

Election 2020 Moderator Update

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SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 30TH, 2020



Face Masks at the Polls

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- In light of the pandemic, the Governor has issued Executive Order No. 7NN, requiring face masks be worn in public spaces
- All poll workers must comply with the Governor's Executive Orders and wear a face mask while working.
- However, voters cannot be denied the right to vote, as it is a Constitutional right
- How should moderators manage voters who will not comply with the face mask mandate?

Face Masks on Election Day Memorandum (09/20/2020)

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- In the event that voters refuse to comply with the Executive Order, moderators should seek to offer options to accommodate the voter, including:
 - Ask him or her to wear a mask or to get one
 - Offer a mask
 - Offer curbside voting with the voter remaining in his/her car
 - Offer a ballot in a separate location inside or outside the polls
- Options are subject to public safety. Not all options need to be offered—especially allowing unmasked people inside the polls if the set-up of the location does not allow for this to occur safely.

Face Masks Memorandum Cont.

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- If multiple voters fail to comply with the mask requirement, poll workers should seek to enforce 6 feet social distancing.
- If a voter is disruptive or seeks to interfere with the voting process, the moderator should seek to have them removed.

Face Masks Memorandum Cont.

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- It is at the discretion of each municipality to choose which options to implement
- Moderators should consult with the registrars and head moderators in their municipality regarding how to implement these options at individual polling places
- What if the voters do not comply with social distancing requirements or mask orders, even after being instructed and given a range of options?

Moderator Powers

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- **C.G.S. § 9-230. Authority of registrars and moderators to prevent or suppress disorder**
 - “When any disorder arises in such election and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful authority, order any officer with power of arrest to take the offender into custody and, if necessary, to remove the offender from such election until the offender conforms to order or, if need be, until such election is closed...”

Who's in Charge of the Polling Place?

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- The ruling of the Moderator on any question is final
 - Moderators maintain order in polling places
 - Moderators exercise authority in an impartial manner
 - A person may be removed temporarily until they conform to order at the discretion of the moderator
 - Moderators should keep a diary of events and record in it any unusual situations or problems that occur

Questions?

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