

CONNECTICUT

Voting Information

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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This nonpartisan FAQ was created for the Election Protection Coalition. If you have any questions that are not answered below or need any clarifying information, please call 866-OUR-VOTE.

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Overview of 2022 Primary and General Elections

Important Dates

Date/Period	Event or Deadline	Notes
May 9th, 2022	Deadline to change existing party affiliation (primary election only)	<p>Only registered voters who are also registered with one of the major parties holding a primary, Republican or Democrat, may vote in that party's primary.</p> <p>Members of minor parties (Independent, Working Family, Green Party and Libertarian) or unaffiliated voters (not a member of any party) are not eligible to vote in either primary.</p>
July 19th, 2022	Absentee Ballots become available for request for primary election	

Aug. 4th, 2022	Voter Registration Deadline for primary (Mail-in or online or electronic)	Mail-in voter registration applications must be mailed to the local registrar of voters in voters' town of residence and postmarked by this date . Online (via web portal) or electronic (via participating voter registration agency) voter registration applications must be received by 11:59pm on this date
Monday, Aug. 8th, 2022	Voter Registration Deadline for primary (In-person)	In person voter registration deadline at local Town Clerk or Registrar's offices in town of residence
Monday, Aug. 8th, 2022*	<p>End of Absentee Ballot request period for primary</p> <p>In-person return deadline for absentee ballots</p>	<p>Unless an emergency absentee ballot is issued on Primary Election Day, Aug. 9, due to sudden illness or hospitalization within 6 days preceding close of polls</p> <p>* As a practical matter, this date is TOO LATE to apply for an absentee ballot via mail. You should request your ballot as soon as possible, or request it and pick it up in person from your Town Clerk.</p>
Noon on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022	Party affiliation registration deadline for newly registered or unaffiliated voters	In person only with registrar of voters in town of residence
Tuesday, Aug. 9th, 2022	<p>Primary Election Day</p> <p>Mail or drop box return deadline for absentee ballots</p>	<p>Polls open 6am to 8pm—voters in line by 8pm will be able to vote. There is no Election Day Registration (EDR) for primaries.</p> <p>Absentee ballots must be received (not postmarked) by the Town Clerk by close of polls on Primary Election Day</p>

Friday, Oct. 7th, 2022	Absentee Ballots become available for request for general election	
Tuesday, Nov. 1st, 2022	Voter Registration Deadline for general election (Mail-in or online or electronic)	Mail-in voter registration applications must be mailed to the local registrar of voters in voters' town of residence and postmarked by this date. Online (via web portal) or electronic (via participating voter registration agency) voter registration applications must be received by 11:59pm on this date.
Monday, Nov. 7th, 2022	Voter Registration Deadline with Registrar of Voters for general election (In-person)	With registrar in town of residence
Monday, Nov. 7th, 2022*	End of Absentee Ballot request period for general election	Unless an emergency absentee ballot is issued on Primary Election Day, Aug. 9, due to sudden illness or hospitalization within 6 days preceding close of polls *As a practical matter, this date is TOO LATE to apply for an absentee ballot via mail. You should request your ballot as soon as possible, or request it and pick it up in person from your Town Clerk.
Monday, Nov. 7th, 2022	In-person return deadline for absentee ballots	In person only by voter to Town Clerk in town of residence
Tuesday, Nov. 8th, 2022	Election Day – General Election Election Day Registration (EDR) available Mail or drop box return deadline for absentee ballots	Polls open 6am to 8pm—voters in line by 8pm will be able to vote. Election Day voter registration is available at designated Election Day Registration (EDR) sites for the General Election. (In this case the voter can also immediately vote at the EDR site, not at what would be their normal polling place.) Absentee ballots must be received (not postmarked) by the Town Clerk by close of polls on Election Day

Quick Links

- How to register to vote: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>
- Check your voter registration: <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>
- Absentee ballot application: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>
- Check the status of your absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot (by looking up your voter registration): <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>
- Find your polling place (by looking up your voter registration): <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>
- List of local election offices: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/Town-Clerk/Town-Clerks-List.pdf>

Combating Misinformation

Ballot Harvesting

Quick Response: We value every eligible citizen’s right to make their voice heard, including those who might need extra help to vote by mail. Everyone should make a plan to vote and if they need help or have questions, call 866-OUR-VOTE.

Balance Messaging: Partisan special interests working to attack the integrity of our democracy are using fear to target communities who may need extra help to vote by mail, including senior citizens and Americans living with disabilities. As Americans, we value every eligible citizen’s right to make their voice heard, regardless of who they are or where they live. As election rules and processes have changed because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, everyone should make a plan to vote now and if they need help or have questions, call 866-OUR-VOTE.

Law Enforcement at the Polls

Quick Response: Every eligible voter has the right to vote safely in person without fear and intimidation. If you or someone you know experiences voter intimidation during this election, call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Balance Messaging: In 2020 former President Trump claimed he could send law enforcement to polling places. This was a clear effort to scare voters, particularly voters of color, who want to vote in person. To be clear, there are constitutional limits on the President’s power to use law enforcement in this way and he had no legal authority over local law enforcement. Federal and state laws prohibit anyone - including politicians and members of law enforcement - from intimidating voters, targeting voters based on race or other characteristics, or intentionally blocking eligible citizens from voting. We will not let any partisan politician intimidate us. Our country is based on free and fair elections and any attempt to undermine the people’s right to vote is undemocratic. Every eligible voter has the right to vote safely in person without fear and intimidation. For those who chose not to vote in person, voting by mail is a

secure and safe alternative. If you or someone you know experiences voter intimidation during this election, call the nonpartisan Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Safety of Vote-By-Mail (Voting by Absentee Ballot)

Quick Response: The truth is, voting by mail is a tried and tested process that is safe and secure. Voters have several secure options to cast their ballot, whether it is by mail, in person, or at a drop box.

Balance messaging: Partisan special interests are trying to stop people from voting by mail and breed distrust in our election systems by spreading confusion about when ballots will arrive in the mail. The truth is, voting by mail is a tried and tested process that is safe and secure. Voters also have options to cast their ballot, whether it is by mail, in person, or at a drop box. Voters should check with their local election official for rules and options in their state. The Postal Service can handle the mail-in balloting volume, but voters should be aware of their options.

Election Night is not Results Night

Quick Response: In a democracy every vote counts. This year's midterm election could have more mail-in ballots because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and counting them all accurately, safely, and securely will mean we probably won't have final results on November 8th.

Balance messaging: Partisan special interests who are working to stop voters, especially voters of color, from making their voice heard are saying only votes counted on Election Day matter. That's not true - in a democracy every vote counts. This year's midterm election could have more mail-in ballots because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and counting them all accurately, safely, and securely will mean we probably won't have final results on November 8th. Elections aren't certified on election night and every state has different rules with checks and balances on how to count ballots. Find the rules in your state and how you can receive and submit your mail-in ballot at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>

Frequently Asked Questions

Voting By Absentee Ballot

Who can vote by absentee ballot?

For the August 9th, 2022 primary election only active registered voters who are also registered as Democrat or Republican in Connecticut can vote--including by absentee ballot. Connecticut law allows you to receive an absentee ballot if you cannot appear at your assigned polling place on election day for specific reasons--one of them being sickness. "Sickness" is now determined by the voter on an ongoing basis and can include, for example, fear of contracting covid-19.

Commuters can now vote by absentee ballot even if their work and commute hours do NOT make them absent for ALL the hours between 6AM and 8PM on Election Day.

For the November 8th general election, any active registered voter in Connecticut can vote. Connecticut law allows you to receive an absentee ballot if you cannot appear at your assigned polling place on election day for specific reasons--one of them being sickness. "Sickness" is now determined by the voter on an ongoing basis and can include, for example, fear of contracting covid-19.

Commuters can now vote by absentee ballot even if their work and commute hours do NOT make them absent for ALL the hours between 6AM and 8PM on Election Day.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

In 2022 voters will NOT be mailed an absentee ballot application. To download an absentee ballot application from the Secretary of the State's website go here: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>; or go in person to the office of your Town Clerk. Voters can find their Town Clerk's address here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/Town-Clerk/Town-Clerks-List.pdf>

What are the deadlines to request an absentee ballot?

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot **for the primary election is Monday, Aug. 8th, and for the general election is Monday, Nov. 7th***—unless an emergency absentee ballot is issued on Election Day due to sudden illness or hospitalization within 6 days preceding close of polls.

You can return the application by mail, absentee ballot drop box or in person to the Town Clerk.

As a practical matter, Aug. 8th for the primary election and Nov. 7th for the general election are TOO LATE to apply for an absentee ballot via mail. **You should request your ballot as soon as possible or request it and pick it up in person from your Town Clerk.*

How do I use my absentee ballot?

You should carefully read the instructions that come with your absentee ballot. The inner envelope of an absentee ballot return envelope includes a statement that must be signed by the voter. If the statement is not signed, the ballot is rejected. Connecticut does not allow voters to fix deficiencies with their absentee ballots, so it is important to follow the instructions.

What are the deadlines to return an absentee ballot?

For the August 9th primary election, absentee ballots must be received (not postmarked) by the voters' Town Clerk:

- via mail or absentee ballot drop box by close of polls on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, Aug. 9th
- or returned by the elector (voter) in person to the Town Clerk by Monday, Aug. 8th

For the November 8th general election, absentee ballots must be received (not postmarked) by the voters' Town Clerk:

- via mail or absentee ballot drop box by close of polls on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8th

- or returned by the elector in person to the Town Clerk by Monday, Nov. 7th

What are the ways I can return my absentee ballot?

You can return your absentee ballot in several ways:

- By mail, so long as it is **received** (not postmarked) by 8pm on Election Day
- By dropping it off in a secure absentee ballot drop box in the town where you are registered to vote by 8pm on Election Day. There will be a secure drop box available outside each Town Hall. Some towns have multiple locations. Contact your Town Clerk for locations. Find your town clerk here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/Town-Clerk/Town-Clerks-List.pdf>
- By personal delivery to the Town Clerk's office (during open office hours) in the town where you are registered to vote up until the business day prior to Election Day

Can someone else return my absentee ballot for me?

An authorized designee may return a ballot on behalf of an ill or physically disabled voter. The designee may be a person caring for the voter, including a physician or nurse, a member of the applicant's family, or if no such person is available, a police officer, registrar, deputy registrar, or assistant registrar.

Additionally, an immediate family member may return an absentee ballot for any voter in person, or by mail if the voter is a student.

What if I never received my mail-in/absentee ballot? What if I changed my mind about voting absentee?

If it is Election Day, and you did not receive an absentee ballot that you earlier requested you should verify your correct polling place at <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx> and can vote at your polling place in person.

Voters who return their absentee ballot prior to Election Day will not be allowed to vote in a polling place on Election Day.

If an absentee ballot arrives *on* Election Day by mail or via absentee ballot drop box before close of polls it is held until after 8:00pm when the absentee ballot is compared to the official Election Day checklist.

If the voter who returned the absentee ballot on Election Day has voted in person in a polling place, the absentee ballot is not opened and is rejected. **This procedure ensures that no voter can vote twice, even by mistake.**

If your absentee ballot is received after Election Day (or after close of polls on Election Day), it will not be counted.

Prior to Election Day, if you never received an absentee ballot for which you applied you should contact your Town Clerk for a replacement—taking into account relevant absentee ballot deadlines and procedures. Find your Town Clerk's contact information here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/Town-Clerk/Town-Clerks-List.pdf>

How do I check the status of my absentee ballot?

You can check the status of your absentee ballot (by looking up your voter registration) here:

<https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>

What if the Town Clerk determines there is a problem with my absentee ballot?

Can I fix it?

In Connecticut there are no provisions for fixing any deficiencies in your absentee ballot. You should follow the instructions for completing your ballot carefully.

Polling Place Questions & Registration

Where can I vote? Am I at the right place?

You can find your polling place here by looking up your voter registration:

<https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>. Polls are open from 6am - 8pm on Election Day.

Can I vote early?

There is no in-person early voting in Connecticut—but you can vote early by absentee ballot if one of the listed reasons on the absentee ballot application applies to you.

For the August 9th, 2022 primary election only active registered voters who are also registered as Democrat or Republican in Connecticut can vote—including by absentee ballot. Connecticut law allows you to receive an absentee ballot if you cannot appear at your assigned polling place on election day for specific reasons—one of them being sickness. **"Sickness" is now determined by the voter on an ongoing basis and can include, for example, fear of contracting covid-19.**

Commuters can now vote by absentee ballot even if their work and commute hours do NOT make them absent for ALL the hours between 6AM and 8PM on Election Day.

For the November 8th general election, any active registered voter in Connecticut can vote. Connecticut law allows you to receive an absentee ballot if you cannot appear at your assigned polling place on election day for specific reasons—one of them being sickness. **"Sickness" is now determined by the voter on an ongoing basis and can include, for example, fear of contracting covid-19.**

Commuters can now vote by absentee ballot even if their work and commute hours do NOT make them absent for ALL the hours between 6AM and 8PM on Election Day.

Am I registered to vote? Can I register for this election if I'm not?

You can check your voter registration here <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>.

If you are not registered, you can register:

- Online at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>. You will need a Connecticut driver's license or state ID card.
- By paper application, available here <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Register-to-Vote/Voter-Registration-Application-English-and-Spanish>. This application should then be mailed to your Registrar of Voters. A list of those offices can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/lists/ROVListpdf.pdf>
- In person by application at your Registrar of Voters office.

For the August 9th primary election:

- Deadline to change existing party affiliation (primary elections only) — **Monday, May 9th, 2022**
- Mail-in or electronic voter registration applications must be postmarked or received by the local registrar of voters or participating voter registration agency by **Thursday, Aug. 4th, 2022**.
- In person voter registration deadline at local Town Clerk or Registrar's offices in town of residence: **noon on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022**.
- Party affiliation registration deadline in person with registrar of voters of town of residence for newly registered or unaffiliated voters at: **noon on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022**
- There is no Election Day Registration (EDR) for primaries.

For the November 8th general election:

- Mail-in or electronic voter registration applications must be postmarked or received by the local registrar of voters or voter registration agency: **Tuesday, Nov. 1st, 2022**.
- In-person voter registration deadline at local Registrar of Voters' office in town of residence: **Monday, Nov. 7th, 2022**.
- Election Day voter registration is available at designated Election Day Registration (EDR) sites for the General Election (In this case the voter can also immediately vote at the EDR site but not at their polling place.) on **Tuesday, Nov. 8th, 2022**.

Election Day Registration (general elections only, not primary elections):

Connecticut allows election day registration. Election Day registration is only available in person and only at certain locations. It is not available at your polling place. To find a location for Election Day registration, check <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Election-Day-Registration/EDR-Location-Page>. The deadline for Election Day registration is 8pm on Election Day.

To register on Election Day, a voter must bring his or her birth certificate, driver's license, or social security card to the registration location. If the voter is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, he or she may instead provide his or her student photo identification card. The voter must also provide proof of his or her bona fide residence address, such as a school registration statement or utility bill.

What if I've moved?

If you move within the same town, you can continue to vote at the designated polling place in that town.

If you move to a new town, you must re-register in your new town of residence. A person who wants to re-register on Election Day may have to go to a designated Election Day Registration location (only for the general election) in order to update his or her address and change her or his registration. In that case, the voter should contact their local Registrar of Voters office to find out where to go for Election Day registration. <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Election-Day-Registration/EDR-Location-Page>. If a voter submits a provisional ballot without re-registering in the new town, it will not be counted.

What if I'm not on the voter roll at my polling place?

Be sure you are at the correct polling location by looking up your voter registration at <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>. If you are not, you should go to the correct location if you can do so before the polls close.

If you are at the correct location, you should be able to register and vote at the Election Day Registration location. Find the location here <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Election-Day-Registration/EDR-Location-Page>. It is likely not at your polling place.

When should I request or use a provisional ballot?

There are not many reasons to vote a provisional ballot in Connecticut. If the voter is not on the rolls, the voter should register to vote through the Election Day registration process. If the voter does not have ID, there are alternatives to ID that require an affirmation only. Voting a provisional ballot should be a last resort, and the voter should find out how they can track whether their ballot was counted or not.

Voter ID

Is a driver's license or photo ID required to vote in Connecticut?

No. When you arrive at the polling place the poll worker will request that you present ID but **there are several options for identification and it does not need to be a driver's license or an ID with a photo.** if

you do not have any form of ID then in most cases, you may sign an affidavit instead of presenting ID.

What ID can I use to vote?

Except under certain circumstances with first-time voters, the voter must show a Social Security card or any other preprinted form of identification which shows either the voter's name and address, or the voter's name and signature, or the voter's name and photograph. Refer to <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/FAQ/FAQ---Voter-Identification> for detailed information including the circumstances under which first-time voters have different requirements.

What if I don't have my ID with me? What if I don't have an accepted ID and cannot get one in time?

A Connecticut voter can receive a regular ballot if they do not have identification at the polls by filling out a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. On it, the voter writes their residential address and date of birth, prints their name and signs a statement under penalty of false statement that they are the voter whose name appears on the official checklist. Refer to <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/FAQ/FAQ---Voter-Identification> for detailed information.

What if my ID is expired?

There is no requirement that you use an ID that has an expiration date. And no requirement that the ID used is "current".

Does my name or address on my ID need to match what is in the poll books?

Your name must match, but there is no requirement that the ID you use has a current address on it. If you have a driver's license that indicates it is "Not for Federal Identification", you may still use it as ID at your polling place.

Disability and Language Access

Is there an accessible way to vote without going inside?

If you arrive at the polling place but are unable to access it due to a temporary or permanent incapacity, you may request that a ballot be brought to you. A team of poll workers from both parties must then bring you a ballot and a privacy sleeve. You must show the proper identification and may then mark the

ballot. You should then place the ballot in a privacy sleeve. The election officials will then deliver your ballot in the privacy sleeve to the tabulator for counting.

Will the polling place be accessible? How do I get accessible voting equipment?

Both federal and state law require that all voters be able to access and use their polling places. While absentee balloting is offered to voters with disabilities, it does not take the place of in-person voting for those who prefer to vote at the polls on Election Day. An accessible ballot marking device is available at every polling place for voters with disabilities or for any voter who prefers this option. This ballot marking system allows you to make your choices audibly or by using a touchscreen display, rather than by pen and paper. This is a voter-verified paper ballot system that allows you to vote privately and independently.

Can someone help me vote?

You have the right to get help with voting from a person of your choosing. There are, however, some exceptions. The following people are not allowed to help you mark or cast your ballot: your employer or an agent of your employer, an agent of your union, or a candidate whose name appears on the ballot, unless the candidate is a member of your immediate family.

Can someone translate the ballot for me? Will there be ballots in other languages?

The towns of East Hartford, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Waterbury and Windham are required to provide ballots and related election material in Spanish. The town of Kent is required to provide ballots and related election material in American Indian (All other American Indian tribes).

In addition, if you are unable to read, write, or understand English because of a disability or otherwise, you are entitled to have assistance from a person of your choosing, other than your employer or an agent of your employer, an agent of your union, or a candidate whose name appears on the ballot, unless the candidate is a member of your immediate family.

Other Voting Laws

Can I vote if I have been convicted of a felony?

Yes, if you have been incarcerated or confined for a felony conviction in a Connecticut court, your voting eligibility is restored when you are released from confinement **including if you are on parole**. If the offense was a violation of the Connecticut Election Code and you are on parole, this does not apply.

A person who is convicted of a felony without confinement does not lose their voting rights in Connecticut.

What kinds of electioneering is not permitted? What is the boundary line?

No voter may be approached within a 75-foot radius of the polling place by any person soliciting on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate. This includes corridors and passageways leading to polling places. In addition, registrars may limit nonpartisan activity as necessary to maintain order, and the moderator can evict from the polling place anyone who interferes with voting.

Is there anything I can't or shouldn't bring with me into the voting booth?

Voters with political candidate clothing, buttons, or other paraphernalia will be asked to cover it up, remove it, turn it inside out, or otherwise not display it. Candidate literature, palm cards and sample ballots should be put in the elector's pocket or purse. Voters can bring such items into the polling place, and consult them while voting, as long as they do not display them for others to see or leave them in the voting booths. You can bring a camera into the polling location but cannot use it to invade someone else's privacy and ballot.

My vote has been challenged. What do I do?

Challenges can be made only if the challenger knows, suspects or reasonably believes such a person is not the person they claim to be, or that they are not entitled to vote, or that they are not a bona fide resident. The moderator shall decide upon the right of the person so challenged to vote.

If the challenge is upheld, the voter will be given a challenged ballot. If the voter is later determined to be eligible to vote, the challenged ballot will be counted.