

### Part 3 Post-vote Procedure

#### Counting of votes

**85(1)** Immediately after the close of the voting station, the presiding deputy shall in the presence of

- (a) at least one and any additional officers that the deputy considers necessary, and
- (b) the candidates, official agents or scrutineers, if any,

ensure that each ballot box is opened and that the votes are counted.

**(2)** A deputy shall not permit more than the candidate or the candidate's official agent or scrutineer, or more than one official agent or scrutineer of either side of a vote on any bylaw or question to be present at the same time in a voting station during the counting of the votes.

RSA 2000 cL-21 s85;2006 c22 s43

#### Counting centres

**85.1(1)** A returning officer may designate a single location as a counting centre for the purpose of this section.

**(2)** The returning officer must notify all affected candidates, official agents and scrutineers of the location of the counting centre.

(3) If a ward or division system exists in a local jurisdiction, the special ballot box, advance vote ballot box and institutional vote ballot box shall be counted at the counting centre if one is designated by the returning officer for that local jurisdiction.

(4) An elected authority may pass a bylaw by June 30 of a year in which a general election is to be held allowing the returning officer of the elected authority to count the special ballot box, advance vote ballot box and institutional vote ballot box no earlier than 7:30 p.m. on election day.

(5) The deputy of a counting centre shall in the presence of

- (a) at least one and any additional officers that the deputy considers necessary, and
- (b) the candidates, official agents or scrutineers, if any,

ensure that each special ballot box, advance vote ballot box and institutional ballot box is opened and that the votes are counted in accordance with this section.

(6) There shall be present at the counting centre during the counting of the votes, for each candidate, not more than one of the following for each ballot box:

- (a) the candidate;
- (b) the candidate's official agent;
- (c) the candidate's scrutineer.

(7) The results of a count conducted in accordance with this section shall not be publicly disclosed until after 8:00 p.m. on election day.

2018 c23 s38;2024 c11 s1(40)

#### **Void ballots**

**86(1)** A deputy shall examine the ballots and reject any ballot

- (a) that does not bear the initials of the officer,
- (b) on which more votes are cast than an elector is entitled to cast,
- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which an elector can be identified,
- (d) that has been torn, defaced or otherwise dealt with by an elector so that the elector can be identified,