



2024 Early Voting and Presidential Preference Primary Fact Sheet

TOP THINGS TO REMIND VOTERS

- **THE DAYS OF THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ARE 3/26, 3/27, 3/28 AND 3/30:** Eligible voters are able to vote in-person at their early voting location 10 AM - 6 PM on these days.
- **ELIGIBLE VOTERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY:** Voters enrolled in the Democratic and Republican parties are eligible to participate in this election. Voters who are not enrolled in a party, also known as unaffiliated voters, are able to enroll in either party. Voters who already belong to a party (e.g. Democrat, Republican, Green, Working Families, Independent) are unable to switch parties as that deadline was earlier this year on January 2.
- **NOTHING HAS CHANGED ON ELECTION DAY:** On Tuesday, April 2, polls are open from 6 AM - 8 PM. Absentee ballots must be received by 8 PM on Election Day (by mail/by drop-box/in-person by designee). See additional absentee ballot information on Pages 5-6.

Voters can check their voter registration, by visiting MyVote.ct.gov/Register or local registrars' office.

DEADLINES

- **For NEW voters to register and vote DURING THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD**
 - 12 PM on the business day before desired early voting day (e.g. before Noon on March 27th to vote on March 28th or 30th).
- **For NEW voters to register and vote ON APRIL 2ND, ELECTION DAY**
 - 12 PM on April 1 in person with the registrar of voters or town clerk in the town of residence.
- **For UNAFFILIATED voters to enroll in a party and vote DURING THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD**
 - 12 PM on March 25.
- **For UNAFFILIATED voters to enroll in a party and vote on APRIL 2ND, ELECTION DAY**
 - 12 PM on April 1 in person with the registrar of voters or town clerk in the town of residence.

EARLY VOTING

Presidential Preference Primary (PPP)

Early Voting Days and Hours

FOUR Days (Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM)

- Tuesday, March 26
- Wednesday, March 27
- Thursday, March 28
- Saturday, March 30

Election Day and Hours of Voting

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

6 AM - 8 PM - Election Day hours have NOT changed!

August Primary Election

Early Voting Days and Hours of Voting

SEVEN Days

- Monday, Aug. 5, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Tuesday, Aug. 6, 8 AM - 8 PM
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Thursday, Aug. 8, 8 AM - 8 PM
- Friday, Aug. 9, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Saturday, Aug. 10, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Sunday, Aug. 11, 10 AM - 6 PM

Election Day and Hours of Voting

TUESDAY, AUG. 13

6 AM - 8 PM - Election Day hours have NOT changed!

November General Election

Early Voting Days and Hours of Voting

FOURTEEN Days

- Monday, Oct. 21 - Monday, Oct. 28, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Tuesday, Oct. 29, 8 AM - 8 PM
- Wednesday, Oct. 30, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Thursday, Oct. 31, 8 AM - 8 PM
- Friday, Nov. 1 - Sunday, Nov. 3, 10 AM - 6 PM

Election Day and Hours of Voting

TUESDAY, NOV. 5

6 AM - 8 PM - Election Day hours have NOT changed!

EARLY VOTING

EARLY VOTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is early voting?

Early voting allows voters to vote in-person safely and securely before Election Day.

Which election will be the first to have early voting available?

Early voting will begin with the Presidential Preference Primary. The early voting dates for this election have been modified to reflect the Good Friday holiday and Easter. Early voting will be held Tuesday, March 26 through Thursday, March 28, and Saturday, March 30. Presidential Preference Primary Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

What should voters expect at the early voting location?

When voters arrive at the early voting location, they will check in and be verified as an eligible voter. They will then receive a ballot with an envelope. They will complete their ballot at a privacy booth and seal it in the approved envelope. Before leaving, they will place the sealed envelope in the secure receptacle as instructed by the election officials. Ballots will be secured unopened until Election Day.

When will ballots be counted?

Ballots cast during early voting will be sealed and stored securely in each town. They will be opened and counted on Election Day.

How does early voting differ from voting by absentee ballot?

Absentee ballot voting requires a reason (from a list of six, see Page 5). Early voting is available to every eligible voter, without a specific reason needed. Early voting may be done only in-person, not via mail or drop box.

EARLY VOTING

EARLY VOTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

How many early voting locations will be in each city/town?

Each town/city will have at least one early voting location. If the population is 20,000 or more, the local legislative body will decide whether to have additional locations. Voters can check their municipality's website for its early voting location or visit MyVote.CT.gov the week before the election for the location.

Can I vote on weekends?

Yes. Early voting includes Saturdays and Sundays for most elections (see Page 2 for specific 2024 dates).

How is it ensured people do not vote twice?

The election official at each early voting location will record that a voter has cast their ballot, preventing that voter from voting early at any other location, submitting an absentee ballot, or voting on Election Day.

Does early voting exist in other states?

Although new to Connecticut this year, 46 other states already offer some form of early voting.

What hasn't changed?

Voters can still vote via absentee ballot or on Election Day as usual. Election Day hours remain the same, 6 AM - 8 PM.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS - AVAILABLE MARCH 12

Absentee Ballot Process Requires Two Steps:

1) **Apply.**

Application request may be made via one of the methods listed below. Once the application is received, the Town Clerk will mail the ballot to the voter or provide it in person to those who apply in person.

2) **Vote and Return.**

Voter fills out the absentee ballot and returns it according to the applicable steps listed below.

Eligibility for Voting by Absentee Ballot:

Connecticut has strict laws regarding who can vote absentee.

- Is the voter an active member of the armed forces of the United States?
- Will the voter be out of town for any part of election day?
- Does sickness prevent the voter from voting in person on election day?
- Do religious beliefs prevent the voter from performing secular activities like voting on election day?
- Will the voter be performing duties as an election official at a polling place other than their own on election day?
- Does a physical disability prevent the voter from voting in person on election day?

If a voter answered **yes** to any of the above questions, they are eligible to vote absentee.

How to Apply for an Absentee Ballot:

- SOTS online portal:
 - Direct: <https://oabr-sots.ct.gov/OABR/absenteeBallotReqPortalHome.do>
 - Also available at (link in light blue box at the top of the page, "Request an Absentee Ballot"): MyVote.CT.gov/Absentee
- Download online at MyVote.CT.gov/Absentee, fill out, then return to the Town Clerk.
- Visit the local Town Clerk's office.

Absentee Ballot Applications May Be Requested For:

- An individual's own use.
- The use of the requestor's immediate family member.
 - An immediate family member is:
 - The voter's spouse.
 - The voter's child.
 - The voter's parent.
 - The voter's sibling.
 - A dependent relative who resides in the voter's household.

If a circulator is obtaining applications for five or more applicants (other than immediate family members), they **MUST** register with, and obtain forms from, the Town Clerk. See MyVote.CT.gov/Absentee.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (CONTINUED)

Who can return an absentee ballot?

If mailed or put into a drop box:

- The voter.
- An immediate family member of a student voter.
 - An immediate family member is:
 - The voter's spouse.
 - The voter's child.
 - The voter's parent.
 - The voter's sibling.
 - A dependent relative who resides in the voter's household.
- A **designee** of a voter who has applied for an absentee ballot because of illness or disability.
 - A **designee** is:
 - Someone caring for a voter with an illness or disability, including, but not limited to a doctor or nurse.
 - A member of the voter's family (who is designated by the voter and consents to that designation by filling out and signing application Section VII, "Declaration of the person providing assistance).
 - A police officer, Registrar of Voters, Deputy Registrar of Voters, or Assistant Registrar of Voters in that Voter's Municipality.

If returned in-person to the Town Clerk:

- The voter.
- An immediate family member of the voter.
 - An immediate family member is:
 - The voter's spouse.
 - The voter's child.
 - The voter's parent.
 - The voter's sibling.
 - A dependent relative who resides in the voter's household.
- A **designee** of a voter who is ill or physically disabled, by the close of polls on Election Day.

When is the deadline to return an absentee ballot?

In-person by voter to the Town Clerk – **April 1, by close of business.**

In-person by a qualified designee of an ill or physically disabled applicant to the Town Clerk – **April 2, by 8 PM.**

To a drop-box – **April 2, by 8 PM.**

By mail – **received by April 2, by 8 PM.**

ELECTION DAY - APRIL 2

Polling Location Requirements:

- Polls are open from 6 AM to 8 PM. Voters in line by 8 PM are permitted to stay in line until they vote.
- Voter's Bill of Rights and two sample ballots must be posted in each polling place.
- **75-Foot Rule** – Each polling location is marked with a 75-foot sign that designates a restricted area.
 - Candidates and their staff may not solicit for votes or distribute campaign materials within this area, or inside of the polling location.
 - Persons may not bring items or clothing that display the name or image of a candidate running for office in that election.
 - Moderators shall evict any person who interferes with the orderly process of voting.

Accessible Voting Options at Polls:

- **ADA Compliance** – All polling locations are required to be ADA compliant, including with table-height voting for those in wheelchairs.
- **Ballot Marking Devices** – All polling locations have at least one ballot marking device (accessible voting machine) during all hours of voting. The device features a touchscreen display that includes alternatives such as audio, tactile keys, and customizable displays to accommodate voters with a wide range of physical, sensory, cognitive, language and literacy abilities.
- **Line Placeholder** – if a voter has difficulty standing in line, they may ask their polling location's Moderator for their place to be held while they sit to wait their turn.
- **Curbside Voting** – if a voter arrives at a polling place, but is unable to access it due to temporary incapacity, the voter may request that a ballot be brought outside to them.
 - The Registrars of Voters (or their assistants) from both parties must then bring out a ballot and a privacy sleeve.
 - The voter must show the proper identification and may then mark the ballot.
 - The voter must mark the ballot in front of the election officials but not in a way that will violate their right to vote in privacy.
 - The voter should then place the ballot in a privacy sleeve.
 - The election officials will then deliver the ballot in the privacy sleeve to the tabulator for counting.
 - Full details at CT Accessible Voting (<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Accessible-Voting>)

ELECTION DAY - APRIL 2 (CONTINUED)

Identification Requirements:

Upon arriving at a polling location, a poll worker will request ID to check-in voters.

First-time voters must present:

- A copy of a current and valid form of ID that shows:
 - Name and current address, OR
 - Name and signature, OR
 - Name and photograph.
- **OR**, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows name and address.

Most voters may prove their identity with:

- Social Security card, OR
- Any pre-printed form of ID (like a driver's license) that shows:
 - Name and current address, OR
 - Name and signature, OR
 - Name and photograph.
- **OR**, voter must sign a statement under penalty of false statement.

News Media in Polling Locations on Election Day:

- Members of the media may enter and leave polling places at any time throughout the day, and may take photos or record video images.
- News media may NOT take photos or record video that show how a voter marks their ballot.
- News media may obtain exit polling data outside the polling place, but within 75 feet of the exit door, if different from the exit door.
- **News media may be evicted from a polling place if determined by onsite election officials to have interfered with the orderly process of voting.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is allowed at the polls during voting hours?

- Voters.
- Election Officials, including – Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Town Clerks, Moderators, Official Checkers, Ballot Clerks, Tabulator Tenders.
- Children (15 and younger) accompanying a voter, if the voter is the parent or legal guardian of child(ren).
- Designees of the Secretary of the State.
- Anyone assisting a voter who is blind, has a disability, or limited English proficiency.

Who can assist a voter who requests assistance with their ballot?

Anyone EXCEPT –

- Voter's employer;
- An agent of the voter's employer;
- An agent or officer of the voter's union;
- A candidate for any office on the ballot (unless the candidate is assisting an immediate family member).

What can be used to mark an official ballot?

- Pencils, pens, and markers are all acceptable and can be read by the optical-scan tabulators. Red ink of any type is prohibited.

What should a voter do if they are registered to vote, but their name is not on the voter checklist at the polls?

- The voter should request that the checker first check the back of the book, as some voters may appear out of order (i.e. those who registered at 17 or those who are in the voter privacy program).
- If the voter's name does not appear on the Active list, but appears on the Inactive list, the voter should see the assistant registrar to complete a Voter Registration Application (ED-671) and if approved, the assistant registrar should restore the voter to the Active list.
- If the voter's name does not appear on the Inactive list, the assistant registrar should contact the Registrar of Voters.

Where are absentee ballot boxes required to be placed?

This is up to the individual towns, but the Office of the Secretary of the State has shared recommendations from the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to place boxes in areas protected by security cameras; for example, in front of town halls and police stations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Are Connecticut voting machines (tabulators) connected to the internet?

- No.

Who is allowed in the room for the canvass (tally) at the close of polls?

- The canvass (tally) of the vote must be conducted in full view of all polling place officials and the general public pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-309.

When can election officials begin to count absentee ballots?

- If a town is conducting central counting, ballots can be counted at any time during the day as designated by the registrars of voters.
- Ballots shall be checked and delivered by the registrars of voters to the counting locations between 10 AM and 12 PM (noon), and at 8 PM. They may also, at the option of the registrar(s), be delivered at 6 PM. Even if the ballots are delivered at various times during the day to the counting locations, the actual counting of the ballots can be performed at any time as designated by the registrars of voters. Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day. (C.G.S. § 9-140c)
- If a town is counting absentee ballots at the polling place, ballots shall be delivered by the town clerk to the registrars of voters between 10 AM and 12 PM (noon), and at 8 PM or at other times that are mutually agreed upon by the town clerk and registrars of voters. They may also, at the option of the registrars, be delivered at 6 PM. If the optional 6 PM delivery is used, and there are no ballots left to be delivered at 8 PM, then of course the 8 PM. delivery need not be conducted. Even if the ballots are delivered at various times during the day to the counting locations, the actual counting of the ballots can be performed at any time as designated by the registrars of voters. Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day. (C.G.S. § 9-140c)

RELEVANT WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- April 2, 2024, Connecticut Presidential Preference Primary Calendar - https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/Calendars/2024-Election/PPP-CAL-2024_12-22-23.pdf
- Downloadable Early Voting One-Sheets in English and Spanish - Civics101.ct.gov
- Official Office of the Secretary of the State Elections and Voter Information Webpage: MyVote.ct.gov
- Online Voter Registration-- VoterRegistration.ct.gov
- Voter Registration Lookup Tool – <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>
- Election Day Hotline to Report Voting Issues– 1-866-733-2463 or email elections@ct.gov
- Election Night Results Reporting – <https://ctemspublic.pcctg.net/#/selectTown>
- Election Results Archive – <https://electionhistory.ct.gov/eng/>
- Connecticut General Statutes Title 9 – Elections – https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title_09.htm