

Vermont Secretary of State

Policy and Procedure - Elections

Prohibition of Firearms or Deadly Weapons in Polling Places (S.209)

I. Purpose

Vermont Act S.209 prohibits the possession of a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon at a polling place, or on the walks leading to a building in which a polling place is located, on an election day. Possession is also prohibited in the town clerk's office during any period when a board of civil authority has voted to permit early voting. This policy memorandum aims to clarify the Secretary of State's official interpretation of the "period of time" when a town clerk's office is considered a "polling place."

II. Policy

Town clerk's offices are considered official polling places under S.209 starting 45 days before statewide elections, 20 days before local elections, or when the town clerk begins accepting or distributing ballots to eligible voters, whichever comes first. This designation as a polling place ends at the close of business on the day immediately before the election.

Note* If a town clerk's office serves as the official polling place on the day of an election, the prohibition on firearms and deadly weapons extends through election day until the polls close.

III. Applicability

This policy applies to all Vermont town clerk's offices and all elections.

IV. Effect

This policy is effective immediately.