

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

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JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 11, 2021

Dianne Trippet, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Town of Merrimack
6 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Re: Town of Merrimack, Absentee Ballot Remediation Plan (3324073)

Dear Clerk Trippet:

On November 16, 2020, this Office was notified by the Secretary of State's Office that Merrimack election officials called to report the discovery of three absentee ballots after the November 3, 2020, general election, which had not been processed or counted. On September 21, 2021, this Office sent you correspondence that included a direction to produce a remediation plan.

Following discussions between this Office and Town counsel, you delivered a remediation plan on October 1, 2021. A summary of the plan is as follows:

1. The Town will contact the three absentee voters and explain in writing what happened with their ballots such that they were not counted.
2. The Town will conduct trainings for Town employees regarding the identification and handling of absentee ballots.
3. The Town will provide reminders to Town employees prior to elections regarding absentee ballots.
4. On election days, Town Clerk staff will check central mail processing and physical office locations in Town Hall to locate any absentee ballots received.
5. On election days the Town Clerk or Deputy are responsible for leaving the polling place, going to Town Hall, collecting any received absentee ballots, ensuring that any absentee ballots received at Town Hall are collected, and returning them to the polling location to be counted.
6. The Clerk or Deputy will conduct this retrieval of absentee ballots after the mail delivery, and any ballot received at Town Hall prior to 5pm on election day shall be considered timely and counted even if the ballot is not transported to the polling place prior to 5pm.

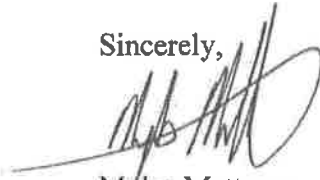
We appreciate the plan developed by Merrimack officials to ensure an error like this does not happen again. Not accurately counting votes has a serious effect on the integrity of our

Clerk Trippet
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election system and can impact voters' confidence in that system. Merrimack officials must continue to exercise diligence with the processing and casting of absentee ballots.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myles Matteson', written over a horizontal line.

Myles Matteson
Deputy General Counsel
New Hampshire Attorney General's Office
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myles.b.matteson@doj.nh.gov

cc: William M. Gardner, Secretary of State