Early Voting FAQs for Registrars of Voters and Town Clerks

Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut

Legislation and Elections Administration Division

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Registration

1. **What is the deadline for registering an unregistered person for early voting?**

   Unregistered eligible electors may participate in same-day registration (SDR) during the early voting period or on election day for the general election on November 3, 2026.

2. **What if an unregistered person registers on the last day of the early voting period?**

   For a primary, the individual may register on the last day of the early voting period and then, vote on the day of the primary. For a general election, the individual may use SDR to register and vote during the early voting period or on the day of the election. SDR is available only during general elections, not primaries (see below: Same-Day Registration).

3. **What is the deadline if the unregistered person registers by mail?**

   The deadline is 18 days prior to the primary or election. For example, if the election is on November 3, 2026, then the registration must be postmarked October 16, 2026.

4. **What is deadline for an unregistered person to register online or through the DMV?**

   The deadline is 18 days prior to the primary or election. For example, if the election is on November 3, 2026, then the online registration must be completed on October 16, 2026, by 11:59p.m. If processed through the DMV, then by close of business on October 16, 2026.

5. **If a 17-year-old who will be 18 on the primary or election day wants to participate in early in person voting, can they?**

   Yes, if the 17-year-old is otherwise eligible to vote and will be 18 on the day of the associated election, then the 17-year-old may participate in early in person voting or absentee voting.

Voter List

6. **The Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS) is functioning at our polling place. Do I still need to use the paper version of the official voter list?**

   Yes, the paper list is required even if there is an electronic voter list in use.

7. **What voter registry indications should I be aware of this year?**

   "E" is the designation for an in-person early voting elector. "A" is the designation for an elector voting by absentee ballot. An asterisk,"*", is the designation for an elector requiring identification under the Help America Vote Act. "CE", or cure eligible, indicates that the elector submitted an absentee ballot that can be cured with a signature at the municipal clerk's office.

8. **When is the "E" indication added to an elector's name on the voter list?**

   On CVRS, the election official puts an "E" next to the elector's name once the elector has participated in early in-person voting and marks them as having voted. On the paper registry list, a registrar crosses off the elector's name and puts an "E" and the date next to it. When the elector, signs the early voting affirmation log and receives their ballot, cross of their name and mark it with an "E."

9. **Can I use the same paper voter list for early voting and the election?**

   Registrars should maintain the same list for the duration of the early voting period and manually put an "E" and the date next to a voter's name. Registrars should print a supplemental list after early voting to use for the day of the election.

10. **Is a CE elector permitted to participate in early voting?**

    The registrar of voters should explain to the elector that their absentee ballot may be cured at their municipal clerk's office until the close of polls on the day of the primary, election, or referendum. If the elector would still like to participate in early in-person voting, the registrar of voters should contact the municipal clerk to verify that the absentee ballot has not been cured. The registrar should notify the municipal clerk about the elector appearing in person to vote. Once notified, the municipal clerk must reject the absentee ballot. The elector may participate in early in person voting.

Voting

11. **How does an elector cast a ballot during early in-person voting?**

During early voting, the elector must sign and print their name below the required statement in the early voting affirmation logbook, fill out their ballot, and then place their ballot into the tabulator.

12. What if I would prefer to have the elector sign the affirmation after voting?

By law, the elector must sign and print their name in the affirmation logbook before marking their ballot. An elector is attesting to their eligibility to participate in early in-person voting so that the elector may mark their ballot.

13. Will the Office of the Secretary of the State provide a template of the logbook affirmation?

Yes, a template of the early voting affirmation logbook has been included in the Early Voting Handbook Appendix.

14. Do I have to use the template?

The law sets the language of the affirmation and the signature requirement. The form of the logbook may vary from the template. Consider the format that would best serve your polling place.

15. What if the elector does not want to sign the affirmation?

The elector cannot be issued a ballot until they have signed the affirmation. If an elector decides not to sign the affirmation statement, the elector cannot participate in early in-person voting. In this case, the elector may instead return on the day of the election to vote in person or participate in absentee voting.

Tabulators

16. Will tabulators be used during early voting?

Yes, the law now requires tabulators to be used during early voting. This means electors will place ballots directly into tabulators.

17. What about early voting envelopes?

The previous envelope system will not be used at early voting locations. Tabulators will be used instead.

18. What are daily ballot status accounting reports?

A daily ballot status accounting report is a type of report that allows the moderator to confirm the ballot status without generating any candidate or question results. The early voting tabulator procedures instruct moderators to generate and print three copies of this report each subsequent morning and each evening of the early voting period. There is an exception for the first morning before early voting opens when the zero results report must be used instead.

19. How do I suspend the election during the early voting period?

Each evening of the early voting period, after voting has concluded for the day, the tabulators are shut down without closing the polls. This allows voting to continue the next day and the polls to remain open until the polls close on election day. Do not close the polls on the tabulator during the early voting period.

20. Where should the tabulators be stored during the early voting period?

Each evening after voting has concluded, during the early voting period, the tabulator must be stored in a secure location. The location must be locked, limited in access, and the access must be controlled by the registrars. The exact location may vary by early voting location.

After Early Voting

21. How is the tabulator stored after the early voting period has ended?

After the early voting period has concluded, the tabulator must be stored until the close of polls on the day of the primary or election. The tabulator must be stored in a secure location, limited in access, and the access must be controlled by the registrars.

22. How are the ballots stored?

The ballots are stored in a container that can be locked. The container must be tamper-proof, fireproof, and kept in a room that is limited in access.

Primary or Election Day

23. What happens to the tabulator on the day of the primary or election?

On the day of the primary or election, election officials should boot up the tabulator at the secure storage location. Next, election officials should generate and print a ballot status report and compare it to the daily ballot status accounting report from the last night of the early voting period to confirm the ballot status has not changed. Then, the tabulator is shut down and transported to the counting location to close the polls on the tabulator.

24. How is the election finalized on the tabulator?

After the tabulator is brought to the counting location, the tabulator is booted up, the polls are closed on the tabulator, and the results report is generated. The polls are not closed on the tabulator until after the polls close on the day of the primary or election at 8:00 p.m.

Results

25. When are the early voting results reported?

The early voting results are generated, printed, and announced at the counting location after the polls close on the day of the election or primary.

Early Voting Locations

26. What are the minimum criteria for an early voting location?

The location must be able to accommodate the early voting process, have at least two accessible parking spaces, a curbside voting area, be accessible to people with physical disabilities, have access to CVRS, and be available for use for the entire early voting period.

27. Which municipalities may have additional early voting locations?

Municipalities with a population of 20,000 or more may designate one or more additional early voting locations. While these additional locations are optional, municipalities meeting the population threshold must make the determination and report that information to the Secretary of the State. Additional locations may be designated in one of two ways. First, the legislative body may hold a public hearing on designating additional early voting locations. Second, the legislative body may make the determination on its own.

28. Are college campuses early voting locations?

Some, but not all, college campuses must have an early voting location. Generally, if a public state college or university has 1,000 students residing there, it must have an early voting location. Specifically, any municipality containing any campus of a constituent unit (defined in C.G. S. Sec. 10a-1) with at least 1,000 students living in housing on campus must have an early voting location on the campus. These campuses remain subject to the requirement during seasonal and holiday breaks.

29. When are early voting locations certified?

In 2026, registrars of voters must submit early voting location certifications to the Office of the Secretary of the State no later than 60 days before an election or primary. The certification deadline for the August 11th primary was June 12, 2026. For the November general election, the deadline is September 4, 2026.

In 2027, early voting locations must be submitted annually no later than February 15th. The Secretary must approve or disapprove the certifications by March 1st.

30. What information is provided in an early voting certification?

The registrars must provide the name, street address, and contact information associated with the early voting location; the number of officials who will serve at the location; as well as a description of the location's design and a plan for the efficient conduct of early voting.

31. What resources can help an election official prepare to serve at an early voting location?

A detailed list of instructions and information can be found in the Early Voting Handbook. The necessary forms can be found in the Ealy Voting Handbook Forms Appendix. Instructions for using the tabulators can be found in the Tabulators Procedures Slides and Tabulator Procedures Instructional Video.

32. My early voting location is within 250 ft. of a police station. How should I proceed?

No action is required. State and local law enforcement members may remain at pre-existing law enforcement buildings located within the restricted area. Similarly, these officers and agents are authorized to continue their official duties within the restricted area provided those on-duty official actions have no impact on the elections site or election. The officers and agents, may also remain at locations, other than the elections site, within the restricted area while off duty for as long as necessary to be in such a location.

"As long as necessary" is interpreted as the amount of time needed to fully complete a task. For example, if an off-duty officer is visiting a relative within the restricted area, the officer may remain until they have finished their visit.

Moderators

33. May a registrar serve as a moderator?

If both registrars of voters agree to the appointment, then a registrar may serve as a moderator.

34. May a municipal clerk serve as a moderator?

While a municipal clerk is not prohibited from serving as a moderator, the municipal clerk must be available to perform their own official duties during the early voting period and on the day of the election or primary.

35. Are registrars required to perform criminal background checks on potential moderators before making appointments?

No, the registrars are neither required to, nor advised to, perform any background checks on any election officials, including moderators. Registrars must not appoint a moderator who has been convicted of or pled guilty or pled nolo contendere to any felony involving fraud, forgery, embezzlement or bribery, or criminal offense under Title 9. A registrar may confirm a moderator's eligibility with verbal or written confirmation. The moderator signing an affirmation attesting to the moderator's eligibility is recommended.

36. Does the law require moderators to sign an affirmation attesting to their eligibility?

No, the law does not require a moderator to sign a written affirmation. We recommend that moderators sign an affirmation attesting to their eligibility for the benefit and protection of the registrars appointing the moderator.

37. Where can I find the early voting moderator's return?

A template of the early voting moderator's return is available in the Early Voting Handbook Appendix.

Same-Day Registration (SDR)

38. Is SDR available during the primary?

No, SDR is only available during the early voting period before a regular general election and on election day.

39. Is SDR available during the general election?

Yes, SDR is available during both the early voting period before the general election and on election day. (As noted above, SDR is available only before regular general elections, not special general elections.)

40. What is a resource for SDR information?

The SDR Handbook is a recently updated resource with information about same-day registration.