



Absentee voting allows registered voters to cast a ballot without going to a polling location on Election Day. If you are away from home, at college, or overseas, you can request an Early or Absent Voter Ballot. Absentee voting is *anonymous and completely secure*. To have an Early or Absent Voter Ballot mailed to your home, your address must be accurate. Update your registration status at your Town/City Clerk's office or online at [My Voter Page](#). Early voting begins at the time you receive your ballot.

HOW DO I REQUEST AN EARLY OR ABSENT VOTER BALLOT?

You may request an Early or Absent Voter Ballot [online](#), by telephone, fax, email, mail, or in person. You may also request and track the status of your Early or Absent Voter Ballot using [My Voter Page](#).

When you use [My Voter Page](#), your request will be instantly sent to the Town/City Clerk, who will approve it before issuing a ballot. Using this resource may significantly reduce the time it takes for your Town/City Clerk to receive and process your request.

If you have the ballot and certificate sent by email or fax, the Clerk will include instructions for you to print and return the ballot and envelopes. However, under Vermont law, ballot(s) must be physically returned to the Town/City Clerk sealed inside the Absentee Certificate Envelope with voter's original signature.



You can request an Early or Absent Voter Ballot for local, primary, and general elections during a single calendar year, if your address is unchanged for both elections. Please know a request for an Early or Absent Voter Ballot must be made every election year.

WHAT IF I DID NOT RECEIVE MY BALLOT? I LOSE MY BALLOT? MAKE A MISTAKE?

If you do not receive your Early or Absent Voter Ballot within a reasonable time after your request or you lose your ballot, apply to the Town/City Clerk for a duplicate ballot. - sign an affidavit, the [Vermont Voter Affidavit Form For Undelivered or Lost Absentee Ballots](#) affirming you have not received the original ballot or that your ballot was lost. You may receive up to a total of three absentee ballots.

If a duplicate Early or Absent Voter Ballot is issued and both the duplicate and original Early and Absent Voter Ballots are received before the close of polls on Election Day, the ballot received first or with the earlier postmark shall be counted.

CAN A VOTER CHANGE HIS/HER/THEIR MIND AND VOTE IN PERSON?

A voter who received an Early or Absent Voter Ballot can change his, her or their mind and vote at the polls on Election Day. To be eligible to do this, the voter must bring in the Early or Absent Voter Ballot as well as the envelope and any other voting materials received. The presiding officer will return the unused Early or Absent Voter Ballots and envelope to the Town/City Clerk, who will make a record of their return on the list of early or absentee voters and treat them as spoiled or unused ballots.

A voter who returned their voted Early or Absent Voter Ballot cannot change his, her or their mind and vote at the polls, even if that ballot has not yet been counted, it is considered a voted ballot and cannot be retracted.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR REQUESTING AND RETURNING EARLY & ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS?

Requests for Early or Absent Voter Ballots must be submitted by 5 p.m. or close of the Town/City Clerk's office the day before the election.

In order to be counted, you must return your Early or Absent Voter Ballot to the Town/City Clerk's office before the close of office the day before the election or to the polling place before 7 p.m. Election Day.



WHY WOULD MY BALLOT BE MARKED DEFECTIVE?

When an early or absentee voter is not legally qualified to vote or has voted in person or if the certificate on the voted ballot envelope is not signed or the voted ballot is not in the voted ballot envelope, or, in the case of a primary vote, the early or absentee voter has failed to return the unvoted primary ballots, the envelope must be marked “defective” and the ballots inside may not be counted. The voter will be notified that the return of their ballot was defective, within three days of the clerk receiving it, and the voter will have an opportunity to correct the error and have their ballot counted.

CAN I RECEIVE AN EARLY & ABSENT VOTER BALLOT IF I AM DISABLED OR FALL ILL?

If you cannot go to the polls because of disability or illness, you may request an Early or Absent Voter Ballot up until 5 p.m. the day before the election. Two justices of the peace (of different parties when possible) will deliver an Early or Absent Voter Ballot to you at your home on Election Day and will bring the ballot back to the polling place so it can be placed in the ballot box and counted.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH JUSTICES OF THE PEACE OF DIFFERENT PARTIES TO DELIVER EARLY OR ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS TO VOTERS WHO ARE DISABLED OR ILL ON ELECTION DAY?

If there are not enough justices of the peace from different parties to make up the required number of pairs, the remaining pairs may be selected by the Board of Civil Authority from lists of registered voters submitted by chairs of the town committees of political parties and from among registered voters who, in written application to the board, state they are not affiliated with any political party. See [17 V.S.A. § 2538](#).

I AM ATTENDING COLLEGE IN VERMONT BUT WANT TO VOTE A BALLOT FROM MY HOME STATE. HOW DO I DO THIS?

Go to the League of Women Voters Voter Guide website, www.vote411.org, enter your state to obtain voting requirements.

Or, check with the Secretary of State or Elections Board in your home state to find out how to register to vote and/or request an Early or Absent Voter Ballot. Most states have this information online. Your College Registrar should also have information for you on registering and voting in your home state.



CAN COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO VOTE IN VERMONT INSTEAD OF THEIR HOME STATE REGISTER AND VOTE?

Yes. As long as you consider Vermont your primary residence, register online at [My Voter Page](#).

MY SON OR DAUGHTER IS AWAY AT COLLEGE, CAN I REQUEST AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT FOR THEM?

Yes. A voter's near relative may request an Early or Absent Voter Ballot if their child is a registered voter. The request form must include required information such as driver's license or state identification number or last four digits of their Social Security number.

ARE INDIVIDUALS REMOVED FROM THE VOTER CHECKLIST AFTER A SET PERIOD OF TIME?

Per the purging process set up by federal law, voters who do not vote in two elections (held every two years) and do not respond to a notice sent by the local Board of Civil Authority via first-class mail, may be removed from the Voter Checklist. However, [17 V.S.A § 2147](#) provides that a voter removed from the Voter Checklist in error can be added back to the checklist. Once a voter has registered in Vermont, there is no need to re-take the Voter's Oath, but the registrant will need to indicate where he or she was registered in Vermont previously.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

An early or absentee voter, an authorized family member, or health care provider acting in the voter's behalf, may apply for an Early or Absent Voter Ballot by telephone, in person, or in writing. "Family member" means a person's spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse's parents, grandparents, and spouse's grandparents.

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. For Election Updates and Info: SOS.Vermont.Gov/Elections

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