

SALEM - ABSENTEE VOTING IS NOW AVAILABLE PLEASE READ BELOW TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO ABSENTEE VOTE AND HOW TO ABSENTEE VOTE

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in Massachusetts, a voter must be prevented from voting at their polling place on Election Day, due to:

- Absence from the voter's city or town on Election Day; or
- Physical disability; or
- Religious belief.

(Early voting is NOT available for the upcoming September 4, 2018 state primary election. The next election for which early voting will be available is the November 6, 2018 State Election. More information will be upcoming.)

Applying for Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing by either the voter or the voter's family member. For convenience, absentee ballot applications may be downloaded from <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleabsentee/absidx.htm>; or from the link on our website; however, any written communication evidencing a desire for an absentee ballot is acceptable. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, you may submit an application or a signed letter to your local election official. If you are requesting an absentee ballot for a family member you may complete the absentee ballot application by a family member, be sure to submit the request to the voter's local election official. All ballots must be mailed from the Election's Office.

When completing the application, you may indicate whether you are requesting a ballot for a specific election, or if you will be needing a ballot for all elections this year. Please note that absentee ballot applications expire at the end of each calendar year. If you are a voter with a permanent physical disability, you may file a note from your doctor to that effect with your local election official. Voters with permanent physical disabilities are sent completed applications at the beginning of each year, to be signed and returned to their local election official.

Absentee ballot applications must be received by your local election office by 12 p.m. on the day before the election, unless the day before the election is a holiday or a Sunday, in which case the application must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the last business day before the election. For the September 4, 2018 election, the application must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, August 31, 2018.

Applications may be submitted in person, by mail, fax, or by e-mail; however, the local election official must be able to view the signature of the person requesting the ballot. If the application is being submitted by e-mail, a scanned copy of the request must be submitted.

If you have and questions, please contact us for information at 978-745-9595 ext. 41211 or 41212.

Voting

If you are voting by mail, you should be sure to submit your application in a timely manner. Please allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to you and for you to return the ballot by Election Day. All ballots being mailed from inside the United States must be received by your local election official no later than the close of polls on Election Day.

If you would like to vote in person, you may do so in the office of your local election official. In-person absentee voting will be conducted during normal business hours and end on Friday, August 31st at 5:00 P.M.

When Absentee Ballots are Counted

Except for ballots which are rejected as defective, all absentee ballots are cast and counted by the poll workers on Election Day. Absentee ballots are included in the final tallies and are counted whether or not an election contains a close race.