



**NEW HAMPSHIRE SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**David M. Scanlan**

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To: The Voters of Windham  
John Formella, New Hampshire Attorney General

From: David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State

Date: January 15, 2025

RE: Supplemental Report to the Report Prepared Pursuant to RSA 659:77 Regarding the November 5, 2024 State General Election in Windham, New Hampshire.

This report is supplemental to the December 5, 2024 report to The Voters of Windham issued by Election Monitors Jennifer Coté and Kristin Martino based on their observations during the November 5, 2024 State General Election in Windham, NH. This report focuses on Windham's election reports submitted to the Secretary of State following the election.

Moderators are required to submit the Post-Election Certificate to their town or ward clerks within 48 hours of the closing of the polls (RSA 659:73). The clerk then forwards it to the Secretary of State. Completing this record on election night as part of reconciliation will help ensure the results announced by the moderator are accurate. It is the moderator's job to ensure that votes are accurately counted (RSA 659:60).

The Post-Election Certificate reconciliation compares the sum of all votes (votes for candidates, plus write-in votes, plus undervotes, plus overvotes), the voter participation (count of the number of voters who checked in to vote), and the ballots cast (count of the election day ballots and absentee ballots that were cast). Each of these numbers should be equivalent.

The Windham Town Moderator, Galen Stearns, completed the Post-Election Certificate with a documented notable difference in the sum of all votes (10,141), voter participation (10,318), and ballots cast (10,338). The largest variance is 197 between the sum of all votes and the number of ballots cast. Differences may indicate a tallying error in any of the numbers and moderators are trained to investigate the cause of any differences. Small variances may be due to human error; for example, a ballot clerk forgets to properly mark the checklist when a voter checks in. However, 197 is significant enough that further investigation should have been done prior to announcing the election results.

Windham used a spreadsheet to combine all votes from each of the four AccuVote devices with the ballots that were fully hand counted from the side pocket. Paper tally sheets were used to document and tabulate all hand counted votes. An investigation on election night of any differences between the spreadsheet totals and the tally sheet totals may have identified an issue in the tabulation of the sum of all votes related to hand-counted ballots or the spreadsheet formulas.

The Post-Election Certificate also requires a comparison of different methods of tallying ballots cast. The comparison should be documented in sections C.1 and C.2. Section C.2 was left blank by Moderator Stearns. Comparing the two calculations helps to ensure the tabulation of ballots cast is accurate. Completing the comparison on election night would have determined if there was a calculation error in the number of ballots cast. If both calculations agree, the reconciliation error investigation could have focused on the sum of all votes and the voter participation.

Accurately reporting election results at the end of an election is one of the most important responsibilities of a moderator. The Secretary of State offers extensive training and guidance on the reconciliation of election results to help moderators fulfill this important role.

Over the past few election cycles, the Windham moderators have struggled with the basic concepts of organizing the counting of ballots and the basic principles of reconciliation procedures. There has been an over-reliance on the use of computer spreadsheets to determine election results. Moving forward, the Windham moderator must resolve these issues by taking measures to organize and understand the basic counting procedures necessary on election night or engage individuals from Windham who are capable of doing the task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Scanlan", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

David M. Scanlan  
Secretary of State