

VERMONT 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key penal provisions found within Title 13 and Title 17 of the Vermont Statutes.

- Threatening an election official to terrify, intimidate, or unlawfully influence their conduct a misdemeanor.
- Attempting to control or alter a person's vote or interfering with a voter entering or exiting a polling place is a misdemeanor.
- Possessing a firearm at a polling place on Election Day is a misdemeanor.

VOTING HOURS

Vary by location. Find your polling place and voting hours here:
sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/polling-places

2024 ELECTION DATES

Presidential Primary: March 5
Primary Election: August 13
General Election: November 5
For other election dates:
sos.vermont.gov/elections-calendar

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

Your local election official:
sos.vermont.gov/elections/town-clerks
Vermont Secretary of State:
(800) 439-8683
sos.elections@vermont.gov
sos.vermont.gov/elections



Criminal threatening.

13 V.S.A. § 1702

(a) A person shall not by words or conduct knowingly:

1. threaten another person or a group of particular persons; and
2. as a result of the threat, place the other person in reasonable apprehension of death, serious bodily injury, or sexual assault to the other person, a person in the group of particular persons, or any other person.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(d) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section by making a threat that places any person in reasonable apprehension that death, serious bodily injury, or sexual assault will occur at a public or independent school; postsecondary education institution; public library; place of worship; polling place during election activities; the Vermont State House; or any federal, State, or municipal building shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

(e) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section with the intent to terrify, intimidate, or unlawfully influence a person to prevent that person from complying with State laws or rules, State court or administrative orders, or State executive orders shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both

(f) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section with the intent to terrify, intimidate, or unlawfully

influence the conduct of a candidate for public office, a public servant, an election official, or a public employee in any decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, or other exercise of discretion taken in capacity as a candidate for public office, a public servant, an election official, or a public employee, or with the intent to retaliate against a candidate for public office, a public servant, an election official, or a public employee for any previous action taken in capacity as a candidate for public office, a public servant, an election official, or a public employee, shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

Undue influence.

17 V.S.A. § 2017.

A person who attempts by bribery, threats or any undue influence to dictate, control or alter the vote of a voter about to be given at a local, primary, or general election shall be fined not more than \$200.00.

Promotion of anarchy.

13 V.S.A. § 3405.

A person who by speech or directly or indirectly by exhibition, distribution, or promulgation of any written or printed document or paper or pictorial representation, shall advocate, advise, counsel, or incite unlawful assault upon, or the killing of a public official, or the unlawful destruction of property, or the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the State, or who, at any meeting or in the presence of more than three persons in any place or in any manner, shall advise, advocate, or counsel the violation of

or unlawful refusal to obey a law of the State respecting the preservation of the peace and the protection of life or property shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

**Campaigning during polling hours;
voter access.**

17 V.S.A. § 2508.

(a) (1) The presiding officer shall ensure during polling hours on the day of the election that:

(A) within the building containing a polling place, no campaign literature, stickers, buttons, name stamps, information on write-in candidates, or other political materials that display the name of a candidate on the ballot or an organized political party or that demonstrate support or opposition to a question on the ballot are displayed, placed, handed out, or allowed to remain;

(B) within the building containing a polling place, no candidate, election official, or other person distributes election materials, solicits voters regarding an item or candidate on the ballot, or otherwise campaigns; and

(C) on the walks and driveways leading to a building in which a polling place is located, no candidate or other person physically interferes with the progress of a voter to and from the polling place.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to the town clerk's office during any period of early or absentee voting.

(b) During polling hours, the presiding officer shall control the placement of signs on the property of the polling place in a fair manner.

(c) The provisions of this section shall be posted in the notice required by section 2521 of this chapter.

Destroying lists; hindering voting.

17 V.S.A. § 2019.

A person who, prior to a local, primary, or general election, willfully defaces or destroys any list of candidates posted in accordance with law or, during that election, willfully defaces, tears down, removes, or destroys any card posted for the instruction of voters or, during that election, willfully removes or destroys any of the supplies or conveniences furnished to enable a voter to prepare his or her ballot or willfully hinders the voting of others shall be fined \$200.00.

Polling Places: Firearms Prohibited

13 V.S.A. § 4027.

(a) (1) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm at a polling place or on the walks leading to a building in which a polling place is located on an election day.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to the town clerk's office during any period when a board of civil authority has voted to permit early voting pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2546b(a)(1).

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1) a firearm carried for legitimate law enforcement purposes by a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358;

(2) a firearm carried by a person while performing the person's official duties as an employee of the United States; a department or agency of the United States; a state; or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a state if the person is authorized to carry a firearm as part of the person's official duties; or

(3) a firearm stored in a motor vehicle.

(d) Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each polling place.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Firearm" has the same meaning as in section 13 V.S.A. § 4017.

(2) "Polling place" means a place that a municipality has designated to the Secretary of State as a polling place pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2502(f).

Destruction of or fraudulent acts pertaining to primary election documents; alteration or delay of ballots.

17 V.S.A. § 2021.

A person who falsely makes or willfully defaces or destroys a primary petition, certificate of nomination, or nomination paper or any part thereof, or any letter of assent or of withdrawal, or who files a primary petition, certificate of nomination, nomination paper, letter of assent, or letter of withdrawal knowing the same or any part thereof to be falsely made, or who suppresses a primary petition, certificate of nomination, nomination paper, letter of assent, or letter of withdrawal or any part thereof which has been filed, or forges or falsely makes the official endorsement upon a ballot to be used at a primary or at an election or willfully destroys or defaces such a ballot or willfully delays the delivery of such ballots shall be fined \$200.00.

Unqualified person voting.

17 V.S.A. § 2014.

A person, knowing that he or she is not a qualified voter, who votes at a local, primary, or general election for an officer to be elected at that election shall be fined not more than \$200.00.



Committee for

**SAFE AND SECURE
ELECTIONS**

