

## **Absentee Applications**

- **A person must register with the Town Clerk of the town where they will be distributing the applications. This includes all campaign workers who will be distributing applications.**
- **Any person distributing applications must maintain a list of names and addresses and file this list with the Town Clerk and return any unused applications to the Town Clerk. Both the list and the unused applications must be returned before election day.**
- **No candidate or committee shall mail an application unless it includes: 1) A written explanation of the eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot AND 2) A written warning that voting or attempting to vote by absentee ballot without meeting one or more of the eligibility requirements subjects the elector or applicant to potential civil and criminal penalties.**
- **Downloading of absentee applications can only be used for: 1) self; 2) immediate family member; 3) designee of applicant.**
- **Candidates and committees shall provide a summary of the requirements and prohibitions to their workers and volunteers.**

## **Sample Warning Statement for Correspondence Containing Unsolicited Absentee Ballot Applications**

*Including this statement with correspondence you send with unsolicited absentee ballot applications constitutes compliance with Conn. Gen. Stats. Sec. 9-140(l):*

“Enclosed please find an absentee ballot application, which you may use only if you will be unable to appear at your polling place on the day of the primary, election or referendum for one of the following reasons:

1. your active service in the U.S. armed forces
2. your absence from town during all of the hours of voting
3. your illness
4. your physical disability
5. your religion forbids secular (non-religious) activity on that day
6. your required performance of duties as a primary, referendum, or election official at a polling place other than your own during all the hours on that day.

WARNING: Voting by absentee ballot if you are not eligible to do so for one of the six reasons listed above can subject you to civil and criminal penalties.”

### Penalties

#### Civil Penalties:

The State Elections Enforcement Commission may levy a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,000 per offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation of any provision of state law regarding absentee voting (Chapter 145 of the Connecticut General Statutes).

#### Criminal Penalties:

A person who willfully violates any provision of Chapter 145 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be guilty of a class D felony. Conviction of a class D felony shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than one year nor more than five years, or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

It is a class D felony:

- for any person not authorized by law to possess the official absentee ballot of an applicant to whom it was issued;
- for any candidate or agent of a candidate, political party or committee to knowingly be present when absentee ballot applicant executes an absentee ballot;
- to commit a false statement in absentee balloting;
- to knowingly misrepresent the eligibility requirements to vote by absentee ballot.