



February 25, 2020

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

Re: Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Election) (ED-81a)

Active and Inactive Registry 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 registry list, we advise that you ask the registrars of voters to immediately restore the name of such person to the active registry list as a clerical error under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§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 registry 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 election day (and the blank ballot is separately returned by 8:00 p.m. of election 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:

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §§9-153e and 9-153f, we will send for your use at the November 3, 2020 election Official Blank Absentee Ballots (ED-81a). These are printed on Super Safety II paper. If they are photocopied, the word "VOID" appears on the copy.

A. 90-DAY MILITARY CONTINGENCY BLANK BALLOT

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-153e, the Official Blank Absentee Ballot is printed by the Secretary of the State and must be made available beginning August 5, 2020 to members of the armed forces, and spouses or dependents living where such members are stationed, who state on their absentee ballot application that due to military contingencies they request an early ballot. This includes Federal Post Card Applications bearing a sticker referring to military contingencies, as follows:

"CONNECTICUT

" 'Due to military contingencies, I am unable to follow the regular absentee ballot application process. I request a special write-in absentee ballot.' "

In addition, Section 9-153d permits registrars of voters and municipal clerks on Form ED-12 to direct Official Blank Absentee Ballots, in such cases of military contingencies, beginning August 5, 2020 to members of the armed forces and spouses and dependents living where the armed forces member is stationed. The law relating to the military contingency blank ballot also requires that the municipal clerk provide with the blank ballot "a list of the offices to be voted upon indicating the number of individuals for which each elector may vote". A blank ballot sent out before a complete list of candidates and questions is available must include a statement prepared by you that the complete list of candidates and questions is not available and will be mailed as soon as it becomes available. See the suggested enclosed form ED-10. Later when the list of candidates becomes available, you must mail the list to each person who was sent a blank ballot without such list. If the application is received after the list of candidates is available, then you must send the blank ballot and the list of candidates together, until October 2, 2020, when the regular absentee ballot will be available. If the application is received on or after October 2, 2020, then you should send the regular absentee ballot.

B. BLANK BALLOTS (FOR THE ELECTION) TO ELECTORS TEMPORARILY LIVING (OR EXPECTING TO BE TRAVELING) OUTSIDE UNITED STATES AND TO SERVICEMEN, SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS, WHETHER LIVING WITHIN OR OUTSIDE UNITED STATES

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-153f, any elector 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 and questions be issued to him as soon as such list is available (45 days before the election). This provision applies even if there is no military contingency. The Official Blank Absentee Ballot, together with a complete list of nominated candidates and questions to be voted upon at the election, are to be issued to such persons beginning as soon as possible after a complete list of candidates and questions is available, which may be as early as June 9, 2020 if no primary petition and no nominating petition is filed and if there is no established minor party in the municipality, or which may be as late as September 2, 2020 if there is a primary or minor party in your municipality.

The list of candidates and questions should state: "This is not a ballot. To be counted, all votes must be written in on the Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Election) (ED-81a)" and must list each office to be voted upon, the number of individuals for which each elector may vote, the name of each nominated candidate for each office, each candidate's party designation, and a complete list of numbered questions as they will appear on the ballot. We remind you that under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-249a, the names of the major parties shall be arranged on the ballots in the following Order:

Democratic
Republican

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-253, when a party is entitled to nominate more than one candidate for an office, the candidates are listed in the order determined by the registrars by lot. Registrars must provide at least five days' public notice of the lottery. (Applicable to only a select few towns this year).

Also, local questions explanatory texts and/or summaries of arguments in favor of, and opposed to, local questions may be enclosed with each blank Absentee Ballot only if the legislative body of your municipality has authorized these under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-369b.

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 and questions) as soon as the list is available, because of the provisions of §103(f) of the federal "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act". Consequently, such persons who use the Federal Post Card Application should be sent the regular printed absentee ballot for a regular election only if the Federal Post Card Application is received by you within 31 days before the regular election. Moreover, in the case of persons who have filed a Federal Post Card Application in 2020, as soon as the complete list of candidates and questions is available, for the election we urge you to use Form ED-12 to direct an Official Blank Absentee Ballot and a complete list of nominated candidates and questions to an elector or applicant for admission as an elector who (1) is temporarily 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 is received on or after October 2, 2020, then you should send the regular absentee ballot (ED-1). [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.]

C. SUMMARY OF CONNECTICUT BLANK BALLOT LAW (FOR ELECTIONS)

In summary, a blank absentee ballot set sent beginning August 5, 2020 to persons with military contingencies 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-81a Blank Ballot
- ED-10 Statement of List of Offices to be Filled and the Unavailability of List of Candidates and Questions. (This statement includes the list of offices, the number to vote for and a statement that it is not a ballot and that a complete list of candidates and questions will be mailed when it becomes available.)

Local Question Explanatory Text and/or Summaries of Arguments in favor of, and opposed to, local questions (only if the legislative body of your municipality has authorized these under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-369b).

Beginning as soon as possible after a complete list of candidates and questions is available, the above blank absentee ballot set (without ED-10), together with a complete list of nominated candidates and questions will be sent to (1) all servicemen, spouses and dependents who request an early ballot or who submit the Federal Post Card Application more than 31 days before the regular election and who have not already been sent a blank ballot, 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 31 days before the regular election.

After the regular election you must include on the disposition form the number of ED-81a's 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.

D. 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.


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.

We have sent you a separate mailing concerning the blank ballot for the August 11, 2020 primaries.

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
Director of Elections

Enclosures ED-10, (ED-81a – via US Mail)

*State }
City }
Town } -- Election
Borough }
Special }

Date of Election

*City
Town of _____
Borough

STATEMENT OF LIST OF OFFICES TO BE FILLED AND THE
UNAVAILABILITY OF LIST OF CANDIDATES AND QUESTIONS

A complete list of the nominated candidates for whom you may vote, with the respective party designations of each such candidate, and the designation of questions is not available at this time, but will be mailed to you as soon as it becomes available. (It will probably be mailed during the week of August 18, 2020.)

A list of offices to be voted upon and the number of individuals for which each elector may vote for each office follows or is enclosed. Unless otherwise indicated, you may vote for only one candidate for each office.

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT; your ballot is enclosed and entitled "Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Election)". To be counted, all votes must be written in on the Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Election) (ED-81a). If you are not able to vote without the list of candidates and questions, please carefully retain this complete Official Blank Absentee Ballot set for use when you receive such list.

Clerk of Municipality

*Strike out terms which do not apply.