



Don't Let Someone Else's Mistake Cost You Your Vote!



Know the rules before returning your absentee ballot

Dear Voter:

Connecticut recently expanded voting access. Any eligible voter may now vote by absentee ballot, with no excuse required.

But with this new flexibility comes an important responsibility: **ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED ACCORDING TO CONNECTICUT LAW.** You may hear different advice about who can return an absentee ballot. However, before you hand over your ballot, make sure the person is legally authorized to return it.



IMPORTANT: Improper possession or return of another person's absentee ballot is a Class D felony that may be punishable by up to 5 years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

Who can legally return my absentee ballot?



If mailing your ballot or placing it in an official drop box:

You (the voter) • An immediate family member who is a spouse, child, parent, or sibling **and** lives with you • Your legal designee (such as a doctor, nurse, or family member) who is caring for you because of an illness or disability **and** who you designated in Section VI of your absentee ballot application • A police officer • Your town's Registrar of Voters, Deputy Registrar of Voters, or Assistant Registrar of Voters



If returning your ballot directly to your Town Clerk's office:

You (the voter) • An immediate family member who is a spouse, child, parent, or sibling **and** lives with you • Your legal designee (such as a doctor, nurse, or family member) who is caring for you because of an illness or disability **and** who you designated in Section VI of your absentee ballot application

Protect your vote. Follow the law. And when in doubt, ask!

Questions about voting? Visit MyVote.CT.gov, contact your Registrars of Voters or Town Clerk, or contact the Office of the Secretary of the State at (860) 509-6100 or LEAD@ct.gov.

See or hear something that doesn't seem right? Contact the State Elections Enforcement Commission at 1-866-SEEC-INFO or elections@ct.gov.

All of us play a role in protecting our elections.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State



MyVote.CT.gov



Know the Rules. Protect Your Vote.



A quick guide for Connecticut absentee voters

✓ It's OK When ...

- You apply for your own absentee ballot online at MyVote.CT.gov, by downloading a paper application in English or Spanish from MyVote.CT.gov, or by going in person to your Town Clerk's office. Paper applications can be mailed, dropped in a drop box, or hand-delivered to the Town Clerk.
- Someone mails or gives you an absentee ballot application.
- You ask someone you trust to help complete your absentee ballot application if you need assistance, though you must sign it, **and the person who assists you must sign it, plus print their name and provide their residential address and phone number.**
- You return your own completed absentee ballot by mail, in a drop box, or by hand directly to your Town Clerk.
- You follow the law about who can legally return your completed absentee ballot on your behalf, specifically:

If mailing your ballot or placing it in an official drop box ...

- An immediate family member who is a spouse, child, parent, or sibling **and** lives with you
- Your legal designee (such as a doctor, nurse, or family member) who is caring for you because of an illness or disability **and** who you designated in Section VI of your absentee ballot application
- A police officer
- Your local Registrar of Voters, Deputy Registrar of Voters, or Assistant Registrar of Voters

If returning your ballot directly to your Town Clerk's Office ...

- An immediate family member who is a spouse, child, parent, or sibling **and** lives with you
- Your legal designee (such as a doctor, nurse, or family member) who is caring for you because of an illness or disability **and** who you designated in Section VI of your absentee ballot application
- You ask questions if you're unsure what the law allows.

✗ It's Not OK When ...

- Someone who isn't legally authorized takes possession of, or returns, your absentee ballot.
- Someone tells you to sign or complete information you know isn't true.
- A candidate, campaign worker, or volunteer tries to help you with, or watches you complete, your absentee ballot.
- Someone pressures you to vote a certain way or asks to see your completed ballot.
- You ignore the instructions that come with your absentee ballot.

See or hear something that doesn't seem right?

Contact the State Elections Enforcement Commission
at 1-866-SEEC-INFO or elections@ct.gov.