

Frequently Asked Questions

Connecticut – 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?

A person is eligible to register and vote if they (1) are a citizen of the United States; (2) are at least 17 and will be 18 years old on Election Day; (3) are a bona fide resident of the town in which they wish to register; and (4) have completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a disenfranchising felony.¹ See [Question 12](#) for more information about voting following a felony conviction.

Voters who have a Connecticut driver's license may register to vote online. A voter who wishes to register online or by mail for the Election must do so 18 days before the general election (October 18, 2024). Mail registrations must be postmarked OR received by the voter's Registrar of Voters or a voter

¹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-12; [Voter Fact Sheet First Time Voter](#).

registration agency 18 days before the general election (October 18, 2024). A voter may apply in person to their town clerk or registrar on the last business day before the general election (November 4, 2024).²

Otherwise, a voter may register in person on Election Day (November 5, 2024) (see Questions [6](#) and [7](#)).³

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?](#)

A voter must be or become a party member in order to vote in the relevant primary in Connecticut.⁴ A voter can change party affiliation by filing a new voter registration form but will need to do so three months before the primary to be eligible to vote. See the [“Party Affiliation” page](#) for additional information.

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

A voter can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking Connecticut Secretary of State’s [“Voter Registration Lookup”](#) page.

4. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?](#)

Voters may register by [mail](#), [online](#), or in-person. See Questions [5](#), [6](#), and [7](#). The form for Mail-in voter registration can be found [here](#). Completed registrations should have a first-class stamp applied, the application folded and mailed to the town hall where the voter lives or the registration can be delivered in person.

A printer is not needed. A voter can obtain a voter registration card from any Connecticut public library, the DMV, DSS or any other voter registration agency. For information on eligibility to register, see [Question 1](#).

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

For **mail registration**, if a voter is registering for the first time in their town, the voter is advised to include one of the following: (a) the voter’s driver’s license number or, if none, the last four digits of the voter’s social security number, (b) a copy of a current and valid I.D. that shows the voters name and address (note - a photograph is not required), or (c) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows the voter’s name and address.

- If the voter submits any of the above identification with their registration, they will not be required to show I.D. when voting. However, the voter may be required to sign a form under penalty of false statement affirming their identity.
- If the voter does not submit this information with their registration, they will receive a mark next to their name in the official registration list that indicates that they will be required to provide this identification when voting for the first time in a federal election.⁵

² https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/electionservices/calendars/2024-election/2024-ec_5-9-24.pdf.

³ <https://portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/election-day-registration/election-day-registration>.

⁴ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Fact-Sheet-First-Time-Voter>.

⁵ [Voter Identification Requirements in Connecticut](#).

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

For **in-person/Election Day registration (see [Question 7](#) below)**, a voter must bring their driver's license, social security card or any other pre-printed identification card that has the voter's name and address, signature, or photograph to the polls.⁶ If the voter's identification card does not contain the voter's current address, the voter should also provide proof of their residence address by providing some supporting documentation that includes the address, such as a school registration statement or utility bill.⁷

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?](#)

Primary Registration Deadline:

- A voter who wishes to register online or by mail for the Primary must do so by the 5th day before a primary (August 8, 2024) (mail registrations must be postmarked OR received by the voter's Registrar of Voters or a voter registration agency by such date). A voter may apply in person to their town clerk or registrar until 12:00 noon on the business day before the primary (August 12, 2024).⁸

General Election Deadline:

- A voter who wishes to register online or by mail for the general election must do so 18 days before the election, which is October 18, 2024 (mail-in registrations must be postmarked OR received by the voter's Registrar of Voters or a voter registration agency by such date). A voter may apply in person to their town clerk or registrar by such date as well.⁹
- Otherwise, a voter may register in person the day before the general election (November 4, 2024) or complete same day registration during the early voting period (October 21, 2024 through November 3, 2024) or on Election Day (November 5, 2024) (see [Question 7](#)).

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

A voter may register in person on Election Day if they meet the eligibility requirements for voting and are not already registered or if they are registered in one town and want to change their registration because they currently reside in another town.¹⁰

Same day registration is available at designated same day registration (SDR) sites, which may not be the voter's polling place.¹¹ The voter should contact their local Registrar of Voters office to find out where to go to register on Election Day. Same day registration is available at SDR sites from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Election Day. Same day registration is also available for early voting.¹²

⁶ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-20.

⁷ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-19(j); [Voter Identification Requirements in Connecticut](#).

⁸ <https://portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/election-day-registration/election-day-registration>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-19(j).

¹¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Election-Day-Registration/Election-Day-Registration>.

¹² <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Election-Day-Registration/Election-Day-Registration>.

A list of contact details for the Registrar of Voters offices can be found [here](#). See [Question 5](#) for I.D. requirements for Election Day registration.

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

The answer is the same, regardless of whether the voter moved within the same town, to a new town in Connecticut, or to Connecticut from out of state.

A voter will have to update their voter registration to reflect their new address. The voter's registration should always reflect their current home address.

Thanks to [Connecticut's Election Day Registration law](#), a voter can register and vote in person on Election Day at their town's Election Day Registration location. To register in person, a voter will need to supply proof of identity and residence. A voter should contact their local Registrar of Voters for information about location, hours of operation, and acceptable forms of identification.¹³

9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

As long as a voter maintains a residence in Connecticut in the town in which they are registered, a temporary move to another location, inside or outside the state (for example, to stay with family at another location), should not affect their eligibility to vote in the town in which they are registered so long as the voter does not register to vote elsewhere.

However, if a voter does not maintain their original residence in the town in which they are registered because of a temporary move (for example, they have sold their home or given up their leased residence), the voter would need to register in the new location (See [Question 8](#)).

Also, a voter should consider whether they will be able to satisfy the in-person voter identification requirements set forth in [Questions 19](#) and [20](#) as a result of a temporary move (i.e., will the address included in their form of Identification match the address associated with their voting registration).

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 may establish voting residency in the place they consider their principal home, whether that be their current school address or at another address (such as a parent's address) they still consider to be "home." So, the student could choose to register to vote in their college town. Or, the student could choose to register to vote in Connecticut so long as they meet the generally applicable standards (see [Question 1](#)). Students should be prepared to provide documentation of their in-state address.

A student taking classes remotely from a Connecticut-based school who does not otherwise meet Connecticut's residency requirements is likely not eligible to vote in Connecticut.¹⁴

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

¹³ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-and-Elected-Officials/Find-Your-Town-Clerk-Registrar-of-Voters-and-Elected-Officials> (click Registrar of Voters).

¹⁴ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Student-Voter-Fact-Sheet>.

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

- The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). This form can be used to either register to vote or to request an absentee ballot. Servicemen and women and their families may obtain the FPCA from the [Federal Voting Assistance Program's](#) website; or
- Connecticut's voter registration application (See [Question 4](#)). If a voter registers to vote using this application, they must also submit a separate application for an absentee ballot if they intend to vote absentee (See [Question 49](#)).

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?](#)

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

A voter who has been convicted of a felony offense and is currently incarcerated in a Connecticut, out of state, or federal facility loses their right to vote in Connecticut. A voter convicted of a misdemeanor offense does not lose their right to vote.

An exception to the above is where a voter is convicted of a felony and committed for confinement for a violation of Title 9 of Connecticut Election statutes. For such a voter, electoral privileges cannot be restored until all of the requirements set forth above have been fulfilled and the voter has been discharged from probation.¹⁵

Procedurally, when a voter is convicted of a felony and confined, the Commissioner of Correction will notify the Secretary of the State, who will notify the voter's local registrar that they have forfeited their voting rights.

Once the voter is no longer incarcerated for the felony offense and has finished parole (if the underlying felony conviction is a violation of Title 9 of Connecticut Election statute), their voting rights are restored. This is true both for voters within state, out of state, and federal convictions. After the voter is released from prison, two things happen:

- The Commissioner of Correction must give the voter a document certifying that they have been released from confinement, and
- The Commissioner of Correction must notify the Secretary of the State within a month that the voter is no longer disqualified from voting.

If the voter returns to the town where they were registered before conviction, this process will eventually restore their voting rights on its own, although it may take several months and the voter will have to update their address with the registrar.

If the voter is living in a new town or was not previously registered to vote, they must submit a new voter registration application and include in their registration application satisfactory proof that they have been released from confinement. This may be done with the certificate issued to the voter by the Commissioner of Corrections or through the voter's parole officer.¹⁶ The voter can contact the Registrar

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-45(a), 9-46, 9-46(a).

of Voters in the town where they live to obtain a voter registration card, or can also obtain voter registration cards from any public library, the DMV, Connecticut State Department of Social Services (DSS), or any other voter registration agency.

There are no restrictions for misdemeanors unless the voter is in confinement for a misdemeanor with a prior felony conviction and voting rights were not restored after the felony conviction.

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.

If a voter is currently incarcerated as a result of a felony offense, the voter is not eligible to vote.

If a voter is incarcerated as a result of a misdemeanor conviction with no current or prior felony conviction (or if their voting rights were restored after any previous felony convictions) and the voter meets Connecticut's other eligibility requirements (see [Question 1](#)), that voter is eligible to vote.

If the incarcerated voter (who is not currently incarcerated because of a felony offense) is not already registered, the voter may submit a voter registration card. The voter should ask the assigned staff person at the facility in which they are incarcerated for a mail-in voter registration card. The voter should list the address of their home when they are not incarcerated in box #5 and the correctional facility's address in box #6 on the voter registration card.¹⁷ The DOC will forward the card to the town clerk's office as a privileged correspondence. The voter registration card must be postmarked at least fourteen calendar days (no later than October 22, 2024) before the general election.

In addition to the voter registration card, the voter should also submit a notification to the town clerk's office that the voter would like an absentee ballot application. The voter should submit this notification to the town clerk for their home address. The town clerk will then send the voter an application for an absentee ballot. The voter should complete the application for the absentee ballot and return it to the town clerk. Anyone can assist the voter in completing the absentee ballot application. The absentee ballot application must be filled out and returned to the town clerk to receive the actual absentee ballot. Once the town clerk receives the application, they will forward the voter an absentee ballot. Note that the absentee ballot application can be requested starting 31 days before the election (October 5, 2024). Absentee ballot applications must be received by the town clerk by the Monday before the Election Day (November 4, 2024). However, to ensure that the town clerk is able to send the voter their absentee ballot in time for the general election, the application should be received by the town clerk in advance of this deadline.

Once completed, the voter can return their absentee ballot to their town clerk's office by mail. The completed absentee ballots must be received by the town clerk's office by 8:00 PM on the day of an election (November 5, 2024).

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

If a person's right to vote is challenged, the moderator of the polling place will first rule on the challenge. The challenger must "know[], suspect[] or reasonably believe[]" that a person is not entitled to vote. Challenges can be made by an official challenger designated by the registrar or by a voter. A voter challenging another voter's right to vote must do so under oath administered by the moderator.

¹⁷ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/doc/pdf/workbook/wb54pdf.pdf?la=en>.

If the moderator determines that the voter does not have the right to vote, the voter may then request a challenged ballot from the moderator. The ballot must include a signed statement that the voter is eligible to vote. At that point the voter will cast their challenged ballot in the presence of the moderator who will place the vote in a marked envelope. Such ballots are considered if an election contest is brought in court.¹⁸

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

Polls are open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Time on Election Day (November 5, 2024).

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

The voter's proper polling place can be determined by checking the "[Voter Registration Lookup](#)" page. If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions 8](#) and [9](#).

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

No. Employers in Connecticut are not required to give time off for voting, paid or unpaid.

Connecticut previously required employers to provide employees with two hours of unpaid time off to vote, but employees had to request such time at least two working days prior to the election.¹⁹ This requirement expired on June 30, 2024.

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

Any voter in line at 8:00 PM must be permitted to cast a ballot.²⁰

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

Voters who registered by mail to vote for the first time in that town on or after January 1, 2003, and who did not provide proof of identification and address at the time of registering, must show proof of address and identification by providing one of the following:

- (a) a current and valid photo ID that includes the voter's name and address; or
- (b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.²¹

¹⁸ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-168(e).

¹⁹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-57y.

²⁰ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-174.

²¹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-261.

If such a voter does not have any such form of identification, they will only be able to vote by provisional ballot for an election for federal office.²²

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

- (a) the voter's Social Security card; or
- (b) any other preprinted form of identification which shows the voter's name and either their address, signature, or photograph; or
- (c) on a form approved by the Secretary of State, voters may write their residential address and date of birth, print their name, and sign a statement under penalty of false statement that the voter is the voter whose name appears on the official checklist.²³

Without one of these forms of identification, a voter is permitted to vote with a challenged or provisional ballot.²⁴

20. NO IDENTIFICATION: *Can I vote without providing identification?*

Yes. A voter that does not provide the required forms of identification or does not sign the statement discussed in [Question 19](#) may still vote a challenged or provisional ballot.²⁵ See [Question 19](#).

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 doesn't appear on the voter rolls and their eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established, they are entitled to cast a provisional ballot. But casting a provisional ballot is a last resort, and before doing so the voter should attempt to determine whether they are in fact in the correct town's polling place and why their name is missing from the rolls.²⁶

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

- subsequently registered in a different town or state;²⁷
- moved out of the municipality;
- died; or
- been disenfranchised, such as through incarceration for a felony.²⁸

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

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place (see [Question 3](#) and [Question 16](#)).

²² Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-23(r).

²³ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-261.

²⁴ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-232, 232(d), 232(e), 232(l), 232(m).

²⁵ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-232, 232(d), 232(e), 232(l), 232(m).

²⁶ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232(l).

²⁷ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-21.

²⁸ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-35.

- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool (see [Question 3](#) and [Question 8](#)).
- 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, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool (see [Question 3](#)).
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Note Connecticut has same day registration (see [Question 6](#) and [Question 7](#)). If the voter is not on the rolls because they are not registered to vote, they should go through the same day registration procedure.

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

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

- The voter's name doesn't appear on the voter rolls and their eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established;
- The voter's eligibility to vote has been challenged by a poll watcher or other voter; or
- The voter doesn't have the required identification with them at the poll and they are a newly registered-by-mail voter who did not include a copy of their identification with the registration form.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter should **MAKE SURE** they are in the right polling place for their current address. The voter should give the poll worker the voter's current address and ask whether they are in the right place. Voters should also verify that they are in the correct place.²⁹

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

Yes, if the voter represents that they are an eligible voter in Connecticut but are not on the official voter list, the registrar determines that the voter cannot be transferred from another polling place, the polling district moderator decides that the voter may not vote in the election, or the voter failed to provide identification or a signed statement (see [Question 19](#)).

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

The voter is encouraged to follow up with their town clerk after the election to confirm that their vote was counted, or, if not, why not.³⁰

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

²⁹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232l.

³⁰ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232m.

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY **VOTING**

(in this state defined as: voting prior to the date of an election)

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

Yes.³¹ Early voting for the general election will take place starting on October 21, 2024 through November 3, 2024. See the [Early Voting](#) page for additional information and Spanish brochures and videos relating to early voting. See also the [Legislative Research Issue Brief](#) for additional information.

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

No, any eligible voter is permitted to vote early.³²

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

Early voting begins 7 days before most primaries and 14 days before presidential and special elections, and ends two days before the primary or general election. Early voting for the general election on November 5 will begin on October 21, 2024 and end on November 3, 2024.³³ Early voting is conducted from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, except for October 29th and October 31st, where early voting is extended to 8:00 AM through 8:00 PM.³⁴

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

The site for early voting will be determined at least 31 days prior to the election date (by October 4, 2024), and there will be at least one site for each municipality. Same day election registration is also available at early voting locations.³⁵ [Your Early Voting Location](#) website contains details on early voting locations.

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

Identification for early voting is the same that is required for voting in-person on the day of the election. See [Question 19](#).

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

³¹ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/rpt/pdf/2023-R-0125.pdf>.

³² Public Act No. 23-5; See the Legislative Research Issue Brief for additional information: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/rpt/pdf/2023-R-0125.pdf>.

³³ Public Act No. 23-5.

³⁴ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/education/early-voting/2024_digital_brochures/english/early_voting_2024_general_election_digital_brochure_english_color.pdf.

³⁵ Public Act No. 23-5; <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/rpt/pdf/2023-R-0125.pdf>.

The same rules apply as to in-person voting on the day of the election. See Questions [78](#) and [79](#) for a description.

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?

Connecticut only offers “Absentee” voting and does not have any other vote by mail options.

Connecticut will not automatically mail a voter an absentee ballot. In order to receive an absentee ballot, a voter must submit and have processed an absentee ballot application form (Form ED-3). The absentee ballot application form (Form ED-3) is available [online](#) or at the town clerk’s office.

It is important to note that the application is not the ballot itself; the application must be submitted and processed before a ballot is made available. Further, a separate application must be submitted for each election.

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

Absentee voting is only available to the following voters in Connecticut:

- Active member of the armed forces of the US,
- Voters who are out of town during all the hours of voting on Election Day,
- Voters who have an illness that prevents them from voting on Election Day,
- Voters whose religious beliefs prevent them from performing secular activities like voting on Election Day,
- Voters who are performing duties as an election official at a polling place other than the voter’s own during all hours of voting on Election Day,
- Voters with a physical disability that prevents the voter from voting in person on Election Day.³⁶

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

There is no deadline for submitting an application for an absentee ballot.

However, voters should be aware of, and factor into their decision to vote by absentee ballot, the time delay associated with postal delivery of their absentee ballot application; the processing of their application by their town clerk; postal delivery of their ballot once their application for an absentee ballot has been processed and mailed; and time for returning the completed absentee ballot to the town clerk.

³⁶ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting>.

Ballots returned by mail or by a designee of the voter must be received by the close of polls, 8:00 PM on Election Day (November 5, 2024). Ballots returned in person by the voter must be returned by the end of the day before Election Day (November 4, 2024).³⁷

If a voter experiences an emergency within 6 days of the close of polls on Election Day (between 8:00 PM on October 31 and 8:00 PM on November 5) that voter [may apply](#) for an emergency absentee ballot. Only voters who experience an unforeseen illness or physical disability within 6 days before polls close on Election Day may apply for an emergency absentee ballot.³⁸

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: [Can someone assist me with filling out the application?](#)

Yes, certain individuals may assist the voter with their application for an absentee ballot: a caregiver assisting due to the voter's illness or disability; a voter's family member as designated by the voter; or, if neither a caregiver or family members is available, a police officer, registrar of voters, or assistant or deputy registrar of voters in applicant's town/city of residence.³⁹

If a caregiver or family member is assisting, they must sign the form and report their name, address and phone number.⁴⁰

35. 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 the completed application to the municipal clerk for the town in which they are registered to vote in person, by mail, or through fax (if the clerk has a fax machine). If fax is used, the application must also be sent via mail either before mailing the voter's ballot or accompanying the voter's ballot.⁴¹

The application is not the ballot itself; the application must be submitted and processed before the voter will receive the absentee ballot.

36. IDENTIFICATION: [Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?](#)

No. There are no separate identification requirements when a voter returns their completed absentee ballot or application. In order to vote by absentee ballot in Connecticut, a voter must be an active, registered voter. In other words, the voter must fulfill the identification requirements for registering to vote. (See Questions [4-6](#)).

³⁷ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-140b.

³⁸ <https://portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/voter-information/absentee-voting>.

³⁹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-140b(b).

⁴⁰ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Ballot-Fact-Sheet>.

⁴¹ See instructions at the bottom of the absentee application: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/AB-Application/AB_Application_20220922/ED-3-Rev-English-20220922.pdf.

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 be mailed starting 31 days before the general election (October 4, 2024). As a reminder, voters must submit applications for absentee ballots before they will be sent their actual absentee ballots.

A voter can request that the ballot be sent to a mailing address (including a P.O. box) other than their home address by specifying that address on the application form.

38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

There is no deadline for submitting an application for an absentee ballot.

However, voters should be aware of, and factor into their decision to vote by absentee ballot, the time delay associated with postal delivery of their absentee ballot application; the processing of their application by their town clerk; and postal delivery of their ballot once their application for an absentee ballot has been processed and mailed.

All absentee ballots returned in the mail or by the voter's designee must be received by the town clerk by the close of polls, 8:00 PM. on Election Day (November 5, 2024). Absentee ballots returned in person by the voter must be received by the town clerk on the day prior to Election Day (November 4, 2024). The deadline for dropbox returns is 8:00 PM on Election Day (November 5, 2024).

39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

A voter may check the status of their **application** for their absentee ballot by calling their town clerk. Voters should allow a reasonable amount of time for absentee ballot applications to be processed and absentee ballots to be mailed. A list of town clerk's offices is available online [here](#).

A voter who has returned their completed absentee ballot to their town clerk can check the status of their **ballot** [here](#).

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?

A voter should call their local town clerk. A list of town clerk's offices is available [online](#).

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

Complete the ballot by following the instructions that are included. Once the voter fills out their absentee ballot, they can return their completed absentee ballot using:

- (a) The secure drop box that the Office of the Secretary of State has provided to each town. For a recent list of secure drop box locations, the voter should call their local town clerk's office. A list of town clerk's offices is available [online](#).

- (b) The United States postal service (consider whether there is sufficient time for processing); or
- (c) In person in the town clerk's office.

The voter or the voter's immediate family member or "designee" can return the completed application. For a definition of "designee," see [Question 45](#).

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

If a voter needs assistance completing the application for an absentee ballot or the absentee ballot itself, assistance may only be given by a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's "designee." For a definition of "designee," see [Question 45](#).

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?](#)

Once the voter fills out their absentee ballot, they can return the ballot via the United States Postal Service, in person in the town clerk's office, or via the secure drop box that the Office of the Secretary of the State has provided to each town. Voters should check the hours of service of their town clerk's office [here](#).

The voter or the voter's immediate family member or "designee" can also return the completed application. For a definition of "designee," see [Question 45](#).

All absentee ballots returned by mail or delivered in person by a voter's designee in person must be received by the town clerk by the close of polls, 8:00 PM on Election Day, November 5, 2024. Absentee ballots delivered in person by the voter must be received by the end of the day before the election (November 4, 2024).⁴² The deadline for dropbox returns is 8:00 PM on Election Day (November 5, 2024).

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

A voter can drop off a completed absentee ballot in two different locations:

- (a) The secure drop box that the Office of the Secretary of State has provided to each town. For a recent list of secure drop box locations, the voter should call their local town clerk's office. A list of town clerk's offices is available [online](#).
- (b) In person in the town clerk's office.

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

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

⁴² <http://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Registration-Deadlines/Registration-Deadlines>; Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-140(c), 9-174.

A “**designee**” includes a person caring for a voter due to the voter’s illness or disability; a voter’s family member designated by the voter and who agrees to act as a designee; or if no such person is available, a police officer, registrar of voters, or assistant or deputy registrar of voters in the voter’s town.⁴³

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?

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

47. **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 may check with their town clerk (note that ballots will be mailed beginning 31 days before the general election (October 4, 2024) or, for applications submitted more recently, as soon as possible after an application is processed). If a voter has not received their absentee ballot by the day before the election date (November 4, 2024), the voter should consider voting in person if possible. Alternatively, the voter should consider delivering any absentee ballot received after the day before the election date (November 4, 2024) to their local secure drop box. See [Questions 41, 43](#) and [44](#).

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

A voter who has voted by absentee ballot but who wishes to re-vote in person must go to the town clerk’s office before 10:00 AM on Election Day (November 5, 2024) and request to withdraw the absentee ballot. The clerk will find the ballot, mark it as “rejected,” and will give the voter a signed statement that the voter will show the moderator in their voting district stating that the voter has withdrawn their absentee ballot and is eligible to vote in person.⁴⁴

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

(in this state defined as: absentee is the same as vote by mail for Connecticut)

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

See [Question 32](#).

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

⁴³ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-140(b).

⁴⁴ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-159(o).

See [Question 33](#).

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

See [Question 36](#).

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

An emergency ballot within 6 days of an election is available upon application as a result of a voter's unforeseen illness, physical disability or hospitalization. The application for an emergency ballot is available [online](#).⁴⁵

An emergency ballot is not available to voters whose reason for the emergency application is that they were tardy in submitting their application for an absentee ballot. Only voters who experience an unforeseen illness or physical disability within 6 days before polls close on Election Day may apply for an emergency absentee ballot.⁴⁶

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

See [Question 35](#).

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

See [Question 39](#).

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?

A voter should call their local town clerk.

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

See [Question 41](#).

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

[Question 42](#) and [Question 45](#).

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

⁴⁵ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-150c.

⁴⁶ <https://portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/voter-information/absentee-voting>.

See [Question 43](#).

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

See [Question 44](#).

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

See [Question 45](#).

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

See [Question 46](#).

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

See [Question 47](#).

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

See [Question 48](#).

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

A voter can drop their completed absentee ballot in their town clerk's office. A person may also vote in person on Election Day.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

A voter should check with their town clerk. A list of town clerk's offices is available online [here](#).

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?

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

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

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. A voter can vote and place their ballot in the auxiliary bin for later counting if no working voting tabulator is available.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 9-174a-19, 9-242a-12, -16.

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

No voter may be approached within a 75-foot radius of the polling place by any person campaigning or electioneering. Campaigning or electioneering means any person soliciting on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or peddling or offering any ballot, advertising materials or circular. This includes corridors and passageways leading to polling places. Each polling place should have a sign which demarcates the radius inside of which voters cannot be approached. In addition, registrars may limit nonpartisan activity as necessary to maintain order, and the moderator can evict from the polling place anyone who interferes with voting.⁴⁸

Members of the media are permitted to obtain exit polling data within 75 feet of the exit door.⁴⁹

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

Voters are not permitted to wear clothing, jewelry, stickers or other items that display political literature or information regarding a candidate. Voters must remove such articles or hide them while in the polling place.⁵⁰ Voters may take photos in the polling place as long as they do not photograph any marked ballots or any images inside the voting booth and as long as they do not disrupt the voting process.

Members of the media are permitted to take photos or videos in the polling place but may not record or take photos of marked ballots or otherwise interfere with the voting process.⁵¹

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

Poll workers are not permitted to wear clothing, jewelry, stickers or other items that display political literature or information regarding a candidate. Each municipality may have a detailed dress code for poll workers. If no such code exists, moderators are required to wear business casual attire and other poll workers should wear appropriate casual dress.⁵²

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?

The Connecticut voter’s bill of rights provides a right to vote free of intimidation by any person.⁵³ There are many state and federal laws prohibiting voter intimidation and interference.⁵⁴ In Connecticut, if a voter feels unsafe or uncomfortable, the voter should report the circumstances to the moderator or the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission.

⁴⁸ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/RELEASES/2022/20221019/2022-Voter-Interference-Memo.pdf>.

³² Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-236.

⁴⁹ CT Moderator’s Handbook – June 2023 – Who May be in the Polls, B.6.

⁵⁰ CT Moderator’s Handbook – June 2023 – Who May be in the Polls, C.3.

⁵¹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-236(c).

⁵² CT Moderator’s Handbook – June 2023 – Election Officials’ Duties, A.8.

⁵³ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-236b.

⁵⁴ See, e.g., Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-364, 9-364a, 9-232; 18 U.S.C. §§ 245, 594; 52 U.S.C. § 10101, 20511.

Moderators at a polling place are permitted to request police protection for a polling place if disorder is expected or occurs. Police officers are permitted to arrest and remove an offender.⁵⁵

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

If a person's right to vote is challenged, the moderator of the polling place will first rule on the challenge. The challenger must "know[], suspect[] or reasonably believe[]" that a person is not entitled to vote. Challenges can be made by either an official challenger designated by the registrar or by a voter. A voter challenging another voter's right to vote must do so under oath administered by the moderator.

If the moderator determines that the voter does not have the right to vote, the voter may then request a challenged ballot from the moderator. The voter will cast their challenged ballot in the presence of the moderator who will place the vote in a marked envelope.⁵⁶

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

Police are permitted at the polling place at the request of the moderator if disorder is expected/occurs. Further police may be positioned at the end of the line voters at 8:00 PM when the polls close to prevent others from entering the line. No other state guidance is provided on this point. A voter should speak to their town clerk and report any concern to polling officials if they are comfortable doing so.

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

The voter should confirm whether or not they are registered in their town or residence (see [Question 3](#)). A voter can cast a provisional ballot at a last resort as well. See [Question 75](#).

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

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

- The voter's name doesn't appear on the voter rolls and their eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established;
- The voter's eligibility to vote has been challenged by a poll watcher or other voter; or
- The voter doesn't have the required identification with them at the poll and they are a newly registered-by-mail voter who did not include a copy of her or his identification with the registration form.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter should **MAKE SURE** they are in the right polling place for their current address. The voter should give the poll worker the voter's current address and ask whether they are in the right place.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-230.

⁵⁶ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-168(e), https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/training_info/CTPollWorkerManualpdf.pdf.

⁵⁷ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232l.

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

After voting provisionally, the voter should receive documentation including the serial number on the ballot envelope. The voter should use that number to follow up after the election to confirm that their vote was counted, or, if not, why not.⁵⁸

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

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

The voter may ask poll workers for instructions on how to use the equipment . A demonstration device will be available at the polling place. Two demonstrators (one from each party) will be available to demonstrate to the voter how to cast their vote on the demonstration device.⁵⁹

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, polling places should be wheelchair accessible and (if space is available) offer parking for persons with disabilities.⁶⁰

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?

Any voter who needs assistance voting, by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to write or to read the ballot, is entitled to have some person of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union, or a candidate for any office on the ballot (unless the voter is a member of the immediate family of such candidate), mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting booth.⁶¹

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?

Any voter who needs assistance voting because of an inability to write or to read the ballot (or by reason of blindness or disability) is entitled to have some person of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union or a candidate for any office on the ballot (unless the voter is a member of the immediate family of such candidate), mark the voter's

⁵⁸ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232m.

⁵⁹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-260.

⁶⁰ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-168d and 9-168e.

⁶¹ Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-264.

choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. The person assisting the elector may accompany the elector into the voting booth.⁶²

Further, municipalities in which 1% or more of its population (but not less than 500 people total using census data) are Hispanic Americans are required to employ or retain a stand-by Spanish speaking person to assist Spanish speaking voters.⁶³

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

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

A voter must show the proper identification and may then mark the ballot. A voter must mark the ballot in front of the election officials but not in a way that will violate the voter’s right to vote in privacy.⁶⁴

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

Yes.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. GUNS IN A POLLING PLACE: Are guns permitted at polling locations?

Connecticut does not prohibit guns at polling locations but does prohibit guns on school grounds, which are often polling locations.

83. VOTING WHILE UNHOUSED: Can I register to vote while unhoused?

Yes, an individual is a resident of a town if they have some nexus to that particular town, and there is an intention to return to that town when absent from it. This could be a town that the individual has spent time in, slept in, and intends to go back to, even if the individual is not presently there.⁶⁵

The individual’s mailing address could be a local shelter or post office. The individual’s physical address could be a particular place such as a park bench. The registration confirmation letter will be mailed to the mailing address once the individual is registered. Please see the homeless voter fact sheet: <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Homeless-Voter-Fact-Sheet>.

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

⁶² Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-264.

⁶³ Conn. Agencies Regs. § 9-4-1.

⁶⁴ <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voters-with-Disabilities-Fact-Sheet>.

⁶⁵ See <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Homeless-Voter-Fact-Sheet>; https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sots/ElectionServices/VoterFactSheets/2017/ct_homeless_voter_fact_sheet2017.pdf?la=en.

Additional voter information is available online [here](#) or by contacting a voter's town clerk.

On Election Day, a hotline (1-866-733-2463) will be established to report problems at the polls. Further, one may email elections@ct.gov if a voter encounters any difficulties casting ballots.