



## Voter Registration/Absentee Ballots

Categories : [Citizenship and Government Related Topics](#)

The following is summarized from the websites of the Connecticut General Assembly ([www.cga.ct.gov/](http://www.cga.ct.gov/)), the Office of the State of Connecticut Secretary of the State (<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS>) and Project Vote Smart (<https://votesmart.org/elections/voter-registration/CT#.VVySqU1FDcs>)

### ADMINISTRATION

Voter registration is administered through the Office of the Secretary of the State.

### REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration is necessary to vote in local, state and national elections. Voter registration application forms can be obtained from the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk at any town/city hall in Connecticut. Registration can be done in person or by mail-in application. Forms may also be obtained at public libraries, Department of Motor Vehicles and other state agency offices, and on the Secretary of State's website: (<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Registration-Information>) In-person registration must be done by noon on the last business day before a primary and by the 7th day before an election. Mailed applications must be postmarked at least 5 days before a primary and 7 days before an election.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

Any U.S. citizen living in Connecticut and will be at least 18 years old by the day of an election may register to vote. Anyone with a temporary or permanent physical disability can have an application mailed to them or request a Registrar visit at their residence. A registered voter who is unable to vote in person may request an absentee ballot.

Voters must enroll with a political party in order to vote in that party's primary. A party affiliation can be designated with registration. Voters who wish to change or drop their party affiliation can do so by notifying the Registrar. A U.S. citizen who is not registered may obtain a Presidential Ballot just to vote for President/Vice President from the Registrar or Town Clerk.

### Election Day Registration

Election Day Registration permits anyone to register and vote in person on Election Day who meets the [eligibility requirements](#) for voting in this state and is not already registered, OR is registered in one town but has moved to another town. By law, a person is eligible to register and vote if he or she is (1) a US citizen, (2) age 18 or older, (3) a bona fide resident of the town in which he or she applies for admission, and (4) has completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a disfranchising felony.

Election Day Registration is not available at your polling place, but is available at a designated Election Day Registration (EDR) location in each town, beginning at 6 am and ending at 8 pm. You will register and vote at the designated EDR location in your town. Please plan to arrive early in the day as there may be long lines. You must be registered by 8 pm in order to vote. You will need to provide proof of identity and residency.

<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Election-Day-Registration-2013/Election-Day-Registration>



## **EXCEPTION TO DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**

The deadline for registering to vote in Connecticut is October 30. HOWEVER,

1. For those applicants who become 18 years old, a US Citizen, or have moved into town between October 31, 2018 and November 5, 2018, can obtain and complete an application for voter registration and deliver the application in person to the Registrar of Voters at your local Town Hall no later 5 p.m. on Monday, November 05, 2018; or
2. Individuals can appear at the designated Election Day Registration site in your town and register and vote on Election Day.

Documents to prove status (birth certificates, naturalization papers, proof of residence) must be brought to the Registrar's office. Contact the town Registrar of Voters for further info.

Anyone encountering election-related problems can contact the Election Day hotline at 1-866-733-2463 or by sending an email to [elections@ct.gov](mailto:elections@ct.gov).

### **Who is Eligible For an Absentee Ballot?**

*Information on voting by absentee ballot can be found on the website of the Connecticut Secretary of the State:* <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>

Registered voters in Connecticut may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to vote in person for any of the following reasons:

- Absence from town of registration during all election hours;
- Inability to attend polling place due to illness or physical disability;
- Active service in the U.S. Armed Forces;
- Religious beliefs which forbid secular activity on election day; or
- Service as an election official at a polling place other than the polling place where they vote.

Registered voters who are enrolled with a political party can request an absentee ballot for primaries as well as for general elections.

### **How to Obtain an Absentee Ballot**

Registered voters can obtain applications for absentee ballots from their local Town Clerk or Registrar of Voters. If the voter is already out of town, application forms can be mailed to them as long as sufficient time is allowed for



round-trip mailings of the application and the ballot. Applications in English or Spanish can also be downloaded from the website of the Connecticut Secretary of the State:  
(<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>) Absentee ballots are available beginning 31 days before an election, 21 days before a primary, or 19 days before a referendum upon receipt of an application.

### **Where to return an Absentee Ballot**

Applications must be returned by mail or in person to the local Town Clerk either separately or along with the absentee ballot. Applications can be faxed, but an original application with the voter's signature must also be mailed to the Town Clerk. Absentee ballots and applications must be received by the poll closing time of the day of the election, primary or referendum or they will not be counted.

### **To Find Providers in Connecticut's Community Resources Database:**

Search by service name: [Voter Registration Offices](#)

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*SOURCES: Connecticut Judicial Law Libraries, "Connecticut Law About Election Law" Webpage: <https://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/law/electionlaw.htm> ; Project Vote Smart website; Secretary of the State, Connecticut*

*PREPARED BY: 211/pt*

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