



SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
30 TRINITY STREET  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

May 11, 2020

TO MUNICIPAL CLERKS OF MUNICIPALITIES HOLDING ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 3,  
2020:

Re: Official Blank Absentee Ballot for August 11, 2020 Primaries (ED-81Pr)

Active and Inactive Enrollment List:

If you receive an application for an absentee ballot from a serviceman, spouse or dependent, or Federal employee, and such person is on the inactive enrollment list, we advise that you ask the registrars of voters to immediately restore the name of such person to the active enrollment list as a clerical error under Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 9-40a and 9-42(a) and that they keep a record that they did so.

If you receive an application for an absentee ballot from an unknown category of electors residing outside the United States and such person is on the inactive enrollment list, we advise that you (1) fill out an ED-12 Direction by Registrar form for such person, (2) send the blank ballot at the earliest allowable time, and (3) separately mail (a) a Voter Registration Application for Restoration of the Elector to Official Check List, (b) an ED-22 Envelope, and (c) a note that unless the Restoration Form is returned separately in the ED-22 Envelope by primary day (and the blank ballot is separately returned by 8:00 p.m. of primary day), the absentee ballot will not be counted. If you received an original signed FPCA requesting a full ballot, you may treat it as a restoration form.

Official Blank Ballot for Primaries

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-153e, we previously sent to you Official Blank Absentee Ballots for Primary for Office (ED-81Pr). These forms are printed on Super Safety II paper. If they are photocopied, the word 'VOID' appears on the copy.

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-153f, any electors temporarily living (or expecting to be traveling) outside the territorial limits of the United States and any member of the armed forces or the spouse or dependent living where such member is stationed, whether living within or outside the United States, may request that a blank absentee ballot and complete list of candidates be issued to him as soon as such list is available (45 days before a primary). As soon as possible after the June 9, 2020 primary petition deadline, when you know all candidates in the primary, you must

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issue these blank ballots, together with a complete list of candidates, to such persons eligible to vote in the primary.

The list of candidates should state: "This is not a ballot. To be counted, all votes must be written in on the Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Primary for Office or Town Committee) (ED-81Pr)" and must list the offices to be voted upon, the number of individuals for which each elector may vote, and the name of each candidate as it will appear on the ballot. The name of each candidate will appear on the primary absentee ballot as it appears on the registry list. In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-437(a), for each office the name of the party-endorsed candidate is listed first, marked with an asterisk. In the case of no party endorsement, the designation "No Party Endorsement" is placed immediately beneath the designation of the office. For each office, after the name of the party-endorsed candidate, list the names of other candidates in the order explained in our letter regarding absentee ballots (generally, alphabetical order). We are enclosing for your information a suggested form of list to accompany blank ballots for primary (ED-10Pr).

The Application for Absentee Ballot (ED-3) has a box clearly indicating this request for an early blank ballot. If the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is used, we advise you to send all electors temporarily living outside the United States and all servicemen and their spouses and dependents a blank ballot (and a complete list of candidates) as soon as the list is available, because of the provisions of §103(f) of the federal "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act". Moreover, in the case of persons who have filed a Federal Post Card Application in 2016, as soon as the complete list of candidates is available, for the primary, we urge you to use Form ED-12 to direct an Official Blank Absentee Ballot and a complete list of candidates to a qualified elector or applicant for admission as an elector who (1) is living outside the United States or (2) is a member of the armed forces or the spouse or dependent living where the member is stationed. If the application for an absentee ballot is received on or after July 21, 2020, then you should send the regular absentee ballot for primary (ED-2Pr). [The federal Help America Vote Act (Sec. 104 of PL 107-252) requires states to provide an absentee ballot for each election held within the year in which the application was filed.]

#### SUMMARY OF CONNECTICUT BLANK BALLOT LAW FOR PRIMARIES

In summary, a blank absentee ballot set should be sent beginning as soon after June 9, 2020 as you have a complete list of candidates. It should be sent to the following persons: (1) all servicemen, spouses and dependents who request an early ballot or who submit the Federal Post Card Application more than 21 days before the primary, and (2) all electors temporarily living (or expecting to be traveling) outside the territorial limits of the United States who request an early ballot or who submit the Federal Post Card Application more than 21 days before the primary. The set will consist of the following forms:

- ED-9 Inner Envelope
- ED-11 Serially-Numbered Envelope (postage-free)
- ED-14 Clerk to Voter Envelope (postage-free)
- ED-15 Instructions
- ED-81Pr Blank Ballot
- ED-10Pr List of Candidates (this statement includes the list of offices,

the number to vote for, a list of candidates and a statement that it is not a ballot)

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After the primary, you must include on the disposition form the number of ED-81Pr received, issued and remaining in your office. Consequently, please check carefully to see how many blank ballots you have received. If you expect to need more blank ballots, please call us to order them.

**\*\*NOTE REGARDING ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF MILITARY AND OVERSEAS  
BALLOTS – MOVE ACT COMPLIANCE\*\***

You should have already received TWO separate e-mails from our office that will assist you and the State of Connecticut when complying with the MOVE ACT. As many of you know, the two basic requirements of the MOVE ACT are (1) providing electronic access to voter registration and absentee ballot applications and (2) providing the ballot electronically if requested.

As such, we have tried to provide you with TWO simple tools to comply with these requirements.

First, you will receive an e-mail entitled “Request for Voter Registration and/or Absentee Ballot information”. This e-mail has all of the necessary electronic links to voter registration and absentee ballot applications. Should you receive a request from a voter, you can simply forward this e-mail to them. By doing so, you will have complied with the requirement above that we provide electronic access to voter registration and absentee ballot applications.

Second, you will receive an e-mail entitled “State of Connecticut - Official Ballot”. This e-mail has an electronic version of the Connecticut Blank Ballot and a Certification to be completed by the voter (much like the certification completed on the envelopes by mail). Before sending this e-mail you will have to add (as an attachment) a complete list of candidates. Once you have added the list of candidates you can send this e-mail and you will have complied with the requirement above that we provide a ballot electronically if requested. Apart from sending the ballot electronically, all other absentee ballot procedures should be followed. For example, you can only send the ballot to a voter who has provided you with an application; the ballot must be mailed back to you by the close of the polls on Election Day. We will not accept a completed ballot that is submitted to you by e-mail or fax.

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Please be on the look-out for these two e-mails. Please to not delete them as you can simply forward them from your e-mail system when necessary.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (860) 509-6100.

Sincerely,

DENISE W MERRILL  
Secretary of the State

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theodore E. Bromley  
Staff Attorney

Enclosures ED-10Pr, (ED-81Pr-by mail)  
cc: Registrars of Voters (letter only)

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| _____                             |
| Date of Primary                   |
| _____                             |
| Political Party                   |
| _____                             |
| Municipality                      |
| _____                             |
| Political Subdiv. (if applicable) |

LIST OF OFFICES AND CANDIDATES

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT.

To be counted, all votes must be written in on the Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Primary for Office or Town Committee) (ED-81Pr).

| No. of Candidates<br>to Vote For | Office | Names of Candidates |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------|

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\*Denotes party-endorsed candidate