



West Indian Social Club Presents:

# CONNECTICUT ELECTION LAWS

**EARLY  
VOTING**

**ABSENTEE  
VOTING**



**ELECTION  
DAY VOTING**

Funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public giving (HFPG)

**#Empowering our Community**

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## Program Overview

One of the most important rights of American citizens is the right to vote. Originally under the Constitution, only white male citizens over the age of 21 were eligible to vote. Over time, this inequality has been corrected and voting rights have been extended several times throughout our history.

Today, citizens over the age of 18 cannot be denied the right to vote based on race, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. Empowering citizens with knowledge of their voting rights and responsibilities is crucial for a robust democracy. Whether you're a first-time voter or renewing your voter registration, understanding Connecticut's electoral process is essential.

This guide provides comprehensive details:

- On voter eligibility and registration options.
- Discover how you can participate in early voting.
- Ensure your voice is heard in upcoming elections.
- Stay informed with key dates and resources to navigate the electoral landscape effectively.

Voting gives you the power to create positive change for yourself, your family, your friends, your neighbors, your community, your state, and your country. It is the right that helps you play a key role in choosing who represents you and where government funding and resources will go. Let's make every vote count for a stronger community.

## Voting Eligibility

Your voice contributes to the democratic process, before you can vote, you need to be registered. Here's how you can ensure you're ready to participate in the elections.

To register to vote in Connecticut, you must:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a resident of a Connecticut town.
- Be at least 17 years old (must turn 18 on or before Election Day).
- Have completed confinement if previously convicted of a disenfranchising felony.

## Voting Registration

There are two ways you can register to vote in Connecticut.

### **1. Online Registration**

You can register online at <https://myvote.ct.gov/register> if you have a Connecticut Driver's License or a non-driver ID.

The online system may be used to:

- Register to vote in Connecticut.
- Change your name and/or address on your current registration record.

- Enroll in a political party or change party enrollment (changing parties may result in losing rights in all parties for three months).

Note: You should receive confirmation within three weeks. If you do not, contact the Registrar of Voters in your town.

## **2. Paper Registration**

You are able to complete a paper registration card and deliver it to your local Registrar of Voters before the registration deadlines.

### **Voter's Rights**

Every registered voter in the state of Connecticut has the right to:

1. Inspect a sample ballot prior to voting.

At your polling place, you can access a sample ballot by asking the moderator to provide you with one, or find one online on the CT Secretary of the State's website.

2. Receive instructions on how to operate the equipment used to vote.

Similar to a sample ballot, the moderator at your polling place can also provide guidance on how to use the voting equipment.

3. Cast a ballot if you are still in line when the polls close.
4. Ask for and receive assistance in voting, including assistance in a preferred language other than English. Contact your

Registrar of Voters in advance to confirm availability of translation services.

5. Vote free from coercion and/or intimidation from election officials or any other person.
6. Cast a ballot using voting equipment that accurately counts all votes.
7. Vote by provisional ballot if you registered to vote but your name is not on the voter list.

You may apply for and cast a provisional ballot upon the execution of a written affirmation at the polling place affirming that you are qualified to vote in the election or primary for federal office in the polling place; and you have neither offered yourself to vote nor voted in person or by absentee ballot at said election or primary for federal office at the polling place.

8. Be informed of the process for voting if formerly incarcerated.
9. Vote independently and in privacy at a polling place, regardless of physical ability or disability.

If any of your rights have been violated, you have the right to file an official complaint with the State Elections Enforcement Commission by calling 1-866-733-2463 or online, or with the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931. In addition, before leaving the polling place you may notify the moderator of the violation.

# Sample Voter Registration Form



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION

(Disponible en Español)  
ED-671  
REV. 5/24  
(CGS §9-23g)

**■ YOU MAY USE THIS EASY FORM TO:**

- register to vote in Connecticut;
- change your name and/or address on current registration;
- enroll in a political party or change party enrollment;

**Note:** (Changing parties may result in losing rights in all parties for 3 months)

**IMPORTANT! Keep your voter record up to date**

**■ REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Fill in all boxes that apply to you on this application.
2. Place a first-class stamp on the application card, fold, and mail it to the town hall where you live (or deliver it to your town hall or voter registration agency).
3. You are not a voter until your application is approved by the Registrar of Voters.
4. You should receive a confirmation within 3 weeks. If you do not, contact the Registrar in your town hall.
5. If (1) you submit this form by mail and (2) you are registering for the first time in town, you may wish to submit with this application your driver's license number or if none, the last four digits of your social security number; or (a) a copy of a current and valid photo LD, or (b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows your name and address, in order to avoid additional LD requirements the first time you vote.

**■ TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN CONNECTICUT YOU MUST:**

- be a United States citizen;
- be a resident of a Connecticut town;
- be at least 17 years old (must turn 18 before election day)
- 17 year olds, who will turn 18 on or before election day may participate in general primary see section 1b below; and
- have completed confinement if previously convicted of a disfranchising felony

**■ IF YOU MOVE:**

You must fill out a new voter registration card if you have moved to a new town. Also, use this form to change address within town. (See section 1a and section 1b below)

**■ REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR NEW VOTERS:**

Your application must be postmarked or received by your Registrar of Voters or a voter registration agency by the 18th day before a primary or election. For a primary, you may also apply in person to your town clerk or registrar by 12 noon on the last business day before the primary. To vote early, you may apply in person to your town clerk or registrar by 12 noon on the day before you wish to early vote in the primary. For a general election, you may be able to register and vote in person during the early voting period or on election day through same-day registration at the designated location in your town.

**■ QUESTIONS?**

Call your local Registrar of Voters or the Secretary of the State at (800) 540-3764 or (860) 509-6100 (TDD,800-303-3161)

FOLD ----- PLEASE USE PENS ----- PRINT CLEARLY ----- FOLD

<b>1a Check Boxes that Apply:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New Voter Registration (Requires move to a new town) <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change (Follow the letter 'A') <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Party Enrollment Change	
<b>1b Are you a U.S. citizen?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <b>Will you be 18 on or before election day?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <b>If you checked "NO" to either of these questions, do not complete this form.</b>	
<b>2</b> Name of Applicant: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Last Name	First Name Middle Name or Initial Jr. Sr. II III IV
<b>3</b> Date of Birth (Month Day Year)	<b>4</b> CT Driver's License Number (If none, last 4 digits of Soc. Sec. No.)
<b>5</b> Address Where You Live: No., Street, Apt. # Town Zip State Connecticut	
<b>6</b> If Different, Address Where You Get Your Mail (P.O. Box, etc.)	<b>7</b> Telephone Number (Area Code) ( ) - ( ) <b>8</b> Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>9</b> Do you wish to enroll in a political party? <input type="checkbox"/> YES. Name of party: ___ Democratic ___ Republican Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO. I do not wish to enroll in a party at this time.	
<b>10</b> NAME or ADDRESS CHANGE. Previous Voting Address (If none, write "NONE") No., Street, Apt. # Town County State Name Under Which Registered (If different from above)	
<b>11</b> I swear or affirm that: • I am a U.S. Citizen • I live at the address shown in box 5 above • I am at least 17 years old • I have not been convicted of a disfranchising felony, or, if so, I am eligible to register to vote The information provided here is true Signature _____ Today's Date: ____/____/____	<b>12</b> Would you like to work at the Polls on Election Day? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>NOTE:</b> The particular social service office at which you register to vote, or whether you decline to register, remains confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.	
<b>WARNING:</b> If you sign this statement even though you know it is untrue, you can be convicted and imprisoned for up to five years and fined up to \$5,000.	
<b>THIS SECTION COMPLETED ONLY BY AGENCY (OR SPECIAL ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OR TOWN CLERK) (Date Received by Agency)</b>	
DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR	REGISTRAR INITIAL
DATE ENROLLMENT EFFECTIVE IF CHANGING PARTY	REASON FOR REJECTION
<b>THIS SECTION COMPLETED ONLY BY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</b>	
DATE PROCESSED BY REGISTRAR	NOTICE RETURNED (CHECK OFFENSE)
ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/>	NOTICE RETURNED (CHECK OFFENSE)
DATE PROCESSED BY REGISTRAR	DATE NOTICE MAILED

# Hartford Primary Sample Ballot (Republican)

State of Connecticut Official Ballot Papeleta Oficial	Hartford, Connecticut	Republican Primary/Primaria	Date/Fecha August 13, 2024	Districts/Distritos 1-24
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**PRIMARY VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ONLY**

I. The name or names of party-endorsed candidates appear first in each vertical column and the name of each party-endorsed candidate is marked with an asterisk. If there is no party endorsement, the designation "no party endorsement" appears under the office or position designation.

II. There is no write-in voting at primaries.

1. El nombre o los nombres de los candidatos que han sido endosados por el partido aparecen primero en cada columna vertical y el nombre del candidato endosado por el partido estará señalado con un asterisco. Si el partido no ha endosado a nadie, la frase "no hay endoso" aparecerá bajo el título del título del cargo o puesto.

2. En las primarias no se permiten votos por escrito.

OFFICE CARGO	1 United States Senator Senador De Los Estados Unidos Vote for One Vote por Uno
	1A *Gerry Smith
	1B Matthew M. Corey

Be sure to read instructions on reverse side of this ballot.  
Asegúrese leer las instrucciones en el otro lado antes de marcar esta papeleta.

# Hartford Primary Sample Ballot (Democratic)

State of Connecticut Official Ballot Papeleta Oficial	Hartford, Connecticut	Democratic Primary/Primaria	Date/Fecha August 13, 2024	Districts/Distritos 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 24
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**PRIMARY VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ONLY**

I. The name or names of party-endorsed candidates appear first in each vertical column and the name of each party-endorsed candidate is marked with an asterisk. If there is no party endorsement, the designation "no party endorsement" appears under the office or position designation.

II. There is no write-in voting at primaries.

1. El nombre o los nombres de los candidatos que han sido endosados por el partido aparecen primero en cada columna vertical y el nombre del candidato endosado por el partido estará señalado con un asterisco. Si el partido no ha endosado a nadie, la frase "no hay endoso" aparecerá bajo el título del título del cargo o puesto.

2. En las primarias no se permiten votos por escrito.

OFFICE CARGO	1 State Senator Senador Estatal Vote for One Vote por Uno
	1A *Douglas McCroskey
	1B Shalyls Davis
	1C Ayana Taylor

Be sure to read instructions on reverse side of this ballot.  
Asegúrese leer las instrucciones en el otro lado antes de marcar esta papeleta.

# Back Section of Sample Ballot

## State of Connecticut Official Ballot (A)

### HOW TO USE THIS BALLOT

**CAUTION:** This ballot may consist of more than one sheet.

#### I. TO MARK THIS BALLOT.

Completely fill in each appropriate oval as shown.

Use a black or blue pen or marker.

DO NOT USE PENCIL.

Vote for candidates individually. Do not mark the party names in any way.

#### II. TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES.

In most cases, only one mark or write-in vote is allowable in each column (that is, for each office).

#### A. TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT.

Completely fill in the oval above the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.

#### Example of Vote for Candidates

OFFICE →	1 TITLE OF OFFICE	2 TITLE OF OFFICE
	1A Name of Candidate	2A Name of Candidate
	1B Name of Candidate	2B Name of Candidate

In the case of an office for which you may vote for two or more candidates, you may mark your ballot for the proper number of candidates anywhere in that group even though one may be directly below the other.

#### Example of Vote for Multiple-opening Office

OFFICE →	1 TITLE OF OFFICE	2 TITLE OF OFFICE
	1A Name of Candidate	2A Name of Candidate
	1B Name of Candidate	2B Name of Candidate

**FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND EARLY VOTING BALLOTS**  
PLEASE SEE THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE PROVIDED WITH THIS BALLOT

#### Primary Voting Instructions

1. The name or names of party-endorsed candidates appear first in each vertical column and the name of each party-endorsed candidate is marked with an asterisk. If there is no party endorsement, the designation 'no party endorsement' appears under the office or position designation.

2. Each candidate's oval is located just above his name; so be sure to fill in the oval of each candidate for whom you wish to vote. There is no write-in voting at primaries.

Estado de Connecticut  
Papeleta Oficial (A)

**CÓMO USAR ESTA PAPELETA AVISO:**  
Puede que esta papeleta esté compuesta por más de una página.

**I. CÓMO MARCAR LA PAPELETA:**  
Rellene cada ovalo completamente, según se muestra:

Use bolígrafo o marcador negro o azul.

NO USE LÁPIZ.

Vote por los candidatos individualmente. De ninguna forma marque el nombre de los partidos.

#### II. PARA VOTAR POR CANDIDATOS.

En la mayoría de los casos, solamente se permite una marca o candidato por escrito por columna (es decir, para cada cargo político).

#### A. PARA VOTAR POR CANDIDATOS ENUMERADOS EN LA PAPELETA.

Rellene completamente el ovalo que aparece encima del nombre del candidato por el cual desea votar.

En caso de que esté permitido votar por dos o más candidatos para el mismo cargo político, puede marcar su papeleta según el número de candidatos permitidos en ese grupo, aunque uno esté justo debajo del otro.

PARA LAS PAPELETAS DE VOTO EN AUSENCIA Y VOTACIÓN TEMPRANA

POR FAVOR, REFÍERASE A LAS INSTRUCCIONES ADJUNTAS A ESTA PAPELETA

#### Cómo votar en las primarias

1. El nombre o los nombres de los candidatos endosados aparecen primero en cada columna vertical y el nombre del candidato endosado está señalado con un asterisco. Si no hay candidato endosado la frase "no hay candidato endosado" aparecerá bajo el título del cargo o puesto político.

2. El ovalo pertinente a cada candidato aparece justo por encima de su nombre.; asegúrese de rellenar el ovalo de cada candidato por el cual desea votar. En las primarias no se permiten candidatos por escrito.

#### Ejemplo del Voto por candidatos

CARGO →	1 TÍTULO DEL CARGO	2 TÍTULO DEL CARGO
	1A Nombre del candidato	2A Nombre del candidato
	1B Nombre del candidato	2B Nombre del candidato

#### Ejemplo del Voto por cargos con múltiples puestos

CARGO →	1 TÍTULO DEL CARGO	2 TÍTULO DEL CARGO
	1A Nombre del candidato	2A Nombre del candidato
	1B Nombre del candidato	2B Nombre del candidato

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What if I moved recently?**

You will have to update your voter registration to reflect your new address. If you moved to Connecticut from another state, moved to a different town within Connecticut, or even moved within the same town, your polling location may have changed. Your voter registration should always reflect your current home address.

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### **What if I am a student?**

If you are a college student living away from home, you may choose to vote in one of two ways:

- Complete an absentee ballot for the election in your hometown, or
  - Register to vote in your college town.
- 

### **How is it ensured that people do not vote twice?**

The election official at each Early Voting location will record that a voter has cast their ballot, preventing that voter from voting early at any other location, submitting an absentee ballot, or voting on Election Day.

**Is a driver's license or photo ID required to vote in Connecticut?**

No. When you arrive at the polling place, the poll worker will request that you present ID, but if you do not have any, in most cases, you may sign an affidavit in lieu of presenting ID. There are several options for identification, and they do not need to be a driver's license or have a photo.

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**Can a 'drive-only' license be used as identification at the polling place?**

No. A drive-only license is not valid for federal identification purposes and cannot be used to vote.

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**My new driver's license indicates that it is not for Federal Identification. May I use it as an I.D at the polling place?**

Yes. You may continue to use your current driver's license at the polling place when you vote. When you check in to vote, in lieu of the driver's license, you may also show a credit card with your name and signature, an ID with your name and photograph, or any document with your name and address such as a checkbook or a utility bill.

## **Does my ID need to have the address printed on it?**

No. If your ID includes a photo, it does not need to include your address.

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## **What is an acceptable form of identification to show at the polls?**

Photo identification is not required. For most voters, your identification must fit one of the following requirements to be accepted as a valid form of ID at the polls:

- Name and address, or
- Name and signature, or
- Name and photograph.

However, for voters who are voting for the first time and lack proper identification when registering, some additional types of identification may be required.

---

## **What is Early Voting?**

Early Voting allows you to vote in person safely and securely before Election Day. It establishes a framework for early, in-person voting requiring:

- A 14-day early voting period for general elections,
- A seven-day period for most primaries, and
- A four-day early voting period for special elections and presidential preference primaries.

## **What should I expect at the Early Voting location?**

When you arrive at the Early Voting location, you will check in and be verified as an eligible voter. You will then receive your ballot with an envelope. You will complete your ballot at a privacy booth and seal it in the approved envelope. Before you leave, place the sealed envelope in the secure receptacle as instructed by the election officials. Ballots will be secured unopened until Election Day.

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## **How does early voting differ from voting by absentee ballot?**

Absentee Ballot voting requires a reason (from a list of six, found at [MyVote.CT.gov](https://www.MyVote.CT.gov)). Early Voting is available to every eligible voter without a specific reason. Early Voting may be done only in person, not via mail or drop box.

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## **How many early voting locations will be in each city or town?**

Each town or city will have at least one Early Voting location.

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## **Can I vote on weekends?**

Yes. Early Voting includes Saturdays and Sundays for most elections.

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## **May I register to vote during the Early Voting period?**

You may register and vote on the same day during the Early Voting period before regular general elections.

## **What happens if I am not on the list of registered voters at the polling place?**

Thanks to Connecticut's new Election Day Registration law, you can register and vote in person on Election Day at your town's Election Day Registration location. To register in person, you will need to supply proof of identity and residence.

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## **What should I expect the first time I vote?**

You should first visit [myvote.ct.gov](https://myvote.ct.gov) to use the voter registration look-up tool and polling place locator to verify that you are registered to vote and know the location of your polling place. The first time you check in at your polling place, you will need to present the proper identification to vote. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., and if a voter is in line at 8:00 p.m., that voter has the right to cast a ballot. However, if an individual is in line at 8:00 p.m. to register to vote as part of Election Day Registration, that person is not eligible because polls have closed.

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## **What is the difference between my physical and mailing address?**

Your physical address determines where you vote, not your mailing address. A mailing address is the place where you are able to receive mail, and your physical address is where you are located. For example, your mailing address could be a local shelter or post office, while your physical address could be a particular place such as a park bench. You must be

responsible for checking for mail at the address provided. A registration confirmation letter will be mailed to you once you are registered.

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**What happens if I miss one of the registrations deadlines?  
Can I still register and vote on the day of the election during  
Election Day Registration (EDR)?**

You may register and vote in person on Election Day if you meet the eligibility requirements for voting in this state and you are not already registered, or you are registered in one town and want to change your registration because you currently reside in another town. EDR is not available at your polling place.

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**Can I request an absentee ballot application for someone  
other than myself?**

For Immediate Family: Yes! You can request an absentee ballot application for any of your immediate family (parents, children, siblings, spouse), or any other dependent relative who lives in your household.

For Circulators: If you would like to obtain five (5) or more applications for individuals other than immediate family members, you must register with and obtain forms from the Town Clerk, as well as file a list of names/addresses for absentee ballot applicants with the Clerk prior to the election.

## **What if I applied, but don't receive my ballot?**

If you did not provide a telephone number or email on your application, the Town Clerk would have no way to contact you about an issue. Contact your Town Clerks office if you haven't received your ballot after they have become available. If this occurs within one week of the election, due to mail delivery times, it is recommended that you vote by absentee in-person at your Town Clerk's office or use Early Voting or Election Day voting to cast your ballot.



## **Election Day/Same Day Registration (SDR)**

The pre-election mail-in voter registration cutoff deadline is eighteen (18) days before an election or primary. For general elections, Connecticut also offers SDR during the period of Early Voting and on Election Day for voters who need it.

SDR permits anyone who meets the eligibility requirements for voting in this state and is either not already registered or is registered in one town but has moved to another town, to register and vote in person. By law, a person is eligible to register and vote if he or she is:

1. A U.S. citizen,
2. Age 18 or older,
3. A bona fide resident of the town in which he or she applies for admission and has completed confinement if previously convicted of a disfranchising felony.

SDR is not available at your polling place but is available at a designated SDR location in each town, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. SDR is also available during the hours of Early Voting. You will register and vote at the designated SDR location in your town.

## **All About Election Day Voting**

### **What to Expect**

- Arrive and be verified as an eligible voter.
- Receive your ballot and mark it at a booth (or use an accessible IVS machine).
- Place your completed ballot into the tabulator.
- Collect your “I Voted” sticker! Congrats!

### **Tips for filling out a ballot:**

- Fill in the oval entirely.
- If there is an office you do not want to vote for, leave it blank.
- Be sure to check both sides of the ballot.

### **If I make a mistake on my ballot**

- Return it to the Ballot Clerk to void it and receive a new one. Ballots – marked or unmarked – should never be left in the privacy booth, thrown away, or removed from the voting location.

## **Voter ID Requirements on Election Day:**

A driver's license or photo ID is not required to vote in Connecticut, unless you're a first-time voter. You will be asked to show identification at the polls, but you may instead sign an affidavit attesting to your identity. If you're a first-time voter, you may need to show a photo ID, such as a current and valid driver's license, or a non-photo identification such as a current utility bill or bank statement that shows your name and address.



## **Absentee Voting**

Registered voters may cast their vote by absentee if they are unable to appear at the polling place on the day of a primary, election, or referendum due to one or more of the following reasons:

1. Active service in the U.S. armed forces.
2. Absence from town.
3. Sickness.
4. Physical disability.
5. His or her religion forbids secular activity on that day; or
6. His or her required performance of duties as a primary, referendum, or election official at a polling place other than his or her own.

You may vote absentee beginning:

- 31 days before a general election
- 21 days before a primary,
- 19 days before the referendum.

The sealed marked ballot and signed outer envelope must reach the town clerk's office before the close of the polls on Election Day. If you have an emergency (suddenly ill, injured, or hospitalized) within 6 days of an election, you may request an emergency absentee ballot. If you have submitted your executed ballot to the Town Clerk and decide to vote in person at the polls, you have until 10:00 a.m. on Election Day to appear at the Town Clerk's office to withdraw your ballot.

An application for an absentee ballot may be downloaded by an individual for:

- The individual's own use,
- The use of a member of the individual's immediate family, or
- The use of a designee of the applicant.

### **How to Apply for an Absentee Ballot**

**By Mail:** Download and complete the application for an absentee ballot. Return the completed application to your town clerk. You can also contact your town clerk and request that an application be mailed to you.

**Online:** Visit the state's absentee ballot portal to request a ballot from your phone, tablet, or computer.

**By Fax:** Fax the completed application if your town clerk has a fax machine. However, you must also mail the original application to the clerk, either separately or with your completed absentee ballot.

**In Person:** Visit your town clerk. You can apply through the close of business the day before Election Day. There is no deadline for applying by mail, fax, or online, although election officials encourage you to apply as early as possible to ensure your ballot arrives in time. If it's close to the election, you should request a ballot in person from your town clerk. In the event of an unforeseen illness or physical disability within six days of the polls closing, you can submit an emergency application for an absentee ballot.

### **Returning Your Absentee Ballot**

**By Mail:** Mail your completed ballot to your town clerk. Your ballot must be received (not just postmarked) by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

**Via Drop Box:** Deposit your completed ballot in your local drop box before 8 p.m. on Election Day. Find your local drop box via the state's voter portal.

**In Person:** Hand-deliver your completed ballot to your town clerk for the primary. An immediate family member (or your designee if you are ill or have a disability) may deliver your ballot for you through 8 p.m. on Election Day. Log in to the state's voter portal to check the status of your ballot.

## Additional Information

**General Election:** A General Election is where all eligible voters elect candidates to office. In Connecticut, there is a general election every year.

**Primary Election:** A Primary is an election where voters in a political party choose the candidates of that party to be their representatives in the upcoming General Election.

**President:** The President is the head of government of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the military for a 4-year term. Some of the President's primary responsibilities include enforcing federal laws, commanding the armed forces, representing the country in international matters, and signing or vetoing bills passed by Congress

**Vice President:** The Vice President is the designated successor to the president for a 4-year term, meaning they will fill the office of president for the remainder of the term if there is a vacancy. The Vice President also serves as the President of the Senate and casts a vote in the Senate in the event of a tie vote.

**State Senate:** A Connecticut state senator is elected to a 2-year term and serves the people of his or her district in the 36-person Connecticut State Senate in Hartford. They help make laws, work alongside the Connecticut House of Representatives, assist their constituents, and assist the Governor in creating the budget, among other duties.

**State Representative:** A Connecticut state representative is elected to a 2-year term and serves the people of his or her

district in the 151-person Connecticut House of Representatives in Hartford. They help make laws, work alongside the Connecticut Senate, assist their constituents, and assist the Governor in creating the budget, among other duties.

**Voting with a Disability:** If you have a permanent disability, you can apply to your town clerk to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each election. An accessible ballot marking device is available at every polling place and early voting and same-day registration locations. If you need assistance casting your ballot, either in person or via absentee ballot, you may choose someone to help you, as long as that person is not your employer, union representative, their agent, or a candidate whose name appears on the ballot. A candidate may only help if the voter is an immediate family member.

### **Voting if Currently or Previously Incarcerated**

A person loses their right to vote in Connecticut if they have been convicted of a felony and are currently incarcerated in a correctional facility. You **do not** lose your right to vote if convicted and incarcerated for a misdemeanor or if in pretrial detention.

#### **Voting if currently incarcerated:**

1. Must be at least 18 years of age by the next election and a U.S. citizen, in addition to the criteria listed below

Not currently incarcerated for a current felony conviction

- You can also vote if incarcerated for a misdemeanor

- You can also vote if you have an unsentenced status with no prior felony conviction (unless voting rights have been restored following the release from incarceration for the felony conviction)
- You can also vote if you have a previous felony conviction and had your voting rights restored, but are currently incarcerated on a separate, non-felony conviction.

Your Unit Counselor or facility's Re-Entry Counselor can give you the address of your Registrar of Voters and Town Clerk's offices. You can correspond with these offices for the purposes of voter registration and voting in the next election.

#### **Voting if previously incarcerated:**

1. If **not** convicted of a felony, you retain your right to vote in Connecticut.
2. If you were convicted of a felony, you can restore your voting rights in Connecticut **upon release from incarceration.**

However, if the felony offense is for violating Connecticut election laws, you must then complete your probation and/or parole before becoming re-eligible to vote.

## Voting Accessibility Options

### **1. Trouble Filling Out a Voter Registration Form**

Another individual can ask the applicant if they need assistance writing down answers

If so, the person writing must actively ask the applicant for each answer and cannot give any answers for them.

The applicant must be the one to fill out their SSN and signature. If they cannot write or have difficulty, they can put an "X" for the signature.

Online registration on the Secretary of the State's website is compatible with most text to speech programs.

The applicant may visit their Registrar's office to fill out their registration.

### **2. Voter registration applicant is houseless and does not have permanent address**

They may list anywhere they receive mail or where they spend most of their time, including libraries, shelters, jobs, or streetcorners.

### **3. IVS Machine**

The Integrated Voting Systems (IVS) ballot marking device is an accessible alternative to pen and paper ballots at all polling places and Early Voting locations.

Voters with low vision, physical, sensory, or other disabilities, as well as any voter who prefers it, may use this option.

Choices can be made audibly or with a touchscreen that includes tactile keys and customizable displays.

#### **4. Curbside voting**

If you arrive at the polling place but are unable to access it due to a temporary incapacity, you may request that a ballot be brought to you.

The Registrars of Voters, or their assistants, from both parties, will bring the individual a ballot and a privacy sleeve.

After showing the proper identification, the voter must mark the ballot in front of the officials but not in a manner that violates their right to privacy.

The election officials will return the ballot in the privacy sleeve to the Early Voting ballot box or Election Day tabulator.

#### **5. Difficulty standing in line**

Alert the Moderator of the Early Voting location or polling place and they will move you to the front of the line or arrange to hold your place in line while providing you suitable seating.

## 6. Signage about ballot questions

On Election Day, each polling place will have at least 3 posters explaining the proposed constitutional amendment.

\* Election Day Hotline or Email Address: 1-866-SEEC-INFO (1-866-733-2463) or [Elections@CT.gov](mailto:Elections@CT.gov)

## The Government

### Federal Government

To ensure a separation of powers, the U.S. Federal Government is made up of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. To ensure the government is effective and citizens' rights are protected, each branch has its own powers and responsibilities, including working with the other branches.

**Executive Branch:** The executive branch consists of the President, his or her advisors and various departments and agencies. This branch is responsible for enforcing the laws of the land. The President is elected every 4 years and may not serve more than 2 terms.

**Legislative Branch:** The legislative branch is made up of the House and Senate, known collectively as the Congress.

Among other powers, the legislative branch makes all laws, declares war, regulates interstate and foreign commerce and controls taxing and spending policies.

United States Senators: Each state elects two senators to serve for six years in general elections, with their re-election staggered.

United State Representatives: Each state elects varying numbers of members of the House, depending on population, to two-year terms. Ct currently has 5 US State Representatives in Congress.

**Judicial Branch**: The judicial branch consists of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Federal Judicial Center. According to the Constitution, "the judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish." The Federal Judicial Center is the education and research agency for the federal courts.

## **State Government**

Connecticut General Assembly <https://cga.ct.gov/default.asp>

The Connecticut General Assembly is the legislative branch of State Government. The General Assembly, which is made up of the House of Representatives (151 members) and the Senate (36 members), enacts laws dealing with the collection

and allocation of funds, public welfare, the environment, education, public works, civil and criminal law and other matters. Members are elected in November of even-numbered years from the districts in which they reside.

### **How do I find my state representative or senator?**

On the [CGA home page](#) you will see a Find Your Legislators section. Alternately, from the menu bar select Representation and click "[Find Your Legislators](#)". Enter your address in the respective fields to bring up a list of your house, senate and congressional representatives. You can also go to the "[View District Town Maps](#)" link (located at the bottom of the Find Your Legislator page) to locate your representative by town. Click the district number for your town and you will get to their individual website, which contains contact information.

### **Local Government**

Please review each town's website for specific information regarding offices and terms.

<b>Federal Government</b>	<b>Term</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President &amp; Vice President</li> </ul>	Four-year term (may not serve more than two terms)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United States Senator - Ct has 2 Senators</li> </ul>	Six-year term - with re-election staggered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United State Representative - Ct has 5 State Representatives</li> </ul>	Two-year terms
<b>State Government</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor &amp; Lieutenant Governor</li> </ul>	Four-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary of State</li> </ul>	Four-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer</li> </ul>	Four-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comptroller</li> </ul>	Four-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attorney General</li> </ul>	Four-year term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate (Ct has 36 members)</li> </ul>	Two-year term- Elected November of each even number year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House of Representatives (Ct has 151 members)</li> </ul>	Two-year term- Elected November of each even number year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probate Judge</li> </ul>	Four-year term
<b>Local Government</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor, Council Member, Treasurer, Board of Education, Registrar of Voters</li> </ul>	Please visit each town's website and terms and elections may vary

## Address of Early Voting Locations:

### **Bloomfield**

Town Hall (Town Council Chambers, Conference Room 2)  
800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

### **East Hartford**

Raymond Library  
840 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

### **Hartford**

Registrar of Voters Office  
550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

### **Manchester**

Mahoney Recreation Center Leisure Lab  
110 Cedar Street, Manchester, CT 06040

### **West Hartford**

Town Hall - Auditorium  
50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107

### **Windsor**

Town Hall, Ludlow Room  
275 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095

## Make Your Plan to Vote

### **Absentee / Vote by Mail**

Apply for your ballot by: \_\_\_\_\_

Return your completed ballot by: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off your ballot in-person by: \_\_\_\_\_

Return your ballot by mail.

Mail-in ballots must be received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Track your completed ballot

### **Vote In-Person**

I will vote on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

I will vote on – (*insert month, day, year*)  
at \_\_\_\_\_

Find your polling location address: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose your voter ID (ID Selection): \_\_\_\_\_

## References

- <https://www.jud.ct.gov/lawlib/law/electionlaw.htm>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/sots/electionservices/voter-information/voter-fact-sheet>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-whitehouse/our-government/elections-andvoting>
- <https://apiavote.org/how-to-vote/why-vote/>

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# West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc.

Established in 1950

*The #1 West Indian / Caribbean American community hub in North America. Your home away from home. **Contact us via email at** [westindiansocialclub@wiscoh.org](mailto:westindiansocialclub@wiscoh.org) or by phone at 860-247-5659*



[www.westindiansocialclub.org](http://www.westindiansocialclub.org)