

# ELECTIONS

## GOVERNING RULES OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

All municipal elections will be governed by Title 30-A MRSA and where silent by Title 21-A MRSA with the following exception:

### 1. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

Write-In Candidates: A write-in candidate shall be elected by plurality vote, provided that such write-in candidate shall receive a minimum of fifteen (15) votes. Any write-in candidate receiving fewer than fifteen (15) votes shall not be considered elected. A write-in vote will be counted in accordance with both Title 21-A MRSA §692 (2) and the rules pertaining to determining “voter intent” as established by the Secretary of State – Division of Elections.

# **ELECTED OFFICIAL RECALL & APPOINTMENT ORDINANCE**

Adopted June 5, 2012

## **Section 1. — Petition for a Recall and Notice of Intention:**

Registered voter of the Town of Raymond may at any time initiate a petition to recall an elected official of the Town by filing with the Town Clerk (hereafter "Clerk") a Notice of Intention containing the name(s) and address(es) of the voters signing the Notice and designating the name and address of one such voter to receive notices from the Town. The affidavit must state the name of and the office held by the official sought to be recalled and must contain a statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed recall. Each voter must sign the Notice in the presence of a circulator. The circulator must sign the petition form(s) before a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths under Maine law before submitting finished petition form(s) to the Clerk. If more than one elected official is sought to be recalled, a separate affidavit must be filed regarding each. Only one official can be named on each recall petition.

## **Section 2. — Petition Forms:**

- A. Upon receipt of such Notice of Intent, the Clerk shall prepare and issue petition forms within three (3) business days to the person designated under Section 1 to receive notices. The petition forms prepared by the Clerk shall comply with the requirements of state and local law. Petition forms may be circulated by any registered voter of the Town of Raymond. The forms must include:
- B. At the top of the form, the name and position of the official subject to recall, the name and contact information of the initiator of the petition and the date by which the signatures must be submitted to the municipal clerk as outlined under Section 3.
- C. Spaces for each voter's signature, actual street address and printed name; and
- D. Space at the bottom of the form for the name and address of the person circulating the petition form which must be signed before a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths under Maine law before submitting finished petition form(s) to the Clerk.
- E. The petition forms must be filed in the office of the Clerk during the normal business hours of the Clerk's office. In order to be accepted for filing, the petition forms must be assembled as one instrument and filed together at the same time. The Clerk shall make a notation on the first page of the petition of the date and time of the filing.
- F. If the deadline for filing the petitions falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday on which the Clerk's office is closed, the deadline for filing the petition is extended to the next day during which the Clerk's office is open for business.

## **Section 3. — Collection and Submission of Signatures:**

A petition form, as defined under Section 2, may be circulated or signed only by a registered voter of the Town of Raymond. A circulator of the petition form shall fill in the information required under Section 2, paragraph C and sign the form in front of a notary public or attorney prior to the submission of the form(s) or in front of the Clerk. The initiator of the petition, described under Section 1, shall collect the petition forms from all the circulators and submit the signed petition forms to the Town Clerk within 30 days of receipt of notice from the Clerk that the petition forms were available, see Section 2. Under Section 2, the Clerk may not accept a petition form submitted more than 30 days after sending notice of availability to the initiator, and any voter signatures on any such late form are invalid.

## **Section 4. — Petition Certification and Notification:**

For the forms submitted within 30 days after the date the Clerk issued the petition forms, the Clerk shall review the petition pursuant to Section 2. In making those determinations, the Clerk shall apply the following criteria:

- ~~1. If any individual petition form fails to comply with the requirements of Section 904, that particular petition form is invalid and signatures cannot be used.~~
- ~~2. If the affidavit of the circulator on any individual petition form has been altered or tampered with in any way, that particular petition form is invalid and signatures cannot be used.~~
- ~~3. If any voter has signed more than one petition form, that voter's name shall be counted only once.~~

~~If the Clerk determines that the petition is sufficient and contains the signatures of a number of registered voters of the Town equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in Raymond in the last gubernatorial election, the Clerk shall so certify the petition and immediately give written notice of the validity to the Board of Selectmen in writing and to the official sought to be recalled.~~

~~If the Town Clerk finds that the number of valid signatures submitted, as described under Section 3 does not meet the requirements for a petition per Section 4, the Town Clerk shall file the petition and the petition forms in the Clerk's Office and notify the initiator of the petition that the petition is insufficient but may be amended within 5 business days (days when the Town Clerk's office is normally open for business). After the date of such notice the circulator may file additional, supplementary petition forms, which shall be issued, circulated and filed in the same manner as the original petition. Supplementary petition forms shall be returned no later than 14 business days from date of notice. The Clerk shall review them in the same manner as the Clerk reviews an original petition. If the Clerk finds that the petition is still insufficient, the Clerk shall notify the Board of Selectmen, the initiator, and the official sought to be recalled in writing of that determination within 5 business days. That determination by the Clerk shall not prevent the filing of a new petition for the same purpose.~~

~~Upon receipt of notice of determination, the official sought to be recalled may submit his or her resignation in writing to the Board of Selectmen, as applicable, in which case the position shall become vacant as of the date of the written resignation and shall be filled pursuant to Section 9, as applicable.~~

#### ~~Section 5.~~

~~If the official sought to be recalled does not resign from the office within 10 business days of receiving the certification of petition pursuant to Section 4, the Board of Selectmen shall proceed to call and conduct a recall election to determine if the official should be recalled. Upon receipt of the certification of sufficiency and validity from the Clerk, the Board of Selectmen shall call a public hearing to be held within 30 days of the date of the Clerk's certification. Notice of the public hearing shall be given in the same fashion as notice of proposed ordinances.~~

~~After the public hearing, the election must be held no less than 45 days nor more than 85 days after certification of the petition per Section 4 unless a regular municipal election is scheduled within 90 days of the certification of the petition, in which case the recall election must be held on the date of the regular municipal election. If the Board of Selectmen fail to schedule a public hearing and/or recall election within 15 days of the certification of the petition, the Town Clerk shall schedule either pursuant to the date requirements of this section.~~

#### ~~Section 6. — Ballots for Recall Election:~~

~~The ballot question for a recall election shall be substantially as follows:~~

~~—————"Do you authorize the recall of [name of elected official] from the position of [name of position]?"~~

~~————— ( ) Yes ————— ( ) No "~~

#### ~~Section 7. — Results of Recall Election:~~

~~Within 2 business days of the recall election, described under Section 5, the Town Clerk shall certify and record the election results and notify the Board of Selectmen of those results. If a majority of the voters voting in the recall election vote in the affirmative, the official shall be recalled effective the date of the results provided that the total~~

~~number of votes cast for and against the question exceeds the number of registered voters of the Town equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in Raymond in the last gubernatorial election.~~

### **~~Section 8.~~**

~~An official sought to be recalled and who has not resigned pursuant to Section 4 shall continue to perform the duties of the office until the Board of Selectmen certifies the results of the recall election. If the official is recalled, the office shall become vacant immediately upon certification of the results of the election and shall be filled in accordance with Section 9.~~

### **~~Section 9. — Filling Vacancies: Pursuant to MRSA Title 30-A, § 2602:~~**

~~After the results have been certified by the Board of Selectmen, the Clerk must prepare and call a special election within 30-45 days of that certification if there is not already a regularly scheduled election within 90 days of certification unless the conditions are met described under Section 10.~~

### **~~Section 10.~~**

~~The Town of Raymond office of an elected official shall be deemed vacant under one or more of the following conditions:~~

- ~~a) Nonacceptance;~~
- ~~b) Resignation;~~
- ~~c) Death;~~
- ~~d) Removal from the municipality;~~
- ~~e) Permanent disability or incompetency;~~
- ~~f) Failure to qualify for the office within 10 days after written demand by the municipal officers; or~~
- ~~g) Failure of the municipality to elect a person to office.~~

### **~~Section 11.~~**

~~If the Clerk believes one or more of the above criteria are met, the Clerk shall in writing inform the Board of Selectmen and notify the affected elected official (unless deceased). A vacancy shall be declared if the Board of Selectmen determines by a majority vote of the members present that one or more of the above criteria are met.~~

### **~~Section 12.~~**

~~Following solicitation of interested candidates pursuant to MRSA §2625, vacancies in the office not withstanding any previous actions, except for vacancies in the school board and those as the result of a recall, shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen through appointment of a registered voter residing in the Town of Raymond and at least 18 years of age. The Board of Selectmen shall confirm the appointment by a majority vote of the Board members. The appointed official shall serve until the next regularly scheduled Town election and a successor is elected and sworn. Said successor shall serve the balance of the term.~~