



**Office of the Secretary of the State**

State of Connecticut

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**Stephanie Thomas**

Secretary of the State

**Jennifer D. Barahona**

Deputy Secretary of the State

June 8, 2026

**To Municipal Clerks of Municipalities Holding Primaries on August 11, 2026 and Elections on November 3, 2026:**

Re: Official Blank Absentee Ballots (ED-81pr and ED-81a)

**Active and Inactive Registry List:**

If you receive an application for an absentee ballot from a member of the armed forces, 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 elector 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) an Application for Voter Registration for restoration purposes, (b) an ED-22 Envelope, and (c) a note that unless the Application for Voter Registration for restoration purposes is returned separately in the ED-22 Envelope by election day (and the blank ballot is separately returned by 8:00 p.m. on election day), the absentee ballot will not be counted. If you received an original, signed Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) requesting a full ballot, you may treat it as a restoration form.

**Official Blank Ballot:**

In this email, we have included the Official Blank Ballot for both the primary and the general election.

**A. 90-Day Military Contingency Blank Ballot**

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-153e, the Official Blank Absentee Ballot must be made available beginning **August 5th, 2026**, 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 for the general election on November 3, 2026 (please note: the 90-day ballot is **not** available for special elections or primaries). This includes FPCAs 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, for the general election on November 3, 2026, beginning August 5, 2026, 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 the regular absentee ballot is available. If the application is received on or after the day regular absentee ballots are available, 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 Members of the Armed Forces, 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 them 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 people beginning as soon as possible after a complete list of candidates and questions is available for the primary and for the election. **The blank ballot must be available to eligible overseas electors no later than June 26, 2026, for the August 11, 2026, primary. For the election on November 3, 2026, the blank ballot must be available to eligible overseas electors no later than September 18, 2026.**

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**.

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 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 §104(f) of the federal "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act." Consequently, people who use the FPCA should be sent the regular printed absentee ballot for a regular election only if the FPCA is received by you within 31 days before the regular election. Moreover, in the case of persons who have filed a FPCA in 2026, as soon as the complete list of candidates and questions is available, for the **municipal** 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 the day regular absentee ballots are available, then you should send the regular absentee ballot (ED-1). The federal Help America Vote Act (Sec. 104 of PL 107-252) amends UOCAVA and **requires** states to provide an absentee ballot for only one year from submission of the FPCA. For example, if a voter uses a FPCA in January of 2026 you would honor that application in 2026 for all primaries and elections held.

### C. Summary Of Connecticut Blank Ballot Law (For Elections)

In summary, a blank absentee ballot set for the primary should be sent beginning August 5, 2026, to people with **military contingencies** consisting of the following forms:

|       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       |           |  Optional Privacy Sleeve                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| ED-14 | ED-11     | Return Envelope (postage-free)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|       |           | Clerk to Voter Envelope (postage-free)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|       | ED-81a/pr | 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).

To Municipal Clerks  
Page 4

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 members of the armed forces, spouses and dependents who request an early ballot or who submit the FPCA 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 FPCA more than 31 days before the regular election.

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aida Carini  
Staff Attorney

Enclosures (ED-10, ED-81a)  
cc: Registrars of Voters

\*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 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 (insert date available for primary or election\*, 2026.)

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

