

Absentee Voting Guide

taken from the Secretary of State's Website



Voting is one of the fundamental rights we have as citizens of this state and country. Everyone should try to cast a ballot at each election. Maine law makes it easy to cast an absentee ballot. You do not have to be out-of-town or have any other reason to take advantage of this easy way to vote at a time that is most convenient for you.

If you would like to vote by absentee ballot, please take a few moments to review the information below. Contact Orono's Town Clerk at 866-2556 or the Elections Division if you have additional questions. Make sure you have a voice in your future - cast a ballot.

What is absentee voting and how does it work?

Absentee voting allows you to cast a ballot without going to a voting place on Election Day.

Who may vote absentee?

Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at a voting place on Election Day. You don't need to have a specific reason or be unable to vote at the voting place on Election Day to receive an absentee ballot.

What are the steps to voting by absentee ballot?

1. Complete an absentee ballot application to get a ballot; then,
2. Fill out and deliver the ballot back to the municipal clerk, or to the Secretary of State, Division of Elections (if you are a [Uniformed Service or Overseas voter](#)).

When can I request a ballot?

Absentee ballots may be requested beginning 3 months before Election Day, and until the 3rd business day prior to the election, unless special circumstances exist. Make your request early to allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to you. For November's Election – the deadline has been extended until Friday, October 30th.

Is there a deadline to request an absentee ballot?

For the November 3, 2020 General Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is Friday, October 30, 2020. It is recommended that you do not wait until the last minute if you are depending on any type of delivery system or carrier service.

PLEASE NOTE: A voter may vote in the presence of the clerk during the clerk's office hours, until 5:00 p.m. on Friday October 30, 2020.

How do I apply for and receive an absentee ballot?

Contact the municipal clerk in the town or city where you are registered to vote. [Uniformed Service and Overseas voters](#) will request an absentee ballot directly from the Secretary of State, Division of Elections.

You can request your own ballot electronically using the Secretary of State's online absentee ballot request service. The approved online form can be found at the following web site: http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee_Ballot/index.pl

You can make a telephone request for your own ballot, which will be mailed to the address you provide to the clerk.

You can make a written request by completing an absentee ballot application. Additionally, you can obtain a ballot for an immediate family member in this same way. A ballot will be mailed to the voter directly or to an immediate family member making the request. Your municipal clerk can tell you who is considered an immediate family member under the law.

NOTE: Ballots obtained by the voter or an immediate family member do not require witnesses unless the voter receives assistance from another person in reading or marking the ballot.

Applications are available starting 3 months before the election from the municipal clerk or online at: http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee_Ballot/index.pl

Can I vote by absentee ballot in person somewhere?

Yes. You may vote absentee at the clerk's office as soon as absentee ballots are available. Absentee ballots are available at least 30 days before the election at the municipal clerk's office. You do not need to complete an application if you vote in person at the clerk's office during normal business hours or by appointment.

When must my voted ballot be returned to my municipal clerk?

To be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. If mailing your ballots – please allow at least 7-10 days for handling time.

Are there any other ways to receive an absentee ballot?

You may make a written request for a "third person" (someone other than the voter or the voter's immediate family member) to obtain and hand-deliver an absentee ballot.

You must designate, in a written request or application, the specific third person who will handle and deliver the ballot. Only this designated third person may handle the absentee ballot.

Ballots cast in this way must be witnessed by either a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or 2 other witnesses.

What if I still have questions?

For more information please contact the ORONO CLERKS OFFICE AT (207) 866-2556 OR:

Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Elections
101 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0101
(207) 624-7650

