

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Information for candidates, party, and campaign workers

The absentee ballot is an important way that registered voters may cast their vote if they are unable to appear at the polling place on the day of a primary, election or referendum due to one or more of the following reasons: 1) active service in the U.S. armed forces; 2) absence from town; 3) sickness; 4) physical disability; 5) his or her religion forbids secular activity on that day; 6) his or her required performance of duties as a primary, referendum, or election official at a polling place other than his or her own during all the hours on that day. (For larger print version, see WARNING on back of this form.)

DO!! ☺	HELPFUL HINTS
You may help with the <u>application</u> for absentee ballot, or refer individual voters to Secretary of State website	Application is Form ED-3. The forms are available from the Town Clerk for general distribution, or the Secretary of State's website for individual use.
You <u>must sign</u> the application form <u>if you assist</u> with an absentee ballot application	If you complete any portion of the ED-3 for someone else, sign the form as assister and print/type your name, residence address and phone number.
You and any person you ask to distribute applications <u>must register with the Town Clerk</u> before distributing <u>5 or more</u> absentee ballot applications and such applications <u>must be obtained from the Town Clerk</u> , consecutively numbered, and stamped with the name of the municipality*	Applications given to your immediate family do not count toward the "5 or more."
You <u>must keep a list</u> of voters to whom you provide applications <u>and file it with the Town Clerk</u> before the election, primary or referendum	List the names and addresses of all persons who received an absentee ballot application from you.
You <u>must</u> file any completed applications given to you with the Town Clerk of voter's residence <u>ASAP</u>	This is a legal requirement so that people can receive the absentee ballot and complete it on time.
You may follow-up with the applicants, or check with the Town Clerk to see if a person has applied for or returned an absentee ballot	You may call the people to whom you gave absentee ballot applications and remind them about deadlines or encourage them to complete and submit the ballot.

DON'T!! 😡	REMEMBER
Don't distribute applications downloaded from the Office of the Secretary of State's website	Such applications are provided solely for: (1) the elector's own use, (2) the use of a member of the elector's immediate family, or (3) the use of a designee of the applicant.
Don't mail applications <u>unsolicited</u> unless you include a written explanation about the six eligibility requirements, and a written warning that there are penalties for voting/attempting to vote by absentee ballot without meeting the eligibility requirements.	See the sample explanation and warning statement on the back of this form. NOTE: You <u>may</u> include campaign literature with an absentee ballot application in a proper mailing.
Don't help with ballot, or be present when voter completes his ballot**	Only the voter's immediate family member or health care provider may assist the voter as a "designee."
Don't take possession of a ballot or deliver a completed ballot.	Only the voter, or his or her designee, can legally possess or handle a ballot. A designee is: a person caring for the applicant due to applicant's illness or disability; or applicant's family member, designated by the applicant, and who agrees to act as designee; or if no such person consents or is available, a police officer, registrar of voters, or assistant or deputy registrar of voters in applicant's town/city of residence.
Don't misrepresent the eligibility requirements to vote absentee to anyone	<u>Only the above 6 reasons are valid.</u> Connecticut does not have convenience absentee voting.
Don't solicit a false statement on the application form, or make a false statement yourself	Don't accept an application that you know contains false information. These are criminal violations.
Don't give or accept compensation solely for distributing absentee ballot applications	Compensation is anything of value.
Don't hold onto completed applications.	Forward them to Town Clerk of voter's residence ASAP

* Town Clerk may alternately provide a single stamped application which the distributor may copy and a range of unique numbers that such distributor must consecutively affix to each copied application

**This includes being present at supervised absentee voting at a group home or similar facility.