

Absentee Ballot

The absentee ballot is an important way that registered voters may cast their vote if they are unable to appear at the polling place on the day of a primary, election or referendum due to one or more of the following reasons:

- 1) active service in the U.S. armed forces;
- 2) absence from town during all the hours of voting;
- 3) illness;
- 4) physical disability;
- 5) his or her religion forbids secular activity on that day; or
- 6) his or her required performance of duties as a primary, referendum, or election official at a polling place other than his or her own during all the hours on that day.

Town Clerks start mailing absentee ballots 31 days before an election, 21 days before a primary, or 19 days before a referendum/special election. Absentee Ballots are not mailed if there is a referendum with less than three (3) weeks' notice.

You should return your completed absentee ballot application to the Municipal Clerk in the town in which you are a registered voter in Connecticut. You can return your completed application by fax or e-mail as long as you return the original completed and signed application (**in the outer envelope**) with your voted ballot by the close of the polls on Election or Primary day.

You can always contact your Municipal Clerk for additional information.

Hours of voting:

- For an election or primary, polls in Connecticut are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Any elector standing in line at the polls at 8 p.m. will be allowed to cast a vote.
- Check with your Town Clerk for the hours of voting on a referendum, as they vary by town.

How do I vote?

The Optical scan machine is used by most in-person voters.

The Vote by phone option is available at every polling place for voters with disabilities or for any voter who prefers this option.

The Absentee Ballot if you are unable to appear at the polling place you can request an absentee ballot (please read absentee ballot section).

Questions?

If you have any questions you can contact your local Registrars of Voters' or the Elections Administration Division at the Secretary of the State's Office:

Phone: (860) 509-6100; 1-(800) 540-3764

TDD: (860) 509-6191; 1-(800) 303-3161

www.sots.ct.gov

Our Vision

Our vision is to be the leader in providing prompt quality service, increasing access to information, and promoting participation in the democratic process.

Our Mission

Through the commitment of a knowledgeable staff and advanced technology, the Office of the Secretary of the State works as a team to provide a wide range of services for the people and businesses of Connecticut.

We are a repository of records for the State, and provide important information and resources regarding business and commercial filings, elections, and authentication as prescribed by the constitution, and federal and state laws.

We seek to support business development opportunities, and foster a more inclusive political process by educating, informing and engaging communities in youth and civic preparation.

<u>Executive Offices</u>	<u>Office number</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Capitol Office	(860) 509-6200	(860)509-6209
Deputy's Office	(860) 509-6212	(860) 509-6131
Business Services Division Business filings and questions	(860)509-6002	(860)509-6069
Elections Administration Division Notaries Public, Authentications and Apostille	(860) 509-6100	(860) 509-6127



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Voting Eligibility

- United States Citizen;
- be a resident of a Connecticut Town;
- must be at least 17 and turning 18 on or before Election Day; and
- if convicted of a felony, have completed confinement, parole, and paid all fines if required.

If you have any questions call your local Registrar of Voters or the Secretary of the State (800)540-3764 or (860) 509-6100 (TDD, (800) 303-3161)

What if I moved recently?

You will have to update your voter registration to reflect your new address.

Your voter registration should always reflect your current home address.

What if I am a student?

If you are a college student living away from home, you may choose to vote in one of two ways:

1. Either complete an absentee ballot for the election in your home town *OR*;
2. Register to vote in your college town

For more information visit: www.sots.ct.gov

Where do I Register?

You may obtain a voter registration form at any Town or City hall, public library, Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV), Department of Social Services (DSS), Labor Department or download and print the form from www.sots.ct.gov. If you have a Connecticut DMV issued driver's license or identification card you can register online: www.sots.ct.gov. To use the online voter registration system you must have a current and valid driver's license, learner's permit or non-driver photo identification card issued by the Connecticut DMV or you can complete the form, download and mail it to your local

Registrars of Voters' office. However, Connecticut now offers Election Day Registration (EDR). You can register and vote in person on Election Day at your town's Election Day Registration location. Election Day Registration only applies to regular elections; does not apply to primaries, referenda or special elections. Contact your local Registrars of Voters for information about location, hours of operation, and the identification requirements.

Registration Cut-off

Primary: Application must be postmarked by the 5th day before a primary (OR received by your Registrar of Voters or a voter registration agency by the 5th day before a primary). You may apply in person to your Town Clerk or Registrar until 12:00 noon on the last business day before a primary.

Election: Your application must be postmarked or received by a voter registration agency by the 14th day before an election (OR you may register in person with your Registrar of Voters by the 7th day before an election). Online voter registration must be completed 14 days before an election; does not apply to Election Day Registration (EDR).

Identification

Do I need to show photo identification in order to vote? The short answer is no. **However**, we encourage you to continue to use your current driver's license at the polling place when you vote. For most voters, acceptable polling place identification includes:

- any pre-printed form of identification that shows your:
 - name and address, or
 - name and signature, or
 - name and photograph
- a Social Security Card

You can request to complete and sign a statement at the polls under penalty of false statement on Form ED-681 entitled, "Signatures of Electors Who Did Not Present ID", (which generally states that the person whose name appears on the official check list is the same person who is signing the form). If you did not provide proper identification when registering to vote you will be asked for additional identification.

Does the photo ID need to have the address printed on it?

No. A photo ID does not need to have your address on it (e.g. college student ID, employee ID or a U.S. Passport).

Restoration of Voting Rights of Convicted Felons

A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to confinement in a State of Connecticut correctional institution, or facility, or community residence shall be eligible to have such person's voting privileges restored upon the release from confinement, parole, and payments of any fines (if applicable).

Here's how:

- Contact the Registrars of Voters in the town where you live to obtain a voter registration card. You can also obtain voter registration cards from any public library, the DMV, DSS or any other voter registration agency.
- Fill out the voter registration card and submit the card to the Registrars of Voters in the town in which you live either in person or by mail. **If you have any questions contact the Registrar of Voters in the town where you live, or your Probation or Parole Officer.**

Political Party Affiliation

Joining a party enables you to:

- Vote in primaries and caucuses.
- Serve on Town Committees. (Note: Town Committees nominate and endorse candidates for municipal, state and federal offices; and chooses delegates to party conventions).

To join a political party, you must choose a party affiliation either when you register or any time afterwards. You can change party affiliation by using a mail-in registration card to notify your Registrars of Voters or online.

If you change parties, your new party privileges become effective after three months. However, if you were unaffiliated and change from unaffiliated to a party, your new party privileges become effective immediately.

A primary is the process used by political parties to nominate their candidates to run in the general election. A person must be an enrolled party member to vote in the party's primary.

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