

Fishers Island Voting Procedures

The Fishers Island School voting procedures have changed from previous years. Attached please find the Fishers Island Voting Procedures as outlined in Board of Education Policy #2120.2, revised January 21, 2009.

The primary changes in voting procedures is that a voter must be able to prove that he or she is a legal resident of the Fishers Island Union Free School District by meeting one of the following requirements.

1. The voter's name appears on the Fishers Island Electoral Roll provided by the Suffolk County Board of Election.
2. The voter is able to provide one of the following forms of identification:
 - a. A driver's license with a Fishers Island address
 - b. A non-driver New York state identification card with a Fishers Island address

Having voted in a previous Fishers Island Union Free School District election will not in and of itself qualify a person to vote in the current election.

In the event a voter shows up at the polls and cannot provide proof of residency of the Fishers Island Union Free School District as set forth above, or if a voter showing such proof is challenged, they must affirm the following:

1. I am a citizen of the United States
2. I am at least 18 years of age
3. I have been a resident with the School District for a period of 30 days preceding the vote.

They would accomplish that by filling out the "Qualification to Vote" form.

****Any qualified voter may challenge the qualifications of any other voter. If a qualified voter challenges the qualifications of another voter, then the chairman presiding at the meeting or election shall require the person offering to vote to make the following declaration: "I do declare and affirm that I am, and have been, for 30 days last past, an actual resident of this school district and that I am qualified to vote at this meeting." If the person challenged makes this declaration, then the person shall be permitted to vote, but if the person refuses, his or her vote must be rejected (§§ 2019, 2609(5))**

All challenges to the qualifications of a voter must be raised no later than the time the voter goes to the polls to vote (Appeal of Grant, 42 Educ. Dep't Rep. 184 (2002); see also Appeal of Pappas, 38 Educ. Dep't Rep. 582 (1999); see also Appeal of Carlson, 37 Educ. Dep't Rep. 351 (1998); Appeal of Fraser-McBride, 36 Educ. Dep't Rep. 488 (1997)).

Moreover, anyone qualified to challenge a voter (see 6:1, 6:14-15) who does not exercise such right is not allowed to object to such voter's participation (Appeal of Crowley, 39 Educ. Dep't Rep. 665 (2000); see also Appeal of Horton, 35 Educ. Dep't Rep. 168 (1995)).

Challenged votes are to be kept separate. If the challenged votes do not affect the vote outcome, the vote tally stands. If the challenged votes will affect the outcome of the vote, the Board of Education must determine the legitimacy of the votes. Any decision may be the subject of an appeal to the Commissioner of Education.