

**HB 367 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES**

27Mar2025... 1354h  
26Jun2025... 2881EBA

2025 SESSION

25-0414  
08/09

HOUSE BILL            **367**

AN ACT                changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Aylward, Merr. 5; Rep. Boehm, Hills. 14; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Creighton, Hills. 30

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill changes the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT changing the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Unofficial Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:11 to read as follows:

2 669:11 Unofficial Ballot System. If a town has not voted at a previous town meeting to adopt an  
3 official ballot system as provided in RSA 669:12 or 669:13 [~~or if a town has voted to rescind such~~  
4 ~~adoption~~], such town shall elect its officers by means of the unofficial ballot system as provided in  
5 RSA 669:54-669:60. A majority vote shall be required to elect using unofficial ballots.

6 2 New Section; Adoption of an Unofficial Ballot System. Amend RSA 669 by inserting after  
7 section 11 the following new section:

8 669:11-a Adoption of an Unofficial Ballot System. If a town, having either a partisan ballot  
9 system or a non-partisan ballot system, wishes to adopt an unofficial ballot system, then using the  
10 existing official ballot system, adoption of the unofficial ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever  
11 in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting on the unofficial ballot system,  
12 the town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially  
13 prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall an unofficial ballot system for the election of town  
14 officers be adopted by this town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may  
15 indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting  
16 shall answer said question in the affirmative, the unofficial ballot system shall be deemed to an  
17 article relating to the adoption have been adopted by said town. The unofficial ballot system shall  
18 not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which such system is  
19 adopted.

20 3 Partisan Official Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:12 to read as follows:

21 669:12 Partisan Official Ballot System. Any town may vote to adopt the partisan official ballot  
22 system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting[~~and may~~  
23 ~~rescind such action in like manner~~] ***using the procedure in RSA 669:13. In any town in which***  
24 ***either the unofficial or the non-partisan ballot system is in effect, adoption of the partisan***  
25 ***ballot system shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant***  
26 ***for any town meeting an article relating to the adoption of the partisan ballot system, the***  
27 ***town clerk shall cause to be printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot***  
28 ***specially prepared for the purpose, the question, "Shall the partisan ballot system for the***  
29 ***election of town officers be adopted by this town?"***, which question shall be followed by

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1 *boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If the majority of the qualified voters*  
2 *present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in the affirmative, the*  
3 *partisan ballot system shall be deemed to have been adopted by said town.* The partisan  
4 ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first following the town meeting at which  
5 such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the partisan ballot system.

6 4 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. Amend RSA 669:13 to read as follows:

7 669:13 Non-Partisan Official Ballot System. A town may vote to adopt the non-partisan official  
8 ballot system for election of town officers under an article in the warrant for any town meeting~~], and~~  
9 ~~may rescind such action in like manner]~~ **using the procedure in this section.** In any town in  
10 which ***either the unofficial or*** the partisan ballot system is in effect, ~~[and which has a population,~~  
11 ~~according to most recent federal census, of 4,500 or more,]~~ adoption of the non-partisan ballot system  
12 shall be by ballot. Whenever in such town there shall appear in the warrant for any town meeting  
13 an article relating to the adoption of the non-partisan ballot system, the town clerk shall cause to be  
14 printed on the official ballot, if any, otherwise upon a ballot specially prepared for the purpose, the  
15 question, "Shall the non-partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this  
16 town?", which question shall be followed by boxes in which the voter may indicate "Yes" or "No". If  
17 the majority of the qualified voters present and voting at such meeting shall answer said question in  
18 the affirmative, the non-partisan ballot system shall be deemed to have been adopted by said town.  
19 In all towns, the non-partisan ballot system shall not be in effect until the town election first  
20 following the meeting at which such system is adopted. A plurality shall elect in towns using the  
21 non-partisan ballot system.

22 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.