

Duties of Justice of the Peace

1. Elections

Justices of the Peace are members of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). Members of the BCA serve as election officials at town elections by Australian ballot and statewide elections. Justices also are responsible for delivering absentee ballots to voters at election time.

2. Tax Abatement and Appeals

Justices of the Peace sit as members of the town board for abatement of taxes to determine whether a taxpayer's tax obligation should be forgiven under certain circumstances. Justices of the Peace also serve an important role in the town's tax appeal process. As members of the Board of Civil Authority, Justices sit to hear and decide appeals when citizens do not agree with the final decision of the Listers.

3. Marriages

Justices of the Peace may also solemnize marriages in Vermont.

4. Oaths and Notary

Justices of the Peace may also administer oaths in all cases where an oath is required, unless a specific law makes a different provision. A Justice of the Peace is a notary public ex officio and has all the acknowledgement powers of a notary public.

5. Magistrate

Justices of the Peace may also serve as a magistrate when so commissioned by the Supreme Court.

INFORMATION FOR PARTY NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

VERMONT GENERAL ELECTION, November 6, 2018

WHEN TO FILE: 17 V.S.A. §2413(e)

A copy of the notice and the nomination form must be filed by **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018**

Note: Under Vermont law, "filed" means "deposited in the regularly maintained office of the official with whom the filing is to be made." 17 V.S.A. § 2103(13)

WHERE TO FILE: 17 V.S.A. §2387

All justice of the peace nominations must be file with the town clerk.

NO CONSENT FORM REQUIRED: 17 V.S.A. §2385(d)

Justice of the peace candidates are not required to file a consent of candidate form.

NOMINATION BY TOWN PARTY CAUCUS; NOTICE: 17 V.S.A. §2413(a)(1) and (2)

Notice of a political party caucus to nominate justice of the peace candidates must be posted in the town clerk's office and in two other public places in town at least five days prior to the caucus. In addition, in towns with over 3,000 registered voters the notice must be posted at least one day prior to the caucus in a newspaper of general circulation within the town or on a nonpartisan electronic news media website that specializes in news of the State or the community, and on the town's website if it is updated on a regular basis.

NOMINATION BY TOWN PARTY COMMITTEE MEETING: 17 V.S.A. §2413(b)

If a caucus is not held, a political party can call a meeting to nominate justice of the peace candidates by providing notice at least 3 days prior to the meeting to all members of the committee, by email or mail. Notice must also be posted at least three days prior to the meeting in the town clerk's office, and in two other public places in town.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, please visit our website at <http://www.sec.state.vt.us> or call Elections Division in the Office of the Secretary of State at (800) 439-8683 (toll-free within VT) or (802) 828-2363

NOMINATION IN TOWNS WHERE A PARTY HAS NOT FORMALLY ORGANIZED: 17 V.S.A. §2413(c)

In any town in which a political party has not formally organized, any three members of the party who are voters in the town may call a caucus to nominate candidates for justice of the peace. Notice of the caucus must be given in the same manner as the notice required for a party caucus in a town that has an organized party (see above). Upon meeting, the caucus shall first elect a chair and a secretary. Thereafter the caucus shall nominate its candidates for justice of the peace.

NOTICE

_____ Town Caucus
(Party)

All _____ voters of the town/city of _____, County
(Party) (Town or City)

of _____ are hereby notified, in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2303, to meet in caucus
(County)

on _____, _____, 20__ at the _____ at _____.
(Day of week) (Month/Date) (Place of Caucus) (Time)

The Agenda for this Caucus is as follows:

- I. Nomination of Justice of the Peace Candidates

Party Town Chair