

COVID-19 RELATED REGISTRATION AND VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Registering to vote and voting in person at 2020 elections may pose a health risk to some due to the COVID-19 health emergency. You may register and vote by absentee (by mail) if:

- You are ill due to COVID-19, or caring for someone with COVID-19/symptoms; or
- You are concerned that registering or voting in person will expose you or others to COVID-19.

The term “disability” in the election law extends to these circumstances. Even if you do not consider yourself a person with disability in other circumstances, this term applies for registering to vote and voting in 2020. The opportunity to register and vote absentee due to disability from COVID-19 will apply in 2020, regardless of the future development of the public health crisis. You must sign the “disability” affidavit on the forms for absentee registration and absentee voting.

REGISTERING ABSENTEE (BY MAIL)

You may request absentee voter registration forms and instructions from your clerk before requesting an absentee ballot. Supervisors of the Checklist must review and approve your application. They are required to meet on a date 6 to 13 days before the September 8, 2020 primary and again before the November 3, 2020 general election. Unless the supervisors hold voluntary sessions before then, the supervisors will review your application at that meeting. You are registered to vote when the supervisors approve the application.

If you request an absentee ballot and are not registered, the clerk will send you both your absentee ballot and your absentee voter registration forms and instructions.

VOTING ABSENTEE (BY MAIL)

Request your absentee ballot from your town/city clerk as early as possible. An Absentee Ballot Application can be downloaded from the Secretary of State’s homepage by clicking on “Voting During the COVID-19 State of Emergency. See below for how to obtain your Clerk’s contact information.

If you are returning your completed absentee ballot by US Mail, the clerk must receive it by 5:00 p.m. on election day. To increase the likelihood the absentee ballot arrives on time and assist with an expected high volume of absentee ballots, we recommend mailing it at least two weeks before the election. After 5 days, check the Voter Information lookup, Absentee Ballot link, to see if your clerk has received the ballot. Contact your clerk if your ballot has not been received. You may also deliver it to the clerk’s office in-person or by a delivery agent until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. A delivery agent may deliver it to the clerk at the polling place until 5 p.m. on election day. Family members, nursing home and elder care facility administrators, and a person assisting a voter with a disability who signs the absentee ballot affidavit (limited to delivering ballots for 4 voters) may be a delivery agent. See RSA 657:17: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/LXIII/657/657-17.htm>

Find your clerk’s contact information, your party membership status, or the status of your absentee ballot request here: <http://sos.nh.gov/>

