

Key Points from NH Governor's Emergency Order #43

May 18, 2020

- CHANGING POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION BEFORE FALL STATE PRIMARY ELECTIONS:
 - Deadline to change political party affiliation before fall State primary is 6/2/2020; after that, voters will be required to vote in the primary for the party with which they are affiliated. Only undeclared voters may choose which ballot to take on primary day.
 - Current law requires voter to appear in person before municipal clerk to change party affiliation. RSA 654:34 and RSA 654:34-a.
 - EO #43 suspends the “in person” requirement and permits voters to submit an application by mail or drop-off to the municipal clerk instead. The only added filing requirement is that the voter’s signature on the form must be witnessed (but not notarized).
 - Official application form is posted on NH Sec. of State website and must be posted on all municipal websites.
 - Completed, signed and witnessed form must be received by the municipal clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Supervisors of the checklist will act on all forms at the 7:00 p.m. session to correct the checklist that same day.
 - A voter who is not listed on the checklist as a voter of the party he/she thought they were registered may still vote in that party’s primary IF that voter attempted to deliver a completed form that should have been delivered to the clerk by 5:00 p.m. on 6/2/2020. That voter will be required to complete an affidavit at the polling place swearing to the fact that they affiliate with a particular party, they attempted to deliver a change of party form, and that the form should have been received in time.