

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Thu 4/30/2026 9:17 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Thu, 04/30/2026 - 09:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Beth

Last Name

Hartnett

Email

beth.hartnett@gmail.com

Subject

Join the Portsmouth Community Garden for Opening Day on Saturday, May 23

Address

29 Sherburne Ave.
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Hello City of Portsmouth Leaders,
Opening Day for the Portsmouth Community Garden is right around the corner and the Board of Directors invites City Leaders and City Councilors to stop by on Saturday, May 23 from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. to see how the garden has grown. With two more beds to be added, we will welcome 13 new community members to the garden, leaving 32 on the Wait List. There is definitely demand for our community garden!

Over the past four seasons, the garden contributed 2,000+ pounds of surplus harvest, primarily to Gather, to fight food insecurity in the NH seacoast area. This past Earth Day, we hosted two corporate volunteer teams from On Call International and Service Credit Union, to build out a second pollinator bed and expand the Gather bed. Thank you for your ongoing support and please consider dropping by on Opening Day!

Regards,

Beth

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Mon 5/4/2026 8:48 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Mon, 05/04/2026 - 08:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Brian

Last Name

Gibb

Email

bkgibb@gmail.com

Subject

City Clerk

Address

348 Maplewood Ave
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Mayor, city councils, I am writing to you with concerns regarding the city clerk's position. As Ward One moderator, I have both insight and a shared responsibility for the integrity of our elections. As I'm sure you are aware, Kelli did an amazing job with them and was always trusted and well respected. There continues to be a strong concern that she was ousted without sufficient cause and the public deserves to understand the issue better. Second, the controversy regarding Sandy Kellar's past conduct in Bedford should be given strong consideration when you are appointing such a critical position. I have no personal insight into the candidate obviously, but the fact that there are allegations of misconduct is of major concern to me. It will certainly stick in my mind. Even the appearance of impropriety, could be a challenge for the person amidst so much political strife. I ask that you take this things into consideration and take your time to fill this position. As always, thanks for everything that you do for our city. Best, Brian

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Sun 5/3/2026 8:53 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Sun, 05/03/2026 - 08:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Elizabeth

Last Name

Dinan

Email

dinanroom@gmail.com

Subject

FYI

Address

639 maplewood ave
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801-3540

Message

For your consideration re: Finding a good-fit city clerk - from NH Journal 11/1/2021:

"The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office has released a scathing letter to Bedford town officials, refuting claims that the mishandling of 190 uncounted ballots was kept secret at its behest.

On Saturday, an exclusive NHJournal report revealed Bedford town officials were sending a letter to the 190 voters whose November 2020 election absentee ballots had been misplaced. They weren't discovered until the Friday after the election, sources told NHJournal.

According to the letter, signed by Town Clerk Sally Kellar and Town Moderator William Klein, town election officials "were advised to keep these ballots secure, and to await further instructions before taking any further action."

"The following week, we were informed that the matter had been referred to the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office for investigation. The attorney general requested some information from us and we submitted it on November 19, 2020. We were told not to discuss this with anyone, not even the Town Council, because it was a pending investigation," town officials claimed.

Not true, said Anne M. Edwards, the attorney general's general counsel. In a letter released today, she wrote:

"Our Office learned of your October 28 letter concerning uncounted absentee ballots through [NHJournal's coverage] on Saturday, October 30. We are concerned, in particular, by three statements in your letter: 1) that the Attorney General's Office instructed you not to tell anyone, including the Bedford Town Council, about the 190 uncounted absentee ballots; 2) that you made numerous attempts to obtain a resolution from our Office; and 3) that our October 21 closure letter was essentially the first explanation from us as to the necessary remediation plan.

"These statements are inaccurate," Edwards wrote.

While town officials insist they were kept silent by the state, Edwards says it was the Attorney General's Office that pressured Kellar and Klein into making the information public. Repeated delays were a direct result of town officials' inaction, they said.

According to Edwards, the Attorney General's Office didn't act on the Bedford issue sooner because it was bogged down with the audit in Windham. "The attorney general's staff interviewed Bedford election officials in July 2021, and had follow-up conversations with Bedford election officials, during August and September, about the need to provide notification to the 190 voters that their absentee ballots had not been counted during the 2020 general election.

"Bedford election officials raised concerns with this notification and asked not to notify voters," Edwards said. According to the letter, the attorney general repeatedly insisted to town officials that disenfranchised voters had to be contacted. The attorney general's resolution letter was also delayed by the September 8, 2021 special election. "Our goal was to avoid confusion," Edwards said.

As a result, the attorney general's investigation conclusion letter wasn't released until September 21.

The question many Bedford voters have asked is why did state and local officials allow the state Senate recount to occur on November 10th without revealing the existence of the uncounted ballots?

Town officials say they were told to remain silent. The Attorney General's Office says that's not true, and, as Edwards told NHJournal Monday afternoon, "we didn't learn of the existence of the ballots until November 16," nearly a week after the recount.

Not that it would have mattered, Edwards added. "Under the New Hampshire constitution, all ballots must be counted on Election Day. It doesn't allow for early counting or the counting of late-arriving ballots. And because the ballots weren't included in the Election Day total, they couldn't be considered in a recount," Edwards said.

So, did the Bedford town clerk and town manager lie to the voters in their October 28 letter?

"I would never say that an elected official lied," Edwards said. "We felt it was important to issue a clarification because we were concerned about the accuracy of some of the statements."

Asked by NHJournal for a response to the letter from the Attorney General's Office, Town Clerk Sally Kellar responded by email: "The town clerk does not have a comment at this time. Please direct any questions to the Attorney General's Office and/or the Bedford town moderator."

Calls to the Bedford town moderator were unanswered.

According to a spokesperson, Gov. Chris Sununu didn't learn of the ballot issue until last Friday, and he immediately contacted the Attorney General's Office.

Meanwhile, other elected Bedford officials are expressing outrage.

"If it's true the clerk and moderator weren't told to keep this quiet and chose to, then they should be removed from office," said Bedford state Sen. Denise Ricciardi, whose 2020 race was the subject of a recount. "They're elected officials. But if this is true, I doubt they will be for long."

Republican members of the Bedford delegation — Reps. Ted Gorski, Linda Gould, John Graham, Niki Kelsey, and Laurie Sanborn — released a statement Monday afternoon:

"The recent reports that the town of Bedford has 190 absentee ballots that were uncounted in the general election is extremely concerning. It is also very troubling that it took almost a full year for this information to reach residents whose votes were not counted.

"New Hampshire prides itself on election integrity, and it is imperative that all Granite Staters remain confident in the election process. This issue must be fully investigated in a transparent manner as soon as possible. We want to know what happened and why this information was concealed for so long. We must ensure that all votes are counted."

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Sun 5/3/2026 8:30 PM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Sun, 05/03/2026 - 20:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Erik

Last Name

Anderson

Email

andy42152@aol.com

Subject

City Clerk Hiring

Address

38 Georges Terrace
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear Councilors,

As the City Council meeting agenda of May 4, 2026 lists action on hiring a new city clerk it has come to knowledge of many and hopefully you that the person being considered has reasons for concern. As understood and publicly well documented this individual was involved in a investigation regarding hidden / concealed voter ballots in a past Bedford, NH election. This event and the circumstances surrounding it and the person in consideration for your approval should be a concern for taking the position of Portsmouth City Clerk. It might not be the best fit for our city and the fact that the former city clerk had such a impeccable record and long standing service to our city. Many residents were upset with the circumstances surrounding her departure. It is with hope that a very thoughtful decision is made with regards to this matter and if necessary table any action until further vetting for this important position. This matter is well within the council authority and should not be at the sole discretion of the city manager.

With thanks to your time
Erik Anderson

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Mon 5/4/2026 10:11 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Mon, 05/04/2026 - 10:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Jennifer

Last Name

Holloway

Email

jen4016@comcast.net

Subject

Firing of Kelly Barnaby

Address

367 Colonial Drive
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear Portsmouth City Council, I'm puzzled and deeply concerned by the resignation of Kelly as our City Clerk. Kelly has always done a terrific job in her role in service to the city of Portsmouth. Her departure is a great loss. According to articles in the Bedford newspaper, I have questions regarding the judgement of Sally Kellar, as a proposed replacement. Please get more information about this candidate before approving her appointment.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Mon 5/4/2026 9:55 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

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Submitted on Mon, 05/04/2026 - 09:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Judy

Last Name

Nerbonne

Email

judy@gatesstreet.com

Subject

Appointment of Sally Kellar as Town Clerk for Portsmouth

Address

189 Gates Street
Portsmouth , New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear City Council Members, I've become aware of the firing of Kelly Barnaby, who served as Portsmouth City Clerk for decades above reproach. I'm deeply concerned about the appointment of Sally Kellar as her replacement, due to actions taken by Ms. Kellar during her previous position in the town of Bedford, involving transparency, integrity, and judgment. I implore the council to vote NO this evening on Ms. Kellar's appointment as Portsmouth's City Clerk.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Mon 5/4/2026 10:06 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Mon, 05/04/2026 - 10:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Robin

Last Name

Rousseau

Email

robinrousseau@aol.com

Subject

City Clerk

Address

90 Fleet Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Please vote NO for Kellar. We deserve the best and the brightest talent to run our elections--not Bedford's bottom of the barrel. Do you value integrity? That is what your vote will reflect.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject - Subject