Curbside Voting FAQs

Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut

Legislation and Elections Administration Division

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Curbside Voting Restricted Area

1. **Explain the Curbside Voting Restricted Area.**

   At early voting locations and polling places, (hereinafter "voting locations"), registrars of voters must designate an area for curbside voting. A radius of 20 feet outside the boundary of the curbside voting area must be marked creating the restricted area.

2. **How is the area selected?**

   The registrars of voters designate the curbside voting area.

Marking the Boundary

3. **Who should mark the radius of 20 feet around the curbside voting area?**

   While the registrars must designate the curbside voting area, the law does not specify an election official to place the markers. The moderator or their designee should place the marker or markers on the morning of the election, primary, or referendum.

4. **How should the moderator or their designee mark the radius of 20 feet around the curbside voting area?**

   The law does not specify a method for marking the restricted area. The method may vary by polling place. The moderator or their designee may elect to use spray paint, traffic cones, sidewalk chalk to mark off the area (if the weather agrees), or another method that best suits the voting location.

5. **What if the moderator's preferred method of marking the area does not work all the way around?**

   The moderator or their designee may use multiple methods for marking the area. There is no limitation on how many methods can be used. For example, a moderator may set out traffic cones to mark the edge of the area and an arrow sign to mark the entrance.

6. **What if the curbside voting restricted area extends into a difficult location?**

   The registrars of voters should use their best efforts to designate a curbside voting area that satisfies the law and meets voters' needs. There is no need to interfere with traffic,

property rights, or voting taking place inside the voting location. Registrars may accommodate the realities of the voting location.

7. **Must the moderator or their designee post a sign?**

   If a sign would be helpful for the specific voting location, the moderator may choose to post a sign or signs marking the curbside voting area. The voting location is not required to have any sign marking the curbside voting area. Registrars of voters should make the potential voters within their municipalities aware of curbside voting.

8. **The moderator has elected to post a sign to mark the curbside voting area. Does the sign need to be translated?**

   If the municipality is required to translate voting materials under the federal for state Voting Rights Act (VRA), then, yes, the sign must be professionally translated. For a list of municipalities subject to the translation, please see our website here.

Prohibitions

9. **What is prohibited in the curbside voting restricted area?**

   No person is allowed to campaign for or against any candidate or question being voted on; loiter; peddle, or offer any advertising matter, ballot, or circular to another person. The law also prohibits certain people from being in the car with people casting their ballot (see below: Passengers During Curbside Voting).

10. **Must these prohibitions be posted anywhere?**

    The moderator or their designee is not required to post the curbside voting restrictions. However, if a notice of any kind would be helpful, such notice may be posted. Moderators should consider the needs of the voting location.

11. **If curbside voting restricted area is within the 75-foot restricted area, can the moderator pick which sign to post?**

    No, the moderator or their designee must post the "75 feet" restricted area sign. If an additional sign in the curbside voting area would be helpful to the voting location, then the moderator or their designee may post an additional curbside voting area sign. The presence or absence of a curbside voting area sign does not alter the requirements of the 75-foot restricted area.

Passengers During Curbside Voting

12. **Who is allowed in the vehicle during curbside voting?**

No person is allowed in the vehicle except the elector and the driver while the elector is voting. There are exceptions that may arise in practice. For example, the elector may need assistance while voting and bring an individual of their choice to assist.

13. What about children in the vehicle during curbside voting?

Children may remain in the vehicle.

14. What about candidates as curbside voters?

A candidate may participate in curbside voting as an elector. However, a candidate must not remain in the vehicle while another elector is voting, even if the candidate is driving the vehicle.

15. How should registrars or assistant registrars respond to additional or unauthorized passengers?

If an unauthorized passenger is in the vehicle, the registrars or assistant registrars must request that the person leave the vehicle while the elector votes.

Processing the Vote

16. What is the curbside voting process?

The registrars or assistant registrars bring the ballot to the curbside voter and check the voter's identification. The registrars or assistant registrars remain present while the ballot is completed but avoid knowing the choices selected. To maintain this privacy, the ballot is placed into a privacy sleeve by the voter once the ballot is filled out. The ballot in the sleeve is brought back into the polling place. An election official marks off the voter's name as having voted. Party designees, under the supervision of the moderator, insert the ballot into the tabulator. The moderator records the event in the moderator's diary.

17. When is the curbside voting area designated?

The registrars of voters designate the curbside voting area when preparing the election site plan and the early voting plan.

18. When is the curbside restricted area enforced?

On the day of the election, primary, or referendum and during early voting, election officials must enforce the prohibitions.

General Information

19. Which types of elections have curbside voting?

Elections, primaries, referenda, and early in person voting must have curbside voting.

20. Who votes in the curbside voting location?

Any elector unable to gain access to the voting location due to an incapacity. The assessment of whether an elector is able to access the voting location is determined by the elector.

21. **What should the registrars or assistant registrars do if they suspect the voter is capable of entering the voting location?**

Nothing, it is not up to the registrars, assistant registrars, or any election worker to determine who is incapacitated. If possible, the registrars or assistant registrars should process each curbside voter in the same manner.