

Ethics Rules adopted by the Select Board and signed before meetings, distributed as tuning fork for how we treat each other.

Statewide Municipal Code of Ethics - Act 171 June 10, 2024 and drastically changes the ethical regulatory landscape for municipalities

The VT State Ethics Commission has been created to help towns with issues of ethics & I have been appointed 1/23/25 Motion: Assign Town Clerk, Forrest Holzapfel, the role of Ethics "Coordinator" for Marlboro, Vermont. (Skramstad/Kirkwood – Passed unanimously)

Trust is fragile

Board of Auditors, Why?

- Did not include the minutes to last year's meeting, the same Informational Meeting we are in right now – the record of the meeting allows voters access to information on each article and summarizes the voices of fellow voters
- The Town Report is a permanent record of this municipality and omission undermines the trust of the public in governmental process. This is disrespectful and erases the work of the Town Clerk to uphold my Oath of Office "to do equal right and justice to all, to the best of my judgment and ability"
- Did not include the minutes to the series of four meetings held by the Select Board where all details of decision-making were articulated on each article for the Town ballot
- This is disrespectful of the process the Select Board undertook upon a looking at the results of the 2023 and 2024 election results in which 300 to 100, the voters supported the continuation of Australian ballot as the chosen way forward for decision making by the people of the town
- **Response - ability** to follow the voter wishes conducted during a fair election, and their courage to show process with complete transparency
- This transparency is the correct response moment of chaos and collapse in government from local to State and Federal

School Board, Why Include Articles on Voting Method

- Undermine public trust in the democratic process of a fair election
- The assumption of your office is that the Board would take **Response - ability to follow the voters decision even if you as a Board disagree**

- School Board claims "Our Guiding Principles: Students will be at the center of our decision-making." Showing students that ignoring the will of the voters and their power to make decisions is acceptable behavior and without consequence. In fact the word that describes this is sedition "Sedition usually involves actually conspiring to disrupt the legal operation of the government and is beyond expression of an opinion or protesting government policy."
- So your board is acting against the majority of voters of the town – show vote counts –this is the behavior of a bully and has destroyed my trust in your board
- Your board is asking taxpayers for \$4 million dollars
- Voting is the right for every citizen of this town, the State of Vermont, and the United States. The voters have overwhelmingly shown their position, voice vote is NOT how elections will be conducted
- Property ownership is a privilege enjoyed only by people of means
- What we see in the Town Office is people who are unable to pay their taxes and break down crying and ask if we are going to take their homes from them, this is the suffering we are witnessing and the system we are upholding by going to work
- If you are privileged enough to be insulated from the reality being endured by your fellow townspeople, you are not doing the work of a municipal official and trample both your oath of office and the code of ethics

Attest: 

Forrest L. Holzappel
Marlboro Town Clerk

February 22, 2025