



Nottingham Town Moderator, Dawn Fernald

The Town Moderator and the Nov. 8 Election

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With the Tuesday, November 8th election fast upon us, this reporter took the opportunity to sit down with Nottingham's Town Moderator and ask about herself and the integrity of the vote. On Thursday, October 27, 2022, I met with Dawn Fernald in the morning of Conference Room 2 in the Town Hall.

First, this reporter wanted to know a little more about her. I found her to be energetic and enthusiastic. She has been married to Joe Fernald for over 20 years and they have four daughters. Two of the girls are in college. She was born on Long Island, New York and later the family moved to Lee, New Hampshire. She majored in Child Development. She loves her job as town moderator. She worked her way to that position by having been on the School Board and Budget Committee as well as having been the moderator for candidates' nights. She has always enjoyed town meetings. She is dedicated to civil service with her philosophy "if you do not participate, you should not complain". She wants the town's Deliberative Session to be orderly and friendly. She says town progress comes when two people of different views talk to and work with each other.

The subject then switched to the security and integrity of elections, in general, and, specifically the November 8th voting. She pointed out with pride the accuracy of the recent Primary', Tuesday, September 13, 2022 results. Then the total of the machine count and the hand-counted ballots matched exactly the same as the number of ballots cast. She attributed that success to the professionalism and hard work of the Town Clerk and the Supervisors of the Checklist.

As for [November 8th election](#), she noted that there are many safeguards in the form of checks and balances assuring its integrity. They are due to the professionalism and dedicated commitment of the Inspectors of the Election. The Inspectors of the Election consist of and include the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk, the Supervisors of the Checklist, the Moderator, the ballot clerks, and Independent Voters. In Nottingham, each check table is staffed with both one Democratic and Republican worker.



Certifying the voting machine, Left to right Robin Marshall. Dawn Fernald, Douglas Bates, and Bruce Henden. Also, there testing the machine was Lori Anderson

Another safeguard is the accuracy of the vote counting machine, the [Accuvote machine](#) that was done on Thursday, October 27, 2022, starting at 12:30 PM in Conference Room 1 of the Town Hall. Fernald added on November 8, one could still register to vote on the election site at the Nottingham School. Also, if residents came to vote without photo identification, this is what would happen. Their picture could be taken at the polling place along with them signing an affidavit and they could still vote. The bottom line is that the vote is secure and the Nottingham election has integrity.

Please, vote.