

Please accept this as my reasoning for not counting the 2 ballots opened on May 6th, 2026.

1. I pointed out to the Town attorney at the first challenge process that the 2 ballots should not be opened because they were illegally obtained by a candidate on the ballot. I showed him the law and Instead of the attorney advising the Clerk of this he opted to process a challenge for this reason. This challenge should have never happened the law says that the ballots never should have been issued. It was explained that the Clerk worked with the Town attorney and the Secretary of State when she found the 2 ballots as to how to proceed and was told to schedule a meeting to open them. The Clerk did not disclose to the attorney and the Secretary of State that these were illegally obtained ballots, therefore I think if she had disclosed this she would have gotten a very different answer from the attorney and the Secretary of State.
2. The two applications show that Gerald Folster signed out the 2 ballots which in Title 21-a specifically says he is not allowed to do. **Restrictions on issuing ballot.** The clerk may not issue an absentee ballot: A. To any 3rd person who is a candidate or a member of a candidate's immediate family; He should have been denied his request by the Town Clerk(that has been in office for several years and should have known better). The 2 applications show he signed them out but did not sign on line 7 when he returned the ballot, rather they were taken by 2 different people (**The Clerk signed one envelope, and the moderator signed the other**) and they were both tucked into the back of a notebook instead of being processed properly.
3. When I did my inspection at the first scheduled opening none of the applications were attached to the ballot envelopes which the rules specifically say need to happen.
4. I want to disclose that I recently retired from over 25 years of municipal work, I have been a Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Administrative assistant, Town Manager and worked elections for over 25 years. I cannot stress enough how important it is for people to follow the rules and laws when it comes to elections because if the rules are not followed then people's rights are being violated. That is my opinion.

So in conclusion the ballots never should have been issued and should have been rejected when returned, therefor two wrongs don't make a right.

Respectfully
Cynthia Grant