



Frequently Asked Questions

Vermont – General Election 2024

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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

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.

Any person that is a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state of Vermont and has taken the voter's oath, and who will be 18 years old on or before the date of a general election may vote in the primary election immediately preceding the general election as further discussed in #2 below.¹

- 2. PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

All registered voters can vote in the primary election—but can only vote on one ballot. You will be given a ballot for each of the major parties. You mark one of the ballots and put the remaining unvoted ballots into a discard bin. Which ballot you chose to vote is private and not recorded (except during the presidential primary, where voters must publicly take one ballot or the other, and their choice is recorded on the entrance checklist).

There is no party registration in Vermont.²

- 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](#)". The information required to check voter registration status is the voter's first name, last name, and date of birth.

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](#)".

- 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 online through the Vermont Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System (see [here](#)), via paper (see [here](#)), or in person at the Clerk's office (see [here](#)). The voter registration form is available on the Vermont Secretary of State's [website](#) or by calling 1-800-439-VOTE. Beginning January 1, 2017, eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election. Registration is available during all normal business hours of your town or city clerk's office on days preceding the election and during polling hours on Election Day.³ The Elections Division will forward applications (and early or absentee ballot requests) to the appropriate town or city clerk for action, but we recommend submitting applications directly to your town or city clerk. For contact information for your town clerk, view the Guide to Vermont's Town Clerks, Treasurers & County Clerks [here](#).

- 5. IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)

When registering to vote in Vermont for the first time by mail or online, a voter must include a photocopy of an acceptable form of ID. Acceptable forms of ID are: valid photo ID (Vermont Driver's License or non-driver's identification or U.S. passport), current bank statement, current utility bill, or another

¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2121.

² <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/voter-faqs/voter-registration-faqs/>

³ 17 V.S.A. § 2144.

government document that contains the voter's name and residential address.⁴ 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.

First time Registrants in VT must also take the voter's oath. The oath may be self-administered or by any other person listed below. You must be 18 to take the oath:

VOTER'S OATH: "You solemnly swear or affirm that whenever you give your vote or suffrage, touching any matter that concerns the State of Vermont, you will do it so as in your conscience you shall judge will most conduce to the best good of the same, as established by the Constitution, without fear or favor of any person."⁵

If you have previously voted in Vermont, you do not need to take the voter's oath again. The oath can be administered by a commissioned military officer or by any other person qualified to administer oaths, any person over the age of 18, or, again, by yourself. You may also take the voter's oath as an affirmation if you do not take oaths. You must take the oath before voting by early or absentee ballot.⁶

If you are registering for the first time in Vermont using the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) Federal Postcard Application or another form not specific to Vermont, you just take the voter's oath. The Vermont voter registration form and the FVAP instructions for Vermont (see [here](#)) contain the voter's oath that must be taken.

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?

There is no deadline. Voters may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of election, November 5, 2024, 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.⁸ 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.⁹

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.

⁴ 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](#).

⁵ Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, Section 42

⁶ <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/voter-faqs/voter-registration-faqs/#q14>

⁷ 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144, 2144a.

⁸ <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

⁹ <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

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.¹⁰

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.¹¹

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. ¹² To determine the relevant polling place, see the Vermont Secretary of State’s website “My Voter Page” (https://mvp.vermont.gov/).	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 voting at the correct polling place. ¹³	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 the polling place of their new residence. ¹⁴

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.

Vermont election law defines a resident as “a person who is domiciled in the town as evidenced by an intent to maintain a principal dwelling place in the town indefinitely and to return there if temporarily absent, coupled with an act or acts consistent with that intent.”¹⁵ The law creates a subjective standard. This means that it is the voter’s intent and actions that determine residency, not how many nights a year

¹⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2144.

¹¹ <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

¹² 17 V.S.A. §2149.

¹³ 17 V.S.A. §2122.

¹⁴ 17 V.S.A. §2122.

¹⁵ 17 V.S.A. §2122(b).

the voter sleeps in town. A voter who has more than one home must decide which one is his or her “principal” dwelling place.

Special cases: Vermont election law allows a person to remain registered in the last town in which they resided if they are in the military, living overseas, in a nursing home or other health care facility, in a veterans home, attending school, or in a correctional institution.¹⁶

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.¹⁷ 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 when the town clerk receives such voter’s application for absentee ballots.¹⁸

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.¹⁹ 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. The town clerk will send to the voter their absentee ballots as soon as the town clerk receives such voter’s application for an absentee ballot.²⁰ 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 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 felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?](#)

¹⁶ 17 V.S.A. §2122(a).

¹⁷ 17 V.S.A. §2122(a); <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/voter-faqs/voter-registration-faqs/#q20>.

¹⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(a)(2).

¹⁹ 17 V.S.A. §2122(a).

²⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(a)(2).

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.²¹

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

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

Yes. Currently incarcerated individuals may vote in Vermont.²² Those individuals may register in the town in which they resided before being incarcerated.²³

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted of a crime, whether presently incarcerated or not, shall retain the right to vote by early voter absentee ballot in a primary or general election at the person's last voluntary residence during the term of the person's commitment under a sentence of confinement provided the person otherwise fulfills all voting requirements.²⁴

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: [My registration has been challenged, what should I do?](#)

If a voter's registration has been rejected, the voter may appeal such decision to any Superior Court Judge in the voter's county of residence by submitting an informal written notice of appeal that identified the voter's town in which they have been denied eligibility to vote, to such Superior Court judge. Should that Superior Court judge not be available, the voter may appeal the decision to any Superior Court judge. The voter need not submit formal pleadings or pay filing fees. The Superior Court judge will assess the appeal with sufficient speed. In the case of an appeal filed after the Thursday immediately prior to an election day, the Superior Court judge will assess the appeal at once.

Upon receipt of the written notice of appeal the Superior Court judge receiving such appeal will schedule a hearing and notify the voter and the town clerk in person or via certified mail. At this hearing, the voter or any other person may present evidence supporting the appeal. The hearing will be conducted informally.

Once the hearing is over, the Superior Court judge will issue a written order either ordering that the voter be added to the appropriate checklist (i.e., voter roll) or the Superior Court judge will deny the appeal. The voter cannot cast their ballot until the town clerk receives the written order from the Superior Court judge.²⁵

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. HOURS: [When do the polls open/close on Election Day?](#)

²¹ 17 V.S.A. §2121.

²² 28 V.S.A. §807.

²³ 17 V.S.A. §2122(a).

²⁴ 28 V.S.A. §807.

²⁵ 17 V.S.A. 2148.

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.²⁶ A voter who is in line at the time polls close must be allowed to vote.²⁷

16. 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 (see [here](#)).

A voter can also download a statewide polling place list (see [here](#)) or contact their [town clerk's office](#) for additional information.

17. TIME OFF WORK: *Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?*

Vermont does not require that a voter's employer give such voter time off to vote.

18. 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.²⁸

19. 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.²⁹

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
- a copy of a government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current residential address.³⁰

20. 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.³¹ 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

²⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

²⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

²⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

²⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2563(1)(B).

³⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2563.

³¹ 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144(b), 2563(A)(ii).

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.³²

Identification cannot be required of a voter who is not a first-time voter in the municipality.³³

21. 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.

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

If a voter is told that they must vote provisionally, that means that the voter's name does not appear on the checklist (i.e., voter roll) or the voter refuses to complete a new application as described in [Question 23](#) below, or that the voter's registration application has been rejected and the voter disputes such rejection.³⁴ That voter will need to vote via a ballot with an attestation on the ballot envelope that includes:

- A statement informing the voter of voter eligibility and a box for the voter to check indicating that they meet such eligibility requirements as well as place for the voter to sign such indication upon penalty of perjury.
- Information regarding the voter's:
 - place and date of birth
 - town of legal residence
 - street address and description of the voter's residence, and
 - attestation that the voter.
- An Attestation that the voter properly completed their voter application form.
- Space for the town clerk's action.
- A statement explaining that the town clerk will determine whether the voter meets the eligibility requirements and that, should the town clerk deny the application, they will inform the voter why.³⁵

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?

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.³⁶ 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.³⁷

³² 17 V.S.A. § 2144(b)(2)-(3).

³³ 17 V.S.A. § 2563(1)(B).

³⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2556(a).

³⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2555; 17 V.S.A. § 2556(b).

³⁶ 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144(b), 2563(A)(ii).

³⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2144(b)(2)-(3).

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.³⁸

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

The town clerk will investigate as it deems appropriate to verify any fact that the voter makes on the application it submitted to determine whether the voter meets all of the requirements for registration.

Within two days after the polls closing, the town clerk will inform each voter who voted via a provisional ballot whether the town clerk accepts or rejects the voter's attestation and related provisional ballot. If the town clerk decides to reject, the town clerk will send its reason immediately via mail to the address given by the voter in its application.

Should the town clerk approve the attestation and related provisional ballot, the town clerk will indicate approval of the, photocopy the affidavit and send photocopies of all the information to the Vermont Secretary of State. The Vermont Secretary of State will deposit the approved provisional ballots in the ballot box and add them to the vote totals for federal elections.³⁹

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY
VOTING
(in this state defined as: Early Absentee Voting)

25. 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 absentee voting.⁴⁰

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

No, no reason or excuse is required to vote early.⁴¹

27. 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 election⁴² and 20 days prior to a municipal election. Absentee ballots for the November 5, 2024, General Election will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters no later than October 1 2024.⁴³ The town

³⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2556.

³⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2557.

⁴⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2537(a)(3).

⁴¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

⁴² 17 V.S.A. § 2479.

⁴³ <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>

clerk must mail a complete set of voter absentee ballots to voters who have requested such ballots as soon as an application for such a ballot has been filed by the voter and the town clerk has received such ballot.⁴⁴

All early voter absentee ballot requests must be submitted by 5 p.m. or by the close of the town clerk's office on the day before the election. All ballots must be returned 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.⁴⁵

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

A voter may participate in in-person early voting at their town clerk's office as soon as ballots are available but not later than 45 days before a primary or general election and 20 days prior to a municipal election. Any person may deliver the absentee voter's ballot early, except for a candidate whose name appears on the ballot or a paid campaign staffer such candidate unless the candidate or campaign staffer, as the case may be:

- is returning such person's own ballot,
- is returning the ballot of an immediate family member,
- is returning the ballot of someone for whom the candidate or campaign person services as a caretaker, or
- is a justice of the peace serving in such capacity.⁴⁶

Local town or city clerk offices can be found [here](#):

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 [here](#)))
- 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 Day⁴⁷

29. **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 voting early.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(a)(2).

⁴⁵ sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting

⁴⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(a).

⁴⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(d)(1).

⁴⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2563(a)(1).

30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

Voting early in person in a Vermont primary election requires that the voter’s absentee ballot be returned to the town clerk’s office where requested. If the voter files an application to vote absentee at the town clerk’s office and does so at the same time, and if that voter requires assistance with voting, a person may assist so long as such person does not divulge any information regarding the voter’s choices.⁴⁹

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as: Absentee Voting)**

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

Yes, in Vermont, absentee ballots for the November 5, 2024 General Election, will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters no later than October 1, 2024. The town clerk must mail a complete set of voter absentee ballots to voters who have requested such ballots as soon as an application for such a ballot has been filed by the voter and the town clerk has received such ballot.⁵⁰

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

No, no reason is required to receive a primary election ballot by mail and General Election absentee ballots will be mailed automatically as described in [Question 31](#) above.

33. 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.⁵¹ 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.

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

An early or absentee voter, or 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. “Family member” means a persons’ spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse’s parents, grandparents, and spouse’s grandparents.

⁴⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2541.

⁵⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(a)(2); 17 V.S.A. § 2537a(A).

⁵¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

Any other authorized person may apply in writing or in person; provided, however, that voter authorization to such a person shall not be given by response to a robotic phone call. An authorized person must identify the organization they work with, if applicable.⁵²

35. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my absentee 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 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.⁵³

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 for voting in primary elections.⁵⁴

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail in ballot application and/or ballot?

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

37. 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 active registered voters.⁵⁵ If a voter needs their ballot sent elsewhere, they can apply for an absentee ballot (see [question 33](#)), where there is a field for voters to input the exact address they would like their ballot to go to. P.O. Boxes are acceptable addresses for the purposes of receiving ballots.⁵⁶

38. 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.⁵⁷

⁵² <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>

⁵³ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(a).

⁵⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(d)(2).

⁵⁵ <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>.

⁵⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(b).

⁵⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

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

39. 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](#).

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

40. 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).⁵⁸

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.⁵⁹

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

41. 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.
- 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.

⁵⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2533.

⁵⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(d)(1).

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.⁶⁰ The signed envelope containing the voted ballot should be returned to the town clerk's office by mail or in person.⁶¹ 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.⁶² 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.⁶³ 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.⁶⁴

42. 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.⁶⁵

43. 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.

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

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.⁶⁶

Under Vermont law, municipalities may also install one or more outdoor ballot drop boxes at the clerk's 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.

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

⁶⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2542(b).

⁶¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(a)(6).

⁶² 17 V.S.A. § 2539(b).

⁶³ 17 V.S.A. § 2538(c)(2).

⁶⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2569(b).

⁶⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(b).

⁶⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2543.

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.)⁶⁷

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.⁶⁸

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.

46. 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.⁶⁹
- 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.⁷⁰
- 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.

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

⁶⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2548.

⁶⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2538.

⁶⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁷⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(c) 17 V.S.A. § 2568(b).

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.⁷¹

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

48. 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.⁷² 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.⁷³

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

49. 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 request to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots for the November 5, 2024 General Election will automatically be mailed to all active registered voters no later than October 1, 2024.⁷⁴ For people who have requested absentee ballots, the town clerk must mail a complete set of voter absentee ballots to voters who have requested such ballots as soon as an application for such a ballot has been filed by the voter and the town clerk has received such ballot.⁷⁵ 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.

50. 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.⁷⁶ 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 5, 2024 General Election will be automatically mailed to all active registered voters no later than October 1, 2024. The town clerk must mail a complete set of voter absentee

⁷¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁷² 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(1).

⁷³ 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(5).

⁷⁴ <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>

⁷⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(a)(2).

⁷⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2531.

ballots to voters who have requested such ballots as soon as an application for such a ballot has been filed by the voter and the town clerk has received such ballot.⁷⁷

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 (for the General Election, September 21, 2024).

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

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

No, there are no identification requirements for absentee voting. See [Question 36](#).

52. 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.⁷⁸

53. 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.⁷⁹ An authorized person must identify the organization they work with, if applicable.⁸⁰

54. 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.

55. 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?

⁷⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(a)(2).

⁷⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2531(a)(2)(A)-(B)

⁷⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(a).

⁸⁰ 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.⁸¹

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.⁸²

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

56. 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.⁸³ The signed envelope containing the voted ballot should be returned to the town clerk's office by mail or in person.⁸⁴ 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.⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶ A person who gives assistance to a voter in the marking or registering of ballots may not

⁸¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2533.

⁸² 17 V.S.A. § 2547(d)(1).

⁸³ 17 V.S.A. § 2542(b).

⁸⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2547(d)(1)(C).

⁸⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2539(b).

⁸⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2538(c)(2).

in any way divulge any information regarding the choice of the voter or the manner in which the voter's ballot was cast.⁸⁷

57. 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.⁸⁸

58. 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:⁸⁹

- 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 a 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.

59. 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.⁹⁰

For Polling Locations see [here](#).

60. 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

⁸⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2569(b).

⁸⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(b)

⁸⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(d)(1).

⁹⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2543(d)(1).

- by anyone authorized by the voter to hand deliver the ballot (other than a candidate on the ballot or members of their campaign staff.)⁹¹

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.⁹²

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.

A candidate whose name is on the ballot or such candidate's campaign staffer may not return a voter's absentee ballot, unless

- the candidate or campaign staffer is returning their own ballot,
- the candidate or campaign staffer is returning the ballot of an immediate family member (i.e., spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse's parents, grandparents, and spouse's grandparents) who has requested that they do so,
- the candidate or campaign staffer is returning the ballot of a person for whom they are a caretaker, or
- the candidate or campaign staffer is returning the ballot in their role as a justice of the peace.⁹³

61. **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.⁹⁴

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.⁹⁵

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](#).

62. **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.⁹⁶

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

⁹¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2543.

⁹² 17 V.S.A. § 2538.

⁹³ 17 V.S.A. § 2543.

⁹⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

⁹⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2541(c).

⁹⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2532(e)(1).

63. 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.⁹⁷ 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.⁹⁸

64. 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 primary or general election. If you are voting early, you may choose to deposit your ballot into a secure ballot drop box, if the town or city where you would vote in person has one. A statewide secure ballot drop box list can be downloaded [here](#).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. 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.

66. 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.⁹⁹

67. 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.

68. CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?

Vermont does not allow campaigning, i.e. activity designed to influence the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate or public question on the ballot¹⁰⁰, inside of polling places. Election officials will ensure that

⁹⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(1).

⁹⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2548(b)(5).

⁹⁹ 17 V.S.A. § 2561.

¹⁰⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2508

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.¹⁰¹ Vermont requires that political apparel and buttons be covered or removed in the polling place.¹⁰²

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

Vermont law prohibits voters from wearing or bringing into a polling place any material that displays the name of a candidate on the ballot, displays the name of an organized political party, or demonstrates support or opposition to a ballot question as the case may be.¹⁰³

Vermont law does not prohibit taking photos inside the polling place. However, voters are prohibited from showing their marked ballot to anyone else to reveal how they voted.¹⁰⁴

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Vermont law prohibits poll workers from wearing or bringing into a polling place any material that displays the name of a candidate on the ballot, displays the name of an organized political party, or demonstrates support or opposition to a ballot question as the case may be.¹⁰⁵

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

Vermont law generally prohibits voter intimidation. As a general matter, Vermont Law prohibits the bribery or threatening of voters or otherwise exerting undue influence on voters.¹⁰⁶ Additionally, Vermont law prohibits the physical interference of a voter attempting to vote outside of the building where the polling place is located.¹⁰⁷

72. **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.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰¹ 17 V.S.A. § 2508.

¹⁰² 17 V.S.A. § 2508.

¹⁰³ 17 V.S.A. § 2508.

¹⁰⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 1972.

¹⁰⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2508

¹⁰⁶ <https://ago.vermont.gov/sites/ago/files/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/AGO-Guidance-10.5.20.pdf>

¹⁰⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2508

¹⁰⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2564.

73. **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 802-828-2363.¹⁰⁹

74. **THOUGHT I 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 may be 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.¹¹⁰

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.¹¹¹

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

See info in the [How to Vote: Election Day](#) Section.

¹⁰⁹ <https://ago.vermont.gov/sites/ago/files/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/AGO-Guidance-10.5.20.pdf>

¹¹⁰ 17 V.S.A. §2150.

¹¹¹ 17 V.S.A. §2148.

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.¹¹²

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. 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. In each case such parties assisting may not divulge the voters choice or the manner in which the voter cast their vote.¹¹³

77. 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 or other voting system approved by the Vermont Secretary of State for voters with physical disabilities that need assistance.¹¹⁴
- 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.¹¹⁵
- 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.

78. 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?

¹¹² 17 V.S.A. §§ 2555-2557.

¹¹³ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

¹¹⁴ 17 V.S.A. § 2567.

¹¹⁵ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

Yes. All polling places shall possess at least one voting system approved by the Secretary of State equipped for individuals with disabilities, including accessibility for people who are blind and people who have a visual impairment, to vote independently and privately.¹¹⁶

Alternatively, 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.¹¹⁷

79. 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.¹¹⁸

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

80. 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.¹¹⁹

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).¹²⁰

If the election official fails to comply, the voter can contact: Disability Rights Vermont 1-800-834-7890 or 1-802-229-1355; 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.

81. 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.

Although the rule is that there is no politicking or campaigning in the polling place (you will be asked to remove candidate buttons or stickers), you can bring anything you need to help you vote into the voting booth. You should be careful not to publicly display any material inside the building containing the polling place and to take any material out with you when you are done.¹²¹

¹¹⁶ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

¹¹⁷ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

¹¹⁸ 17 V.S.A. § 2569.

¹¹⁹ <https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Elections%20Division/voters/accessible%20voting/drvt-voter-guide.pdf>

¹²⁰ 17 V.S.A. § 2502.

¹²¹ <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/voter-faqs/#q10>; 17 V.S.A. § 2508.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. **CAUCUSES:** Does Vermont have a caucus primary system? What must I do to participate?

Vermont does have a caucus system. In order to participate in a primary in Vermont, a voter need not register as a member of the political party in whose primary they wish to participate. A voter will receive ballots as described above. Each ballot will be for each political party participating in the primary. A voter may only vote for the candidates of one party on that party's ballot. The voter may cast their votes as described above.

83. **GUNS IN THE POLLING PLACE:** May I bring my firearm to a polling place?

Vermont does not prohibit bringing firearms to a polling place except when the polling place is on school grounds, where possession of a dangerous or deadly weapon is prohibited.¹²²

84. **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](#).

¹²² 17 V.S.A. § 4004 (addressing weapons on school property).