

Removal of ballot drop boxes.

Leonard Simon <lensimon@comcast.net>

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To: Hayes, Henry; Board of Selectmen

Hello Mr. Hayes,

I have learned that 2 of the 3 ballot drop boxes have been closed, and the one remaining drop box outside Town Hall will have reduced hours.

This was done with no warning or advance announcement.

It was noted on the town website this was done for security reasons. Have there been any direct, credible, threats to those drop boxes? If not this is overkill, and an infringement on voting rights, especially after the town's announcement they would be open to all residents until Nov. 3.

There are several less drastic measures that could be taken:

1. Put them under video surveillance.
2. Move one to the lobby of the police station.
3. Post a policeman outside the box 24/7.

As the Town Manager your priority ought to be safeguarding rights, particularly voting rights, not curtailing them, especially when there are other alternatives available.

Such a drastic measure of removing ballot boxes warranted consultation with Sudbury's elected policy making board, the Select Board.

Residents of Sudbury will face down fear, *and will not be intimidated*. A threat to voting, which is basic our democratic system of government, and which we cherish, deserves protection. We will not shirk from that obligation. The cost of police office is a small price to pay for a fundamental right.

I urge you to reverse the regrettable decision regarding the ballot drop boxes.

I have blind cc'd the Sudbury League of Women Voters.

Len Simon
40 Meadowbrook Circle

(Note: emphasis highlighting/bold/italics/underlining added DCarty 08092022)