



# Voter Registration/Absentee Ballots

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## November 2020 Election Information – Connecticut Voting Guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Safe Polls Plan has been adopted by the State of Connecticut to assist residents during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Public health officials have worked with all municipalities to submit a plan for the general election in 2020.

The Secretary of the State is taking action to ensure that access to voting is a reality for all voters, no matter what the circumstances. Expansion of Absentee Ballot access – an absentee ballot application will go out to all eligible voters for the 2020 general election. Secure drop boxes will be provided to every municipality so that absentee ballots may be deposited by voters. Individuals will still be allowed to vote in person at their polling location, if they choose to do so.

For more detailed information, visit the Secretary of State’s Voter Information webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Fact-Sheet>

Connecticut General Election Schedule: **Nov 3, 2020**

**Early Voting:** Not available

**In-Person Absentee Voting:** Not available

Voter Registration Deadline

Received by: Tue Oct 27, 2020

Postmarked by: Tue Oct 27, 2020

In-Person Request by: Mon Nov 2, 2020 12:00PM EST

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Last Day to Change Party Affiliation: Tue Oct 27, 2020

**Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:**  
Mon Nov 2, 2020

**Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot:**  
Fax by Tue Nov 3, 2020

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## Voting by Absentee Ballot

**All voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in the general election held on November 3, 2020** due to the COVID-19, pursuant to Public Act 20-03 July Spec. Sess. More information can be found at [myvote.ct.gov/absentee](http://myvote.ct.gov/absentee) or below.



Each town will have at least one secure dropbox in which voters can drop off their absentee ballots if they choose not to enter town hall. Absentee ballots can also be mailed, but **all absentee ballots must be received by 8:00pm on Election Day, November 3, 2020.**

To download an Absentee Ballot Application in English and Spanish, and for more general information, visit the Connecticut Secretary of State website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/V5-Side-Navigation/COVID-19-Information-Page>

### **Voting in Person**

**All voters who choose to vote in person in a polling place will be able to do so.** The Office of the Secretary of the State is working closely with local election officials to make sure they have the resources necessary to conduct elections that are safe for all voters and poll workers.

Find a polling place: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Fact-Sheet>

**Disability Rights Connecticut, Inc** – Voting rights for those with disabilities – <https://www.disrightsct.org/voting-rights>

Connecticut Office of Secretary of State, “Voters with Disabilities Fact Sheet”  
– <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voters-with-Disabilities-Fact-Sheet>

CDC Polling Place guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html>

For more detailed Voter Information, visit the Connecticut Office of the Secretary of State website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Fact-Sheet>

For information on military and overseas citizens and how they can vote, state voting requirements & information, and much more, visit the National Association of Secretaries of State website, here: <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote>

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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**

1. For those applicants who become 18 years old, a US Citizen, or have moved into town between October 30, 2020 and November 3, 2020, 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 than 5 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2020; or
2. Individuals can appear at the designated Election Day Registration site in your town and register to vote on Election Day.

Documents to prove status (birth certificates, naturalization papers, proof of residence) must be brought to your 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:

- COVID-19 ? All voters are able to select this option, pursuant to Public Act 20-3 July Spec. Sess.?
- Active service in the Armed Forces of the United States;
- Absence from the town during all of the hours of voting;
- Illness;
- Religious tenets which forbid secular activity on the day of the election, primary or referendum;
- Duties as a primary, election or referendum official at a polling place other than one's own during all of the hours of voting;
- Physical disability.

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.

For additional information on Connecticut voting legislation and other general information, visit the Connecticut Judicial Law Libraries webpage on Election Laws: <https://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/law/electionlaw.htm>

For information on "Voting Rights of Convicted Felons in Connecticut", visit the 2-1-1 eLibrary on the topic here: <https://uwc.211ct.org/voting-rights-of-convicted-felons-in-connecticut-2/>

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

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



*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*

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