworker training will be done in October, and pollworkers are needed. Please send an e-mail to the registrars at vr.granby.ct@gmail.com if you are interested in participating or would like more information. Volunteer pollworkers must be at least 16 years old and

can choose to volunteer for a few hours, as desired to fit their schedules. Town paid official pollworkers must be registered voters in town and need to work both at the polling place set up at 5 pm on Monday night, November 3rd and all day on Tuesday, November 4th from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm. Part of the training may be done online using the Secretary of State's online program. The Registrar's office is compiling an e-mail list for those who would like to be notified when and where training will be held. To save the town money, first priority is given to pollworkers who can donate their services to the town, but there are also paid positions available.

Curbside Voting

Physically disabled or handicapped voters can choose to vote using an absentee ballot through the Town Clerk (see below) before Election day. For voters who have a temporary medical issue on Election day, such as a severe arthritis flare up, they can participate in a program called curbside voting. This involves making a request at the polling site for help from two assistant registrars, a Democrat and a Republican, while the curbside voter waits in a designated parking space. The assistant registrars will then check in the voter and get issued a ballot in a privacy folder that they will jointly carry to the car of the voter to fill out. After filling out the ballot, the two Assistant Registrars will then jointly carry the completed ballot, in a privacy folder, to the optical scanner voting machine to be counted. This service is not available to people who are not temporarily physically handicapped.

Voter Lists

Voter lists are public information, the registrars always have a copy of this list and you are welcome and encouraged to review it at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Copies of the list can be e-mailed, should anyone request them. It is important to note that Granby's voter registry is in a constant state of change. Specific state mandated deadlines for official filings and publications of Granby's voter list are listed below in the calendar review. Everyone is encouraged to check out Granby's voter list BEFORE Election Day, so that we can ensure your right to vote. You can now check your voter registration online using the SOS website: <http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3172&q=512796> To repeat, voter registrations are NOT transferable either from another town or another state, so please make sure your registration is up to date.

Provisional Ballots:

Per the Help America Vote Act, provisional ballots will again be available for FEDERAL offices, not state or local offices. So for this November, this special ballot will only have one office, for the US House of Representatives – Congressional District 1. Provisional ballots are identical to the overseas ballots available to US Citizens who live abroad. Provisional ballots are issued to new voters who have NEVER shown an ID and to voters who insist they are registered but do not appear on the voter lists. The Registrars have six days to find evidence that either the new voter provided ID at registration or the unregistered voter was removed from the list incorrectly.

Absentee Ballot Applications are being collected now by the Town Clerk for those who know they can't get to the polls on November 4th. The application form is available at Town Hall or on the web at www.sots.ct.gov

Feel free to stop by to register to vote, figure out which is your voting district or make corrections in person at the Registrars' Office in the Town Hall every Wednesday, our regular office hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please note you can register online or get the voter registration form at town hall, libraries, DMV offices and at the Secretary of State's website: www.sots.ct.gov

Questions? Please feel free to contact us, Laura Wolfe and Sarah Thrall, our office phone number/voice mail is # 860-844-5322 and our e-mail address is: vr.granby.ct@gmail.com