

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

1912: Governor

Total votes cast:	64,839	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	32,420	50 plus 1 vote
Allen M. Fletcher had:	26,237	40.5%
Harlan B. Howe had:	20,001	30.8%
Frazer Metzger had:	15,629	24.1%

Comments: Allen M Fletcher fell 6,183 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1912. The joint assembly convened on October 2 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Governor, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On the first ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

Total votes cast:	271	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	136	50 plus 1 vote
Allen Fletcher had:	163	60.1%
Harlan Howe had:	76	28.0%
Frazer Metzger had:	32	11.8%

Allen Fletcher was declared to be the Governor of the State of Vermont for the two years next ensuing.

1912: Lieutenant Governor

Total votes cast:	62,894	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	31,448	50 plus 1 vote
Frank E. Howe had:	27,232	43.3%
Herbert Commings had:	18,395	29.2%
M.L. Aseltine had:	14,609	23.2%

Comments: Frank E. Howe fell 4,216 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1912. The joint assembly convened on October 2 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Lieutenant Governor, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On the first ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

Total votes cast:	270	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	136	50 plus 1 vote
Frank E. Howe had:	199	73.7%
Herbert Commings had:	52	19.2%
M.L. Aseltine had:	19	7.0%

Frank E. Howe was declared to be the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Vermont for the two years next ensuing.

1912: Treasurer

Total votes cast:	62,025	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	31,013	50 plus 1 vote
Edward Deavitt had:	27,763	44.8%
Martin Brown had:	17,464	28.2%
Harry Howard had:	14,318	23.1%

Comments: Edward Deavitt fell 3,250 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1912. The joint assembly convened on October 2 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of State Treasurer, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On the first ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

Total votes cast:	263	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	132	50 plus 1 vote
Edward Deavitt had:	196	74.5%
Martin Brown had:	50	19.0%
Harry Howard had:	17	6.5%

Edward Deavitt was declared to be the State Treasurer of the State of Vermont for the two years next ensuing.

1912: Secretary of State

Total votes cast:	62,024	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	31,013	50 plus 1 vote
Guy W. Bailey had:	28,115	45.3%
Jeremiah Durick had:	17,285	27.9%
John M. Blake had:	14,132	22.8%

Comments: Guy W. Bailey fell 2,898 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1912. The joint assembly convened on October 2 to hear the report of the canvassing

committee and, in the case of the office of Secretary of State, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On the first ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

Total votes cast:	269	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	135	50 plus 1 vote
Guy W. Bailey had:	224	83.2%
Jeremiah Durick had:	37	13.8%
John M. Blake had:	8	3.0%

Guy W. Bailey was declared to be the Secretary of State of the State of Vermont for the two years ensuing.

1912: Auditor of Accounts

Total votes cast:	61,708	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	30,855	50 plus 1 vote
Horace Graham had:	27,780	45.0%
Lewis Johnson had:	17,388	28.2%
Ernest W. Gibson had:	14,087	22.8%

Comments: Horace Graham fell 3,075 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1912. The joint assembly convened on October 2 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Auditor of Accounts, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On the first ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

Total votes cast:	261	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	131	50 plus 1 vote
Horace Graham had:	205	78.5%
Lewis Johnson had:	40	15.3%
Ernest W. Gibson had:	16	6.1%

Horace Graham was declared to be the Auditor of Accounts of the State of Vermont for the two years ensuing.

1912: Attorney General

Total votes cast:	61,629	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	30,815	50 plus 1 vote
Rufus E. Brown had:	27,488	44.6%
Burton Bailey had:	17,391	28.2%

Richard A. Hoar had: 14,214 23.1%

Comments: Rufus E. Brown fell 3,327 votes short of a majority in the General Election of 1912. The joint assembly convened on October 2 to hear the report of the canvassing committee and, in the case of the office of Attorney General, to vote by joint ballot for the three candidates who received the greatest number of votes. On the first ballot, when the ballots were taken and counted, the result was as follows:

Total votes cast:	263	Percent: 100
Necessary for election:	132	50 plus 1 vote
Rufus E. Brown had:	189	71.9%
Burton Bailey had:	53	20.2%
Richard A. Hoar had:	21	8.0%

Rufus E. Brown was declared to be the Attorney General of the State of Vermont for the two years next ensuing.

**Final note on 1912: The practice of 1912, unlike 1974, was to hear the report of the canvassing committee for each office in turn, and then elect to fill that office before going on the another office.

The fact that the number of members present for these votes fluctuates from office to office and that the number necessary for election changes accordingly reveals the belief that what is required to win is a majority of those present and voting.

In 1912, there were 32 Progressives in the House. It may be no coincidence that Frazer Metzger received 32 votes for Governor in the joint assembly. Because the votes were taken by secret ballot, however, we cannot tell how any particular member voted.