

APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

If a registered voter is unable to vote in person on Election Day, he or she may apply to the Town Clerk for an absentee ballot for any of the following reasons:

- Absence from the Town during all of the hours of voting
- Illness
- Physical disability
- Active service in the armed forces
- Duties as an election official at a polling place
- Religious tenets

Before a ballot can be issued to the voter, an application must be completed and returned to this office. The application can be obtained in person, by mail or on our website (the application must be printed from the web page, signed by the voter and mailed or hand delivered to the clerk's office).

Absence or inability to vote in person does not mean that you must forfeit your right to vote! Voters are urged to contact the clerk's office at 203-797-4531 with any specific questions.

Permanent Absentee

To be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, **an elector must file** with the Town Clerk an **absentee ballot application** together **with a doctor's certificate** stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place. The doctor's note should be on letterhead. There is no prescribed form—the doctor's note and the absentee ballot application would satisfy the requirement of the law.

Permanent absentee ballot status enables the elector to receive an **absentee ballot** for each election, primary, and referendum in the municipality in which they are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are available 21 days before a Primary and 31 days before an Election.

In January of each year the Registrars of Voters will send written notice to each elector with permanent absentee ballot status to determine if the elector continues to reside at the address on the permanent absentee ballot application. If the elector fails to respond to the notice, the permanent absentee ballot status will be removed, but the elector will remain on the voter registration list.

The Freedom of Information Commission has indicated that they feel that any doctor's note on file with the Town Clerk is **not** subject to disclosure. The original absentee ballot application, however, would continue to be subject to disclosure just like any other application for absentee ballot.

The federal MOVE ACT (Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment) makes provisions for mailing a ballot electronically, upon request, to a voter who is in the military or an overseas citizen and their dependents. For further informant please refer to <https://www.fvap.gov/>