



Frequently Asked Questions

Vermont – General Election 2022

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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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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

Yes, if the voter meets the eligibility requirements. Any person may register to vote in the town of his or her residence who, on Election Day:

- is a citizen of the United States;
- is a resident of the state of Vermont (and a resident of the town in which the voter applied to be added to the checklist);
- has taken, or has previously taken, the Voter's Oath; and
- is 18 years of age or more.¹

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?

Any person meeting the requirements above who will be 18 on or before the date of a general election may register and vote in the primary election immediately preceding that general election.²

There is no party registration in Vermont.

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

A person can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Vermont Secretary of State's website "My Voter Page" (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>). The information required to check voter registration status is the voter's first name, last name, date of birth, town in which the voter is registered, and either the voter's Vermont driver's license number (or, if the voter does not have a driver's license, the voter's non-driver identification number) or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number.

¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2121

² 17 V.S.A. § 2121

A voter may also contact their town clerk. A guide to the town clerk's office and contact information is available on the Vermont Secretary of State's website "Town Clerks & Election Workers" (<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/town-clerks>).

4. HOW: How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

A Vermont resident may register to vote in several ways, including in-person at a town clerk's office, at certain state agencies when applying for benefits, or when applying for, or renewal of, a motor vehicle driver's license or non-driver identification card.³ Information (including mailing and email addresses and phone numbers) about each of the town clerk's offices may be found [here](#). On Election Day, a Vermont resident may also register in person at their polling place.

A Vermont resident may also register to vote online through the Vermont Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System (<https://olvr.vermont.gov/>). A Vermont resident registering to vote in Vermont for the first time must include a photocopy of an acceptable form of ID with their registration. Acceptable forms of ID include a valid photo ID (Vermont driver's license, non-driver identification, or a U.S. passport), a copy of a current utility bill, a copy of a current bank statement, or another government document showing the resident's name and current residential address.⁴

A Vermont resident may also submit their application to register to vote by mail or by email. To do so the resident should print a voter registration form, fill it out, and mail or email it to their [local Town Clerk's office](#). A Vermont resident registering to vote in Vermont for the first time must include a photocopy of an acceptable form of ID with their registration. Acceptable forms of ID include a valid photo ID (Vermont driver's license, non-driver identification, or a U.S. passport), a copy of a current utility bill, a copy of a current bank statement, or another government document showing the resident's name and current residential address.⁵ The voter registration form is available on the Vermont Secretary of State's [website](#) or by calling 1-800-439-VOTE.

5. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

When registering to vote, a voter will be asked to provide their Vermont driver's license or non-driver identification. If the voter does not have a Vermont driver's license or a non-driver identification number, they will be asked to provide the last 4 digits of their Social Security number.

A voter who is registering for the first time in Vermont, and mailing the Voter Registration form to the town clerk or submitting it online, must include a photocopy of one of the following forms of identification: valid photo ID (Vermont Driver's License or non-driver's identification or U.S. passport), bank statement, utility bill, or another government document that contains the voter's name and residential address.⁶ A Vermont resident who does not have a Vermont Driver's License or Social Security number should contact the State Elections Division at (802) 828-2363 before submitting their application.

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

³ 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144a, 2145a-2145c.

⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2563.

⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2563.

⁶ While the requirement that the voter provide a copy of their identification with their application is not included on the registration form, it is noted in the online [instructions](#).

There is no deadline. Voters may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of election, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for voting.⁷ However, the State of Vermont recommends that a Vermont resident registering by mail should submit their application between 2-4 weeks before an election to ensure that the application is processed before the election and the voter’s name appears on the voter checklist. The State of Vermont recommends that a resident submitting an online application do so by the Friday before the election (November 4, 2022). If the voter’s application is not processed in time, the voter will still be allowed to vote, but may be asked to fill out another application at the polling place.

7. SAME DAY: [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

Yes. Voters may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of election at the polling place or online, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for voting. However, if a voter registers online the day before the election or on Election Day, the voter’s application may not be processed in time and the voter may be asked to fill out another application at the polling place.

If registering in-person at a polling place, the voter may submit a completed voter registration form to the polling place’s presiding officer or another designated election official at the polling place of the town in which the voter seeks to register.⁸

8. PERMANENT MOVE: [I have moved permanently and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)

The voter can register and vote if the voter has moved to Vermont from another state. As soon as the voter moves to Vermont they can vote if Vermont is their primary residence.

If a voter has moved within the state of Vermont and did not update their registration information, the answer to this question depends on where the voter moved. Refer to the table below.

Moved within the area covered by the same polling place	Moved to an area covered by a different polling place but within the same municipality	Moved to a different municipality
If the voter registration records indicate that a voter has moved from an address in the area covered by the same polling place, the voter must be permitted to vote at that polling place if the voter makes an oral or written affirmation that they continue to reside in the area covered by that polling place. ⁹ To determine the relevant polling place, see the Vermont Secretary of	If the voter has moved within the same municipality, but is covered by a different polling place, the voter should go to the polling place location that corresponds to their new residence where they can vote a regular ballot. The voter must provide an affirmation at the appropriate polling place before an election official that the voter has moved within the same municipality and is	If the voter has moved to a different municipality, the voter retains the right to vote at the polling place of the voter’s former residence for up to 17 days following the move. After 17 days following the move to a new municipality, the voter must register to vote in the municipality of their new address and vote at

⁷ 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144, 2144a.

⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2144.

⁹ 17 V.S.A. §2149.

State’s website “My Voter Page” (https://mvp.vermont.gov/).	voting at the correct polling place. ¹⁰	the polling place of their new residence. ¹¹
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9. TEMPORARY MOVE: [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

A voter residing out of state temporarily can continue to vote in Vermont at the location where they last resided as long as they consider that location their primary residence and have a specific intent to return. Voters temporarily residing out of state may request an absentee ballot. The ballots can be sent to the voter as early as 45 days prior to the general election.

10. 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 attending college in Vermont may register at their campus address or choose to remain registered or register at their permanent or home address. If a student is taking classes remotely and physically resides in Vermont, the student can register to vote using the address of his or her residence in Vermont. He or she can vote using any of the methods listed above.

A voter living out of state temporarily—for example, to attend college—may continue to vote in Vermont where they were last living as long as they consider that location their primary residence and have a specific intent to return. Voters temporarily residing out of state may request an absentee ballot. The ballots can be sent to the voter as early as 45 days prior to the general election.

11. LIVING ABROAD: [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)

A voter living abroad temporarily—for example, for military service—may continue to vote in Vermont where they last lived as long as they consider that location their primary residence and have a specific intent to return. There is no limit on how long a temporarily absent voter can remain on the Vermont voting checklist. Military and overseas voters can register to vote online or by mail or email.

Voters can request an absentee ballot through Vermont’s [My Voter Page](#). Military and overseas voters can also contact the [town clerk's office](#) by telephone, fax, email, or by mail and ask that they be sent an absentee ballot. Ballots are available as early as 45 days prior to the general election. Voters, however, can request ballots at any point during the year leading up to the election. Military and overseas voters are strongly recommended to request an early or absentee ballot at least 45 days prior to the general election.

Additional information for military and/or overseas voters is available on the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) web page.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: [I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?](#)

Yes. Any person, regardless of whether they have a criminal conviction, may register to vote in the town of their residence who on Election Day is a citizen of the United States, a resident of Vermont, has taken the voter’s oath, and is at least 18 years old.¹²

13. INCARCERATED: [I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?](#)

¹⁰ 17 V.S.A. §2122.

¹¹ 17 V.S.A. §2122.

¹² 17 V.S.A. §2121.

Yes. Currently incarcerated individuals may vote in Vermont. Those individuals may register in the town in which they resided before being incarcerated.¹³

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

14. **HOURS:** *When do the polls open/close on Election Day?*

In Vermont, polls must open between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. The voter should check [My Voter Page](#) or contact the town clerk's office to determine the hours that their polls are open. All polling places close at 7 p.m.¹⁴ A voter who is in line at the time polls close must be allowed to vote.¹⁵

15. **POLLING LOCATION:** *Where do I vote on Election Day?*

Voters can find the location (and directions) to their polling place on the Vermont [My Voter Page](#) or by visiting the Vermont Secretary of State's interactive polling place map page. (<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/polling-places/>)

A voter can also download a statewide polling place list (at <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/polling-places/>) or contact their [town clerk's office](#) for additional information.

16. **CLOSING:** *What if the polls close when I am already in line?*

An individual who is in line at the time polls close must be allowed to vote.¹⁶

17. **IDENTIFICATION:** *What identification is required to vote?*

In Vermont, only first-time voters in the municipality, who registered by mail or online, whose driver's license number, non-driver identification number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number (as provided on their voter registration application) has *not* been verified by the Secretary of State, and who have *not* provided required identification before the opening of the polls may be required to provide identification. Identification *cannot* be required of a voter who is *not* a first-time voter in the municipality.¹⁷

If identification is required, the voter may present one of the following:

- a valid photo ID (driver's license, non-driver identification, or passport),
- a copy of a current utility bill,
- a copy of a current bank statement, or

¹³ See 17 V.S.A. §2121.

¹⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

¹⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

¹⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

¹⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2563(1)(B).

- a copy of a government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current residential address.¹⁸

18. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

If a voter is unable to provide the identification outlined above, the voter may file a new application to register to vote in person at their polling place.¹⁹ An election official at the polling place will review the application and determine if the requirements for registering to vote have been met. If the election official cannot determine if those requirements have been met, the official must turn the application over to any member of the board of civil authority, or any equivalent body created under the municipal charter, to make its determination about whether the applicable criteria have been met.²⁰

Identification cannot be required of a voter who is not a first-time voter in the municipality.²¹

19. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

If a voter's name is not on the voter registration list when they arrive at the polling place, they can simply fill out a registration form and vote that day at the proper polling place for their residence. Vermont has same day voter registration. However, the voter should confirm that they are at the proper polling place for their residence. If the voter is required to vote a provisional ballot and the Town Clerk decides that the voter was not eligible to vote at the polling place, the vote will not be counted.

20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

If a voter is unable to provide the identification outlined above, the voter may file a new application to register to vote in person at the polling place.²² An election official at the polling place will review the application and determine if the requirements for registering to vote have been met. If the election official cannot determine if those requirements have been met, the official must turn the application over to any member of the board of civil authority, or any equivalent body created under the municipal charter, to make its determination about whether the applicable criteria have been met.²³

If the voter's name does not appear on the rolls and the voter claims to have submitted an application for the checklist and refuses to complete a new application, or if the voter's registration application has been rejected and the individual disputes that rejection, the election official shall allow the individual to vote provisionally.²⁴

¹⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2563.

¹⁹ 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144(b), 2563(A)(ii).

²⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2144(b)(2)-(3).

²¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2563(1)(B).

²² 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144(b), 2563(A)(ii).

²³ 17 V.S.A. § 2144(b)(2)-(3).

²⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2556

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

(in some states called “in-person absentee”)

21. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Yes. Vermont voters can vote in person before Election Day through early or absentee voting.²⁵

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

No, no reason or excuse is required to vote early.²⁶

23. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Voting in Vermont starts as soon as ballots are available—not later than 45 days before a primary or general election²⁷ and 20 days prior to a municipal election. Absentee ballots for the November 8, 2022 general election will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters, not later than October 1, 2022.²⁸

24. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

²⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2537(a)(3).

²⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

²⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2479.

²⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2537a(a).

A voter may participate in in-person early voting at their town clerk's office any time up to 45 days before the general election. Local town or city clerk offices can be found here: (<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/town-clerks>).

If voting in-person at the clerk's office, voters are provided a private place to mark the ballots. A voter can also pick up a ballot at their local town or city clerk office and take it home to vote and then return the voted ballot:

- by any means to the clerk's office during business hours no later than the day before Election Day,
- to any secure drop box provided by the town or city in which the voter is registered (the voter should check with the town clerk's office to determine if there are drop boxes and where they are located – see [https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Elections Division/voters/townclerkguide.pdf](https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Elections%20Division/voters/townclerkguide.pdf)),
- at the polling place during voting hours on the day of the election, or
- by mail to the town clerk's office so that it arrives before the polls close on Election Day²⁹

25. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

In Vermont, only first-time voters who have registered by mail or online must show identification in order to vote. Acceptable forms of ID include a valid photo identification (Vermont driver's license, non-driver identification or passport), a copy of a current utility bill, a copy of a current bank statement, or another government document showing the voter's name and current residential address.

A voter who is already registered, or registered in-person at a clerk's office, at the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles Office, or as part of a voter registration drive, will not be required to show identification when early voting.³⁰

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

26. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

Yes, in Vermont, absentee ballots for the November 8, 2022 general election will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters, not later than October 1, 2022.³¹

27. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No, no reason is required.

²⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(d)(1).

³⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2563(a)(1).

³¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2537a(a).

28. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

In Vermont, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5:00 p.m. or the closing time of the town clerk's office (whichever is later) the day before the election.³² The voter can request an absentee ballot through phone, fax, email, mail, in person or online. The voter should contact their [town clerk](#) to see if there is time to mail the voter an absentee ballot. If there is not, the voter may want to collect that ballot in person or vote in person.

Absentee ballots for the November 8, 2022 general election will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters not later than October 1, 2022.

29. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

A voter may return a request for an early or absentee ballot to the [town clerk's office](#) by telephone, fax, email, mail, or in person. The voter may download or print a Vermont absentee ballot request form [here](#).

An authorized family member or health care provider acting in the voter's behalf, may apply for an early voter absentee ballot by telephone, in person, or in writing. A "family member" is a voter's spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, spouse's parent, grandparent, and spouse's grandparent. Any other authorized person may apply in writing or in person; provided, however, that voter authorization to such a person must not be given by response to a robotic phone call. An authorized person must identify the organization they work with, if applicable.³³

A single form may be used to make requests for absentee ballots for local, primary, and general elections during a single calendar year. A request must be made every election year. However, early or absentee ballots for the November 8, 2022 general election will be mailed to all voters no later than October 1, 2022.³⁴

30. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

There are no identification requirements for submitting absentee ballot applications and/or ballots.

31. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

Absentee ballots will automatically be sent to all registered voters for the general elections at the address where the voter is registered. If a voter needs their ballot sent elsewhere, they can apply for an absentee ballot (see question 28), where there is a field for voters to input the exact address they would like their ballot to go to. PO Boxes are acceptable addresses for the purposes of receiving ballots.³⁵

³² 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

³³ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(a).

³⁴ <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>

³⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(b)

32. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: [What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?](#)

All requests must be submitted by the later of 5 p.m. or the close of the town clerk's office on the day before the election. Town clerks have discretion to accept requests for absentee ballots after this deadline in cases of emergency, including unanticipated injury or illness.³⁶

If a voter does not meet the deadline, the voter can vote at their polling location on Election Day.

33. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?](#)

Vermont has an online system that allows voters to check their absentee ballot status. It is available on Vermont's Secretary of State website, on the My Voter Page. (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>)

Voters will have to create an account and sign in to view this information.

34. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: [I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)

If a voter is notified that their application for an early or absentee ballot has been rejected, they will be informed why it was rejected and will have an opportunity to submit a corrected application to the clerk within the time allowed for submitting an original application (by the later of 5 p.m. or the close of the town clerk's office on the day before the election).³⁷

If a voter is notified that their early or absentee ballot has been rejected they will have an opportunity to correct the error until the closing of the polls on Election Day by going to the town clerk's office, or the polling place on Election Day, to correct the error or submit a new absentee ballot, or by requesting a new ballot package be provided to them so that it can be resubmitted by Election Day. If the corrected material is returned electronically it must be received by the town clerk prior to the close of business on the day before the election.³⁸

A voter who is informed that their application or ballot has been rejected should contact their [town clerk's office](#).

35. COMPLETING BALLOT: [How do I complete the mail-in ballot?](#)

To complete the early or absentee ballot voters should mark the ballots in accordance with the instructions included on the ballot. These include:

- Use a black pen or pencil to fill in the oval.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.

³⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

³⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2533.

³⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(d)(1).

- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write their name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the “VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #” for an office (although a voter may vote for less than the maximum number of candidates or no candidates in a specific race).
- If the voter makes a mistake, tears, or defaces the ballot, the voter should return the ballot to the election official and obtain a new one. The voter should not attempt to erase a mistake.

The ballot voted must be placed in the envelope provided and the voter must sign the certificate on the outside of the envelope for the ballot to be valid.³⁹ The signed envelope containing the voted ballot should be returned to the town clerk’s office by mail or in person.⁴⁰ A voter who is physically unable to sign their name may mark an “X” swearing to the statement on the certificate. The officers who deliver the ballots must witness the mark and sign their names with a statement attesting to this fact on the envelope.

If a voter requests an early or absentee ballot due to illness, injury, or disability their ballot will be delivered by two justices of the peace, unless the voter requests that the ballot be delivered by mail or electronically.⁴¹ The voter may ask one of the officers who delivers the ballots to mark the ballot for them in the presence of the other officer.⁴² A person who gives assistance to a voter in the marking or registering of ballots may not in any way divulge any information regarding the choice of the voter or the manner in which the voter’s ballot was cast.⁴³

36. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)

Yes, a voter may receive assistance from another person in marking their ballot, but the person giving the assistance may not divulge any information regarding the choice of the voter or how the voter's ballot was cast.⁴⁴

37. DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT: [What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?](#)

Vermont law does not allow late-arriving ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted. Ballots returned by mail must be received in the town clerk’s office by 7 p.m., the close of voting hours, on Election Day. The State of Vermont recommends ballots returned by mail be mailed 10 days before Election Day.

38. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)

³⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2542(b).

⁴⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(a)(6).

⁴¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(b).

⁴² 17 V.S.A. § 2538(c)(2).

⁴³ 17 V.S.A. § 2569(b).

⁴⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(b).

Early or absentee voter ballots can be returned to the town clerk's office in person before the close of business on the day before the election (be sure to check the town clerk's office's hours) or in person to an election officer at the polling place by 7 p.m. on Election Day.⁴⁵

Under Vermont law, municipalities may also install one or more outdoor ballot drop boxes at the clerks' office and other municipal property. Municipalities can choose to close ballot boxes at the close of business on the day before an election or extend drop box hours until the close of voting hours on Election Day. The voter should contact the [town clerk's office](#) for information on the location and availability of ballot drop boxes.

39. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)

An absentee ballot may be hand delivered

- by the voter,
- by a family member of the voter (defined as a person's spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse's parents, grandparents, and spouse's grandparents),
- by a voter's caretaker, or
- by anyone authorized by the voter to hand deliver the ballot (other than a candidate on the ballot or members of their campaign staff.)⁴⁶

No person may return more than 25 ballots.

A voter that is sick or has a disability, can request a ballot be delivered to their home. Two justices of the peace will deliver a ballot to the voter, and then will bring the ballot back to the polling place so that it can be placed in the ballot box and counted.⁴⁷

Candidates who are on the ballot and members of their campaigns staff may only return their own ballots, the ballots of closely related family members or ballots of their campaign staff members.

40. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** [What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it \(spoiled it\), or I received an incorrect ballot?](#)

- A voter who loses their absentee ballot may contact their town clerk's office, sign an affidavit affirming that their absentee ballot was lost or undelivered, and receive a replacement ballot.⁴⁸
- A voter may check the status of their absentee ballot from the [My Voter Page](#).
- A voter who spoils a ballot may return the spoiled ballot by mail or in person to the town clerk and receive another ballot. A voter may receive up to three ballots. A person can spoil two ballots and still vote.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2543.

⁴⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2548.

⁴⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2538.

⁴⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁴⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(c).

- A voter who believes that they have received an incorrect ballot can see a copy of a sample ballot on the [My Voter Page](#). If they still believe that they have received an incorrect ballot, they should contact the [town clerk's office](#).

If a duplicate early voter absentee ballot is issued and both the duplicate and original early voter absentee ballots are received before the close of polls on Election Day, the ballot with the earlier postmark or received first must be counted.

41. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

A voter who never receives an absentee ballot that was mailed to them, may contact their [town clerk's office](#), sign an affidavit affirming that their absentee ballot was lost or undelivered, and receive a replacement ballot.⁵⁰

A voter may check the status of their absentee ballot from the [My Voter Page](#).

42. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

A voter who has received and not returned an early voter absentee ballot may choose to vote at the polls on Election Day.⁵¹ The voter should bring with them the early voter absentee ballot as well as the envelope and any other voting materials received. If the voter does not bring the unmarked ballot with them to the polls they will be required to sign an affidavit affirming that they have not previously cast a ballot in the election.⁵²

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

43. ELIGIBILITY: Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

The voter does not have to have a reason to request to vote by absentee ballot. As long as the voter is registered to vote, the voter can vote by absentee ballot. Additionally, all active registered Vermont voters will automatically receive active ballots by mail for the November 8, 2022 general election, no later than October 1, 2022. The voter can still request an absentee ballot at any time during the year of an election, up until 5:00pm or the closing time of the town clerk's office (whichever is later), the day before the election.

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

In Vermont, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5:00 p.m. or the closing time of the town clerk's office (whichever is later), the day before the election.⁵³ The voter can request an absentee ballot through phone, fax, email, mail, in person or [online](#). The voter should contact their town clerk to see if there is time

⁵⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁵¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(1).

⁵² 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(5).

⁵³ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

to mail the voter an absentee ballot. If there is not, the voter may want to collect that ballot in person or vote in person.

Absentee ballots for the November 8, 2022 general election will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters not later than October 1, 2022.

The voter can request a ballot at any time during the year of an election and the town clerk will mail absentee ballots 45 days before the election.

See also this [link](#) for additional information regarding absentee voting.

45. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

No, there are no identification requirements for absentee voting. See question 26.

46. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Yes, in cases of emergency (for example unanticipated illness or injury), the town clerk may accept a request for an absentee ballot after the deadline (5:00pm or closing of town clerk's office the day before the election, whichever is later). In these cases, voters may mail, electronically deliver, or have their ballots delivered by two justices of the peace.⁵⁴

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

A voter may return a request for an early or absentee ballot to the [town clerk's office](#) by telephone, fax, email, mail, or in person. The voter may download or print a Vermont absentee ballot request form [here](#).

An authorized family member or health care provider acting on the voter's behalf, may apply for an early voter absentee ballot by telephone, in person, or in writing. A "family member" is a voter's spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, spouse's parent, grandparent, and spouse's grandparent. Any other authorized person may apply in writing or in person; provided, however, that voter authorization to such a person must not be given by response to a robotic phone call. An authorized person must identify the organization they work with, if applicable.⁵⁵

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

Vermont has an online system that allows voters to check their absentee ballot status. It is available on Vermont's Secretary of State website, on the [My Voter Page](#).

Voters will have to create an account and sign in to view this information.

49. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

⁵⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2531(a)(2)(A)-(B)

⁵⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(b).

If a voter is notified that their application for an early or absentee ballot has been rejected, they will be informed why it was rejected and will have an opportunity to submit a corrected application to the clerk within the time allowed for submitting an original application.⁵⁶

If a voter is notified that their early or absentee ballot has been rejected, they will have an opportunity to correct the error until the closing of the polls on Election Day by:

- going to the town clerk's office, or the polling place on Election Day to correct the error or submit a new absentee ballot, or
- requesting a new ballot package be provided to them so that it can be resubmitted by Election Day.

If the corrected material is returned electronically it must be received prior to the close of business on the day before the election.⁵⁷

A voter who is informed that their application or ballot has been rejected should contact their [town clerk's office](#).

50. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

To complete the early or absentee ballot voters should mark the ballots in accordance with the instructions included on the ballot. These include:

- Use a black pen or pencil to fill in the oval.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write their name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office (although a voter may vote for less than the maximum number of candidates or no candidates in a specific race).
- If the voter makes a mistake, tears, or defaces the ballot, the voter should return the ballot to the election official and obtain a new one. The voter should not attempt to erase a mistake.

The ballot vote must be placed in the envelope provided and the voter must sign the certificate on the outside of the envelope for the ballot to be valid.⁵⁸ The signed envelope containing the voted ballot should be returned to the town clerk's office by mail or in person.⁵⁹ A voter who is physically unable to sign their name may mark an "X" swearing to the statement on the certificate. The officers who deliver the ballots must witness the mark and sign their names with a statement attesting to this fact on the envelope.

If a voter requests an early or absentee ballot due to illness, injury, or disability their ballot will be delivered by two justices of the peace, unless the voter requests that the ballot be delivered by mail or electronically.⁶⁰ The voter may ask one of the officers who delivers the ballots to mark the ballot for them in the presence of the other officer.⁶¹ A person who gives assistance to a voter in the marking or registering of ballots may not in any way divulge any information regarding the choice of the voter or the manner in which the voter's ballot was cast.⁶²

⁵⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2533.

⁵⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(d)(1).

⁵⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2542(b).

⁵⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(a)(6).

⁶⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(b).

⁶¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2538(c)(2).

⁶² 17 V.S.A. § 2569(b).

51. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: *Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?*

Yes. A person can give assistance to a voter in the marking or registering of ballots; however, the person assisting the voter must not in any way divulge any information regarding the choice of the voter or the manner in which the voter's ballot was cast.⁶³

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

Vermont law does not allow late-arriving ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted. Ballots returned by mail must be received in the town clerk's office by 7 p.m., the close of voting hours, on Election Day. The State of Vermont recommends ballots returned by mail be mailed 10 days before Election Day.

Ballots can be returned in many different ways:⁶⁴

- to the town clerk's office before the close of the office on the day before the election, or to the polling place before 7 p.m. on the day of the election, in order to be counted,
- by mail to the town clerk's office before the close of the polls on the day of the election,
- hand delivery to the presiding officer at the voter's polling place before the closing of the polls at 7:00 pm, or
- to ballot drop box until the close of business on the day before the election.

If the voter is sick or has a disability, a ballot can be delivered to the voter's home on Election Day. The voter may request an absentee ballot up until 5 p.m. on the day before the election. Two justices of the peace (of different parties when possible) will deliver a ballot to the voter, and then will bring the ballot back to the polling place so that it can be placed in the ballot box and counted.

53. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: *Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?*

The voter can drop off a ballot at the town clerk's office, any secure ballot drop box provided by the town or city in which the voter is registered, or to the presiding officer at the voter's polling place.⁶⁵

Polling Locations: <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/polling-places/>

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

An absentee ballot may be hand delivered –

- by the voter,
- by a family member of the voter (defined as a person's spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse's parents, grandparents, and spouse's grandparents),
- by a voter's caretaker, or
- by anyone authorized by the voter to hand deliver the ballot (other than a candidate on the ballot or members of their campaign staff.)⁶⁶

⁶³ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(b)

⁶⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(d)(1).

⁶⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(d)(1).

⁶⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2548.

A voter that is sick or has a disability, can request a ballot be delivered to their home. Two justices of the peace will deliver a ballot to the voter, and then will bring the ballot back to the polling place so that it can be placed in the ballot box and counted.⁶⁷

Candidates who are on the ballot and members of their campaigns staff may only return their own ballots, the ballots of closely related family members or ballots of their campaign staff members. No person may return more than 25 ballots.

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

A voter who loses their absentee ballot may contact their town clerk's office, sign an affidavit affirming that their absentee ballot was lost or undelivered, and receive a replacement ballot.⁶⁸

A voter may check the status of their absentee ballot from the [My Voter Page](#).

A voter who spoils a ballot may return the spoiled ballot by mail or in person to the town clerk and receive another ballot. A voter may receive up to three ballots. A person can spoil two ballots and still vote.⁶⁹

A voter who believes that they have received an incorrect ballot can see a copy of a sample ballot on the [My Voter Page](#). If they still believe that they have received an incorrect ballot they should contact the [town clerk's office](#).

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

A voter who never receives an absentee ballot that was mailed to them, may contact their [town clerk's office](#), sign an affidavit affirming that their absentee ballot was lost or was never received, and receive a replacement ballot.⁷⁰

A voter may check the status of their absentee ballot from the [My Voter Page](#).

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

A voter who has received and not returned an early voter absentee ballot may choose to vote at the polls on Election Day.⁷¹ The voter should bring with them the early voter absentee ballot as well as the envelope and any other voting materials received. If the voter does not bring the unmarked ballot with them to the polls they will be required to sign an affidavit affirming that they have not previously cast a ballot in the election.⁷²

58. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

Vermont voters can vote in person before Election Day through early or absentee voting. Voting in Vermont starts as soon as ballots are available—not later than 45 days before the general election. Local town clerk offices can be found here: (<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/town-clerks>).

⁶⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2538.

⁶⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁶⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(c).

⁷⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁷¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(1).

⁷² 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(5).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

59. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?

If a voter arrives at what they believe to be their polling place and finds that it is not open they should confirm that they are at the correct polling place on the Vermont [My Voter Page](#) or by contacting the [town clerk's office](#). They should also confirm the hours that the polling place is open as they vary.

If the voter is still concerned after verifying the hours and location of the polling place, the voter can contact the [town clerk's office](#) or the Vermont Secretary of State, Elections Division at 802-828-2363.

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

The voter should stay in line and wait for their turn to vote. A voter who is in line at the time polls close must be allowed to vote.⁷³

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of people in line at a polling place being turned away, notify your hotline captain immediately.

61. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters can contact the [town clerk's office](#) or the Vermont Secretary of State, Elections Division, at 802-828-2363.

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

62. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. A voter who tells an election officer that they need assistance to mark their ballot can be assisted by a person of the voter's choice or two election officials of different party affiliations.⁷⁴

63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

Yes. People of all abilities have a right to vote, access their polling place, and receive reasonable accommodations, if necessary. Voters in Vermont have several options for obtaining accommodations that will allow them to vote. A voter may do the following:

- Contact the [town clerk's office](#) to request accommodation.
- Ask to use a "tablet-based" [accessible voting system](#) to mark their ballot.⁷⁵

⁷³ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

⁷⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

⁷⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2567.

- Bring a person of their choice into the voting booth to aid with marking the ballot (but not their employer or union representative).
- Ask an election official for assistance with marking the ballot from two election officials of different party affiliations.⁷⁶
- Ask an election official to bring a ballot to the voter's car.
- Bring a magnifying glass or other device to help the voter use the ballot.
- Bring a list of candidates into the voting booth to help the voter.

64. **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?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have a person of their 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 their choices on the ballot. Alternatively, a voter can receive assistance from two election officials of different party affiliations.⁷⁷

65. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?

Vermont does not allow campaigning inside of polling places. Election officials will ensure that during polling hours no campaign literature, stickers, buttons, name stamps, information on write-in candidates, or other political materials are displayed or handed out within the polling place. On the walks and driveways leading to the polling place, no one can physically interfere with the progress of a voter to and from the polling place.⁷⁸ Vermont requires that political apparel and buttons be covered or removed in the polling place.

66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

In Vermont, challenges to a vote can only be on the basis that (1) the challenged voter is not the person whose name appears on the checklist, or (2) the challenged voter has already voted in the election.

If someone is formally challenging a voter's right to vote, the members of the board of civil authority present will immediately come together to informally hear the facts and decide whether the challenge should be sustained. If the challenge is overruled the challenged voter will immediately be allowed to vote. If the challenge is sustained, the challenged voter will not be allowed to vote unless they obtain a court order directing that the voter be permitted to vote before the polls close.⁷⁹

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

There is no prohibition on the presence of law enforcement at the polling site. However, voters have the right to vote without anyone intimidating them, trying to influence their vote within the polls, or interfering with their progress to or from the polling place. If the voter feels the law enforcement presence is intimidating, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or the Vermont Secretary of State, Elections Division, at 802-828-2363.

⁷⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

⁷⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

⁷⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2508.

⁷⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2564.

68. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

Generally, if a voter is eligible to vote at a polling place and their name is not on the list of voters for that polling place, the voter may fill out a registration form and vote that day. Vermont has same day voter registration.

Note that the following steps maybe taken 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 on Vermont's [My Voter Page](#) to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place.
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool on Vermont's [My Voter Page](#).
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, including hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool on Vermont's [My Voter Page](#).
- Determine when the voter registered. If it was in the last few days the voter's list may not have been updated to reflect recent registrations. If this has happened the voter should be allowed to register again.

A voter's name can be removed from the list of registered voters (the "checklist") in a number of circumstances, including the following: a voter becomes a resident of another political subdivision and is placed on their checklist; a voter dies; or a voter has filed a written request that their name be stricken from the checklist.⁸⁰

In addition, voters who do not vote in two general elections (held every two years) after not responding to a notice sent by the local board of civil authority via first-class mail seeking to confirm their registration, may be removed from the checklist.

Any person whose name has been removed from the checklist may appeal to any superior judge in the county or district in which the applicant claims to be resident. If there is no superior judge available in the county or district, the appeal may be taken to any superior judge.⁸¹

69. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Use of provisional ballots in Vermont is very rare. The only circumstances under which it occurs is when a person who is not on the voters list asserts that they submitted an application to register to vote prior to the deadline and they decline to submit a new application, or when a voter's application to register was rejected and the voter challenges the rejection. The voter will be provided with an affidavit to swear to that fact. Under either of these circumstances, the voter will be given a provisional ballot envelope on which they will need to attest that they are eligible to vote. The voter will place their completed ballot in the signed envelope, seal it, and place it in the provisional ballot box. Following the close of voting the Town Clerk will decide whether the individual was eligible to vote. The Town Clerk will inform the individual of the Clerk's decision.⁸²

⁸⁰ 17 V.S.A. §2150.

⁸¹ 17 V.S.A. §2148.

⁸² 17 V.S.A. §§ 2555-2557.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

70. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have a person of their 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 their choices on the ballot. Alternatively, a voter can receive assistance from two election officials of different party affiliations.⁸³

Vermont does not offer any other specific voter assistance for non-English speakers.

71. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

The voter can ask an election official to bring a ballot to their car at a polling station. A voter who wishes to use curbside voting should contact the [town clerk's office](#) before going to the polls. Alternatively, someone accompanying the voter can go into the polling place and tell the polling official that the voter wants to vote from the car.⁸⁴

Vermont law also allows municipalities to set-up drive-through or drive-up voting methods (which must also accommodate walk-in voters or those using other methods of transportation).⁸⁵

If the election official fails to comply the voter can contact: Disability Rights Vermont 1-800-834-7890; Vermont Secretary of State's Office 1-800-439-8683; Vermont Center for Independent Living 1-800-639-1522; or Green Mountain Self Advocates 1-800-564-9990.

72. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

There is no rule preventing voters from bringing anything they need to vote into the voting booth with them.

However, voters are not entitled to political or campaign (stickers, name stamps, information on write-in candidates) publicly at the polling place. Therefore, voters should remove any campaign stickers or candidate buttons from their materials or self.⁸⁶

QUESTIONS

73. QUESTIONS: Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Voters can contact the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OURVOTE (866-687-8683), the Vermont Secretary of State, Elections Division, at 802-828-2363, or contact their local town clerk. (<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/town-clerks/>).

⁸³ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

⁸⁴ <https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Elections%20Division/voters/accessible%20voting/drvt-voter-guide.pdf>

⁸⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2502.

⁸⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2508.