

In Vermont, Justices of the Peace (JPs) are elected local officials who support town government. Their main duties include officiating weddings, running local elections, and helping with town property tax appeals. JPs also act as official witnesses for legal documents.

JPs serve two-year terms and do important work for their communities.

Their top duties include:

- **Running Elections:** JPs serve on the **Board of Civil Authority**. They help check voters, deliver absentee ballots, and count votes on election day.
- **Handling Property Taxes:** They sit on two special town boards. The **Board of Tax Abatement** lets them forgive or reduce a citizen's taxes in cases of extreme hardship. The **Board of Civil Authority** hears appeals if you disagree with how much your property is worth for taxes.
- **Officiating Weddings:** JPs have the legal power to perform wedding ceremonies anywhere in the state of Vermont.
- **Notary Duties:** JPs are automatically **notaries public**. They can administer oaths and certify documents.
- **Magistrate:** They can act as a judge in specific court cases if the Vermont Supreme Court gives them permission.