Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking Connecticut Secretary of State’s “Voter Registration Lookup” page (https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the “Voter Registration Lookup” page (https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question #6.

3. When do the polls open and close?
The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 6:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at a polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. A voter waiting in line by 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in the voting line before 8:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

A voter who wishes to register online or by mail must do so by April 23, 2020 for the primary and Tuesday, October 27, 2020 for the general. Otherwise, a voter may register in person on Election Day if he or she meets the eligibility requirements for voting and is not already registered OR if he/she is registered in one town and wants to change her/his registration because he/she currently resides in another town. A person who wants to register on Election Day may have to go to another location rather than the polling place in order to register. In that case, the voter should contact their local Registrar of Voters office to find out where to go to register (https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/lists/6-12-18-ROV-Office-Addresses.pdf).

By law, a person is eligible to register and vote if he/she (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) is at least 18 years old; (3) is a resident of the town in which he or she is registering to vote; and (4) has completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a disenfranchising felony.

To register on Election Day, a voter must bring his/her birth certificate, driver’s license, or social security card to the polls. If the voter is a student enrolled in an institution of higher education, he/she may provide his or her student photo identification card instead. The voter must also provide proof of his/her bona fide residence address by providing some supporting documentation that includes the address, such as a school registration statement or utility bill.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Yes, though whether the voter will be provided with a regular or a provisional ballot will depend on whether the voter submitted identification when he or she first registered to vote.

Voters who registered by mail to vote for the first time on or after January 1, 2003, and who did not provide proof of identification and address at the time of registering, must show proof of address and identification by providing a current and valid photo ID that includes the voter’s name and address, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter’s name and address. If the voter does not have any such form of identification, she or he will only be able to vote by provisional ballot for an election for federal office.

All other voters may show proof of address and identification by providing the voter’s Social Security card or any other preprinted form of identification which shows the elector’s name and either address, signature, or photograph; or, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State, voters may write their residential address and date of birth, print their name, and sign a statement under penalty of false statement that the voter is the voter whose name appears on the official checklist.
6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration. Can I vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same town</th>
<th>Moved to a new town</th>
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<tr>
<td>The voter should go to the appropriate polling place for the town within which he/she has moved. If the voter is unsure of the location, he or she may find the polling place by visiting the website from Question 2.¹⁰</td>
<td>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 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 to register (<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/lists/7-26-18-ROV-List.pdf">https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/lists/7-26-18-ROV-List.pdf</a>). If a voter submits a provisional ballot without re-registering in the new town, it will not be counted.</td>
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7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. A voter can vote and place his or her ballot in the auxiliary bin for later counting if no working voting tabulator is available.¹¹

If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or contact the relevant Registrar of Voters. Remember, a voter can vote and place his or her ballot in the auxiliary bin for later counting if no working voting tabulator is available.

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the moderator, and then notify the command center, which will notify a voting machine expert or contact the relevant Registrar of Voters. Remember, a voter can vote and place his or her ballot in the auxiliary bin for later counting if no working voting tabulator is available.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

If the voter’s name doesn’t appear on the voter rolls and his or her eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established, the voter is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. However, casting a provisional ballot is a last resort, and before doing so the voter should attempt to determine whether he or she is in fact voting at the correct polling place and why her or his name is missing from the rolls.

If the voter has moved to a new address in the same town since registering, the poll workers at the new polling place may be able to transfer the voter’s registration.¹² If the voter has moved to a new town since registering, she or he must go to a designated Election Day Registration location in order to update his or her address and change her or his registration. This cannot be done at a polling location, and if a voter submits a provisional ballot without re-registering in the new town, it will not be counted.¹³

After the voter has cast a provisional ballot, the poll worker should instruct him or her on how to access a system maintained by the Registrar of Voters to track if and when their vote has been counted.¹⁴
9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

If a voter’s name doesn’t appear on the voter rolls and his or her eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established, he or she is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. However, casting a provisional ballot is a last resort, and before doing so the voter should attempt to determine whether he or she is in fact voting in the correct town’s polling place and why her or his name is missing from the rolls.15

A voter’s name may have been removed from the list of registered voters where the Registrar of Voters has received information that the voter:

- Has subsequently registered in a different town or state;16
- Has moved out of the municipality;
- Has died; or
- Has been disenfranchised, such as through incarceration for a felony.17

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure he/she is registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question 1)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could he/she be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1 and Question 6)
- Has the voter changed her name recently, or could he/she be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter’s name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Most likely yes. Only voters convicted of a felony offense and committed to confinement have their voting rights suspended in the first place. Once those voters are no longer subject to confinement or parole, and have paid all fines in conjunction with their conviction, they may have their voting rights reinstated.

When a voter is convicted of a felony and confined, the Commissioner of Correction will notify the Secretary of the State, who will notify the voter’s local registrar that she or he has forfeited his or her voting rights. After the voter is released from prison and/or discharged from parole, two things happen:

1. The Commissioner of Correction must give the voter a document certifying that she or he has been released or discharged, and

2. The Commissioner of Correction must notify the Secretary of the State within a month that the voter is no longer disqualified from voting.

If the voter returns to the town where she or he was registered before conviction, this process will eventually restore his or her voting rights on its own, although it may take several months and the voter will have to update his or her address with the registrar.
If the voter is living in a new town or was not previously registered to vote, she or he must submit a new voter registration application and include in his or her registration application satisfactory proof that she or he has been released or discharged. This may be done with the certificate issued to the voter by the Commissioner of Corrections or through the voter’s parole officer. 18

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. Was it for one of the following reasons:

- The voter’s name doesn’t appear on the voter rolls and his or her eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established;
- The voter’s eligibility to vote has been challenged by a poll watcher or other voter; or
- The voter doesn’t have the required identification with her or him at the poll and she or he is a newly registered-by-mail voter who did not include a copy of her or his identification with the registration form?

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter should MAKE SURE he or she is in the right polling place for his or her current address. The voter should give the poll worker the voter’s current address and ask whether he or she is in the right place. Hotline volunteers should also verify that voters are in the correct place. 19

The voter should also follow up after the election to confirm that his or her vote was counted, or, if not, why not. 20

If the voter casts a provisional ballot, remind him or her to ask the poll worker if any additional steps will be needed to make sure the ballot is counted.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes, students may establish voting residency in the place they consider their principal home, whether that be their current school address or at another address (such as a parent’s address) they still consider to be “home.” A college student may register to vote in Connecticut so long as he or she meets the generally applicable standards, i.e. if she or he is 18 or older, a US citizen, and a resident of the town in Connecticut where he or she is registering. Students should be prepared to provide documentation of their in-state address. 21

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes, polling places should be wheelchair accessible and offer parking for persons with disabilities. 22

14. I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union, mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot. 23
15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

The voter may ask poll workers for instructions on how to use the equipment. A demonstration device will be available at the polling place in order for two demonstrators (one from each party) to demonstrate to the voter how to cast his or her vote.24

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Connecticut does not have early voting. A voter can vote absentee if he or she is eligible to vote and he or she is unable to appear at his or her polling place during the hours of voting for any of the following reasons:

- Active service with the armed forces of the United States;
- Absence from the town of his or her voting residence during all of the hours of voting;
- Illness;
- Physical disability;
- Religious beliefs do not allow secular activity on the day of the election; or
- The required performance of his or her duties as an election official at a polling place other than his or her own during all of the hours of voting at such election.25

To vote absentee, the voter must submit an application to the clerk of the municipality in which the applicant is eligible to vote. Absentee ballots that are delivered in-person by the applicant must be delivered by Monday, November 2, 2020. An absentee ballot that is returned by mail must be delivered no later than the close of the polls on Election Day (November 3, 2020).26 An absentee ballot which is delivered in person by the designee or immediate family member of the absentee voter must be delivered to the clerk no later than the close of the polls on Election Day.27

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

A voter who has voted by absentee ballot but wants to re-vote in person, or who has received an absentee ballot and does not want to use it, must go to the town clerk’s office before 10:00 a.m. on the day of the election and request to withdraw the absentee ballot. The clerk will find the ballot (or take it from the voter if it has not yet been submitted), mark it as “rejected,” and will give the voter a signed statement that the voter will show the moderator in his or her voting district stating that the voter has withdrawn her or his absentee ballot and is eligible to vote in person.28

Voters who have requested an absentee ballot may alternatively vote in person by submitting the completed and sealed absentee ballot in person to their town clerk before the close of polls on Election Day.29

18. Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

A voter may register and vote in person on Election Day if he or she meets the eligibility requirements for voting and is not already registered OR if she or he is registered in one town and wants to change his or her registration because he or she currently resides in another town.30 By law, a person is eligible to register and vote if he or she (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) is at least 18 years old; (3) is a resident of the town in which he or she is registering to vote; and (4) has completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a disenfranchising felony.31 To register on Election Day, a voter must bring either his or her birth certificate, driver’s license, or social security card to the polls.32 If the voter is
a student enrolled in an institution of higher education, he or she may provide his or her student photo identification card instead. The voter must also provide proof of his or her bona fide residence address, including a registration or fee statement in the case of student voters. A voter may need to go to a designated Election Day Registration location rather than his/her polling place in order to register on Election Day. In that case, the voter should contact their local Registrar of Voters office to find out where to go to register (https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/lists/6-12-18-ROV-Office-Addresses.pdf).

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

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. Each polling place should have a sign which demarcates the radius inside of which voters cannot be approached. 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.

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

If a person’s right to vote is challenged, the moderator of the polling place will first rule on the challenge. The challenger must “know[, suspect[, or reasonably believe[” that a person is not entitled to vote. Challenges can be made by either an official challenger designated by the registrar or by a voter. A voter challenging another voter’s right to vote must do so under oath administered by the moderator. If the moderator determines that the voter does not have the right to vote, the voter may then request a challenged ballot from the moderator. The ballot must include a signed statement that the voter is eligible to vote. At that point the voter will cast his or her challenged ballot in the presence of the moderator who will place the vote in a marked envelope.

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

The presidential primary in Connecticut is “semi-closed,” meaning that voters registered with a party can only vote in that party’s primary election. Unaffiliated voters can participate in the primary election of any party. For new voters, to vote in a party primary, mail-in applications must be postmarked, or received by the Registrar of Voters or voter registration agency, by April 23, 2020. For unaffiliated voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by April 23, 2020. However, the in-person enrollment deadline for new and unaffiliated voters enrolling in a party in person at a Town Hall is April 27, 2020 by 12:00 P.M. The deadline for registered voters to change party affiliation is January 28, 2020 for the presidential primary and May 11, 2020 for the state primary.

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3 http://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Registration-Deadlines/Registration-Deadlines.
11 Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 9-174a-19, 9-242a-12, -16.
26 http://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Registration-Deadlines/Registration-Deadlines.
34 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-236