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**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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## REGISTERING TO VOTE

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### 1. STATUS: 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. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

Voters may register by mail, online ([voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov)) or in-person. See Questions 3, 4 and 5.

A voter can obtain a voter registration card from any public library, the DMV, DSS or any other voter registration agency.

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.<sup>1</sup> See Question 10 for more information about voting following a felony conviction.

### 3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

For **mail registration**, if a voter is registering for the first time in that town, the voter is advised to include one of the following: (a) voter's driver's license number or, if none, the last four digits of the voter's social security number, (b) a copy of a current and valid I.D. or (c) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows the voter's name and address. Providing this I.D. with the registration application will avoid additional I.D. requirements the first time the voter votes.

For **online registration**, a voter will need have a current and valid driver's license, learner's permit or non-driver photo identification card issued by the CT DMV and a signature on file with the DMV.

For **in-person/Election Day registration (see Question 5 below)**, a voter must bring his/her birth certificate, driver's license or social security card to the polls.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

**4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?**

A voter who wishes to register **online or by my mail** for the General Election must do so by **Tuesday, October 27, 2020** (mail registrations must be postmarked by October 27, 2020)<sup>4</sup> Otherwise, a voter may register in person on Election Day (see Question 5).

**5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?**

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 she/he is registered in one town and wants to change her/his registration because he/she currently resides in another town.<sup>5</sup> A person who wants to register on Election Day will likely have to go to another location rather than the polling place in order to register. The voter should contact their local Registrar of Voters office to find out where to go to register on Election Day. A list of contact details for the Registrar of Voters offices can be found at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/lists/ROV\\_List.pdf?la=en](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/lists/ROV_List.pdf?la=en). See Question 3 for I.D. requirements for Election Day registration.

**6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?**

<b>Moved within the same town</b>	<b>Moved to a new town</b>
<p>You will have to update your voter registration to reflect your new address. Your voter registration should always reflect your current home address.</p> <p>However, thanks to Connecticut's Election Day Registration law, you can register and vote in person on Election Day at your town's Election Day Registration location. To register in person, you will need to supply proof of identity and residence. Contact your local registrars of voters for information about location, hours of operation, and acceptable forms of identification.</p> <p><a href="https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-and-Elected-Officials/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-of-Voters-and-Elected-Officials">https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-and-Elected-Officials/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-of-Voters-and-Elected-Officials</a> (click Registrar of Voters)</p>	<p>If you move to a new town, you must re-register in your new town of residence. You will have to update your voter registration to reflect your new address. Your voter registration should always reflect your current home address.</p> <p>However, thanks to Connecticut's Election Day Registration law, you can register and vote in person on Election Day at your town's Election Day Registration location. To register in person, you will need to supply proof of identity and residence. Contact your local registrars of voters for information about location, hours of operation, and acceptable forms of identification.</p> <p><a href="https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-and-Elected-Officials/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-of-Voters-and-Elected-Officials">https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-and-Elected-Officials/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-of-Voters-and-Elected-Officials</a> (click Registrar of Voters)</p>

**7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?**

As long as a voter maintains a residence in Connecticut in the town in which they are registered, a temporary move to another location, inside or outside the state (for example, to stay with the family at another location), should not affect their eligibility to vote in the town in which they are registered so long as the voter does not register to vote elsewhere. However, if a voter does not maintain their original residence in the town in which they are registered because of a temporary move (for example, they have sold their home or given up their leased residence), Question 6 would apply. Also, a voter should consider whether they will be able to satisfy the in-person voter identification requirements set forth in Question 36 as a result of a temporary move (i.e. will the address included in their form of Identification match the address associated with their voting registration).

**8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?**

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. **A student taking classes remotely from a Connecticut-based school who does not otherwise meet Connecticut's residency requirements is likely not eligible to vote in Connecticut.**

**9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?**

Members of the military or citizens residing overseas can submit an application for voter registration and/or an absentee ballot by using:

- (a) The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). This form can be used to either register to vote or to request an absentee ballot. Servicemen and women and their families may obtain the FPCA from the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov); or
- (b) Connecticut's voter registration application (See Question 2). If an individual registers to vote using this application, they must also submit a separate application for absentee ballot if they intended to vote absentee.

**10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: 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. Voting rights are reinstated once those voters are no longer subject to confinement or parole, and (with respect only to those voters who were confined in an out-of-state or federal correctional facility) have paid all fines in conjunction with their conviction.

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One exception to the above is where a voter is *convicted* of a felony and committed for *confinement* for a violation of *Title 9 of Connecticut Election statutes*. For such a voter, electoral privileges cannot be restored until all of the requirements set forth above have been fulfilled and the voter has been discharged from *probation*.

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:

- The Commissioner of Correction must give the voter a document certifying that she or he has been released or discharged, and
- 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.<sup>6</sup>

#### **11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?**

If a voter is in jail as a result of a felony offense, the voter is not eligible to vote. All other incarcerated persons, who otherwise meet the state's voting eligibility requirements, may vote.

#### **12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?**

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.<sup>7</sup>

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;<sup>8</sup>
- Has moved out of the municipality;
- Has died; or
- Has been disenfranchised, such as through incarceration for a felony.<sup>9</sup>

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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?

**13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?**

The voter should confirm whether or not they are registered in their town or residence (see Question 1). If they are not, they may register by mail, online or in-person (see Questions 2-5).

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## HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

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**14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?**

Connecticut does not have "early voting" per se but, due to COVID-19, it does permit all voters who have completed and delivered an absentee ballot application to submit their absentee ballot prior to Election Day.

An absentee ballot is available by submitting an Application for Absentee Ballot, Form ED-3. **This year, due to COVID-19, absentee ballot applications will be sent to every active, registered voter.** Application Form ED-3 is also available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting> or from the town clerk's office. **It is important to note that the application is not the ballot itself; the application must be submitted and processed before a ballot is made available.**

Absentee ballots will be mailed after a submitted application has been processed (beginning on October 2, 2020 with respect to applications submitted and processed prior to such date).

An emergency ballot within 6 days of an election is available upon application as a result of a voter's unforeseen illness, physical disability or hospitalization. Application for an emergency ballot is available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/ElectForms/electforms/ed3eEngpdf.pdf>.



**15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?**

**All registered voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot due to COVID-19 by simply checking the COVID-19 box on the absentee ballot application.** Some towns may not have been able to reprint application forms to include COVID-19 as a reason for absentee voting. In this case, the Secretary of State has indicated that the voter can write in themselves “COVID-19” as their reason for voting absentee themselves on the application form.

In addition, a voter may vote by absentee ballot if they are on active service in the U.S. armed services; they are absent from the town in which they are registered to vote during all hours of voting; they have an illness or physical disability that prevent them voting in person; they have religious beliefs that prevent them from performing secular activities like voting on Election Day; or they will be performing duties as an election official at a polling place other than their own during all hours of voting on Election Day.

**16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?**

See Question 30.

**17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?**

Once the voter fills out their absentee ballot, they can return their completed absentee ballot via:

- (a) the secure drop box that the Office of the Secretary of State has provided to each town. For a recent list of secure drop box locations, see <https://www.acluct.org/en/connecticut-secure-absentee-ballot-drop-box-locations-nov-3-2020-election>. This is not an official list and is subject to change. If a voter is unsure of the drop box location, they should call their local town clerk’s office for the most up-to-date information. A list of town clerk’s offices is available online at <http://www.ctclerks.com/content/5645/5649/default.aspx>.
- (b) the United States postal service (consider whether there is sufficient time for processing, see Question 20); or
- (c) in person in the town clerk’s office. Please note that due to COVID-19, voters should call their town clerk’s office before going to the office. Many town clerk’s officers are requiring appointments for in-person visits.

**18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?**

See Question 26.



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## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

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**19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?**

Due to COVID-19, an application for an absentee ballot will be sent to all registered voters but in order to receive an actual ballot the application form must be submitted and processed. The absentee ballot application form (Form ED-3) is also available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>.

**20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?**

There is no deadline for submitting an application for an absentee ballot. However, voters should be aware of, and factor into their decision to vote by absentee ballot, the time delay associated with postal delivery of their absentee ballot application; the processing of their application by their town clerk; and postal delivery of their ballot once their application for an absentee ballot has been processed and mailed. **As such, voters who wish to submit an absentee ballot should submit their absentee ballot applications as soon as possible (preferably using the secure drop box in their town (see Question 17(a))) and not to wait to do so because they may find they may not have sufficient time for their application to be processed and their ballot to be sent to them.**

**All ballots must be received by the close of polls, 8:00pm on Election Day.**

If a voter has not submitted their application for an absentee ballot by October 20, 2020, or has not received their absentee ballot, by October 27, 2020, the voter should consider voting in-person if possible because ballots mailed after this date may not be received by the Election Day deadline. Alternatively, the voter should consider delivering any absentee ballot received after October 27, 2020 to their local secure drop box. See Question 17(a) regarding secure drop box locations.

**21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?**

See Question 17 for information on where to return completed absentee ballot applications. The voter or the voter's immediate family member or "designee" can return the completed application. For a definition of "designee", see Question 32.

**22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?**

An emergency ballot within 6 days of an election is available upon application as a result of a voter's **unforeseen** illness, physical disability or hospitalization. Application for an emergency ballot is available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/ElectForms/electforms/ed3eEngpdf.pdf>.

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An emergency ballot will likely not be available to voters whose reason for the emergency application is that they were tardy in submitting their application for an absentee ballot.

**23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?**

**All registered voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot due to COVID-19 by simply checking the COVID-19 box on the absentee ballot application.** Some towns may not have been able to reprint application forms to include COVID-19 as a reason for absentee voting. In this case, the Secretary of State has indicated that the voter can write in themselves as the reason for voting absentee “COVID-19” on the application form.

In addition, a voter may vote by absentee ballot if they are on active service in the U.S. armed services; they are absent from the town in which they are registered to vote during all hours of voting; they have illness or physical disability that prevent them voting in person; they have religious beliefs that prevent them from performing secular activities like voting on Election Day; or they will be performing duties as an election official at a polling place other than their own during all hours of voting on Election Day.

**24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?**

A voter may check the status of their **application** for their absentee ballot by calling their town clerk. Voters should allow a reasonable amount of time for absentee ballot applications to be processed and absentee ballots to be mailed.

A voter who has returned their completed absentee ballot to their town clerk can check the status of their **ballot** here <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>.

A list of town clerk’s offices is available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-and-Elected-Officials/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-of-Voters-and-Elected-Officials>

**25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?**

A voter should call their local town clerk.

**26. COMPLETING APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?**

No identification requirements are specified in the form of application for an absentee ballot other than name, address, telephone number, date of birth and **signature**. The information included in the application form should be consistent with the information on file associated with the voter’s registration (particularly as to name and address).

If a voter needs assistance completing the application for an absentee ballot or the absentee ballot itself, assistance may only be given by a member of the voter’s immediate family or the voter’s “designee”. For a definition of “designee” see Question 32.

**27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?**

If a voter makes a mistake or “spoils” his or her ballot, and has not cast the ballot, a voter in this situation may vote in person. They may also contact their town clerk to see if they can request and receive a replacement ballot after returning the spoiled ballot.

**28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?**

A voter may check with their town clerk (note that ballots will be mailed beginning on October 2, 2020 or, for applications submitted more recently, as soon as possible after an application is processed). If a voter has not received their absentee ballot by October 27, 2020, the voter should consider voting in person if possible because ballots mailed after this date may not be received by the Election Day deadline. Alternatively, the voter should consider delivering any absentee ballot received after October 27, 2020 to their local secure drop box. See Question 17(a) regarding secure drop box locations.

**29. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?**

A voter who has requested an absentee ballot which has not been submitted may alternatively vote in person by submitting the completed and sealed absentee ballot in person to their town clerk before the close of polls (8:00 pm) on Election Day.

A voter who has voted by absentee ballot but who wishes to re-vote in person 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, 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.<sup>10</sup>

Note, however, that the Secretary of State’s website currently states that if a voter has delivered an absentee ballot before Election Day, they will not be permitted to vote in person.

**There is no apparent explanation for this inconsistency.**

**30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?**

In this presidential election, all absentee ballots must be **delivered (not simply postmarked)** no later than the close of the polls on Election Day (8:00 pm on November 3, 2020) regardless of whether the absentee ballot is mailed, delivered to the town clerk or deposited in a secure ballot drop box.<sup>11</sup>

If submitting by mail, the Secretary of State suggests that voters submit their absentee ballots at least 7 days prior to Election Day (October 27, 2020).

**31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?**

Once the voter fills out their absentee ballot, they can return their completed absentee ballot via:

- (a) the secure drop box that the Office of the Secretary of State has provided to each town. For a recent list of secure drop box locations, see <https://www.acluct.org/en/connecticut-secure-absentee-ballot-drop-box-locations-nov-3-2020-election>. This is not an official list and is subject to change. If a voter is unsure of the drop box location, they should call their local town clerk's office for the most up-to-date information. A list of town clerk's offices is available online at <http://www.ctclerks.com/content/5645/5649/default.aspx>.
- (b) the United States postal service (consider whether there is sufficient time for processing, see Question 20); or
- (c) in person in the town clerk's office. Please note that due to COVID-19, voters should call their town clerk's office before going to the office. Many town clerk's officers are requiring appointments for in-person visits.

**32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?**

An absentee ballot may be submitted by a voter, their immediate family member or their "designee".

A "**designee**" includes a person caring for a voter due to the voter's illness or disability; a voter's family member designated by the voter and who agrees to act as a designee; or if no such person is available, a police officer, registrar of voters or assistant or deputy registrar of voters in the voter's town.<sup>12</sup>

**33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?**

See Question 29.

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## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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**34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?**

Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day. Any voter in line at 8:00 p.m. may cast a ballot.

### 35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

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 and 7.

### 36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

Voters who registered by mail to vote for the first time in that town 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 one of the following:

- (a) a current and valid photo ID that includes the voter's name and address; or
- (b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.<sup>13</sup>

If such 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.<sup>14</sup>

All other voters may show proof of address and identification by providing one of the following:

- (a) the voter's Social Security card; or
- (b) any other preprinted form of identification which shows the voter's name and either their address, signature, or photograph; or
- (c) 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.

Without one of these forms of identification, a voter is permitted to vote a challenged or provisional ballot.

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## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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### 37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

A voter should check with their town clerk.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

**38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?**

Any voter in line at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day may cast a ballot.

**39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: 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.<sup>15</sup>

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.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

**40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?**

The State of Connecticut has established a Safe Polls program to protect the health of voters and polls workers. Also, by Executive Order, any person in a public place in Connecticut, whether indoors or outdoors, who does not maintain a safe distance of approximately six feet from every other person is required to cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth covering. If a voter feels a particular poll location is not properly enforcing the Executive Order, they should speak to a poll worker at the location.

No assurances can be given that all individuals present at a polling location will abide by the Executive Order or that all individuals at a polling location will adhere to the safety precautions with the same degree of compliance as others. **Voters concerned about this possibility should seriously consider submitting an absentee application and receiving an absentee ballot which they can submit by secure drop box or mail (if there is sufficient time remaining) to avoid standing in lines at a polling place.**

**41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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. Two demonstrators (one from each party) will be available to demonstrate to the voter how to cast his or her vote on the demonstration device.<sup>16</sup>

**42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?**

Yes, polling places should be wheelchair accessible and (if space is available) offer parking for persons with disabilities.<sup>17</sup>

Any voter who needs assistance voting, by reason of blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union or a candidate for any office on the ballot (unless the voter is a member of the immediate family of such candidate), mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting booth.<sup>18</sup>

**43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: 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?**

Any voter who needs assistance voting, by reason of blindness, disability or inability to write or to read the ballot, is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union or a candidate for any office on the ballot (unless the voter is a member of the immediate family of such candidate), mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting booth.<sup>19</sup>

**44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?**

Curbside voting is available **only** for voters who are "**temporarily incapacitated**" and cannot gain access into a polling place. In these circumstances, a voter may request a ballot be brought to them. Two poll workers of the opposite parties will come outside to assist the voter.

**45. CAMPAIGNING: 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.<sup>20</sup>

**46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my 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.

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE



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.<sup>21</sup>

**47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?**

No state guidance is provided on this point. A voter should speak to their town clerk and report any concern to polling officials if they are comfortable doing so.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

**48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: 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.<sup>22</sup>

The voter should also follow up after the election to confirm that his or her vote was counted, or, if not, why not.<sup>23</sup>

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.

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## QUESTIONS

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**49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?**

Additional voter information is available online at [www.portal.ct.gov](http://www.portal.ct.gov) or by contacting a voter’s town clerk.

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- <sup>1</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-12.
  - <sup>2</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-20.
  - <sup>3</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-19(j).
  - <sup>4</sup> <http://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Registration-Deadlines/Registration-Deadlines>.
  - <sup>5</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-19(j).
  - <sup>6</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-45(a), 9-46, 9-46(a).
  - <sup>7</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232(l).
  - <sup>8</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-21.
  - <sup>9</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-35.
  - <sup>10</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-159(o).
  - <sup>11</sup> <http://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Registration-Deadlines/Registration-Deadlines>.
  - <sup>12</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-140(b).
  - <sup>13</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-261.
  - <sup>14</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-23(r).
  - <sup>15</sup> Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 9-174a-19, 9-242a-12, -16.
  - <sup>16</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-260.
  - <sup>17</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-168(e).
  - <sup>18</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-264.
  - <sup>19</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-264.
  - <sup>20</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-236
  - <sup>21</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232; Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232(a-f).
  - <sup>22</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232(l).
  - <sup>23</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232(m).