

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballots are available for all elections – Town, State, Federal and Primaries. They are generally available at the Town Clerk's Office at least three weeks prior to an election.

ELIGIBILITY

There are specific reasons for requesting an absentee ballot, which include the following:

- » being absent from the Town during polling hours;
- » a physical disability which would prevent a person from going to the polls; or
- » religious beliefs

APPLICATION

The application for an Absentee Ballot must be signed under the "*penalty of perjury*" by the applicant or a family member requesting one on behalf of the voter.

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk's Office by 12:00 noon on the day prior to an election. However a voter who is admitted to a health care facility after noon of the 5th day before an election may apply for a ballot up until the close of the polls and may request to have the ballot delivered by a person designated by them. A written request is still required. The easiest way to vote absentee is to come into the office, fill out the application, and vote in person. Ballots may NOT be hand carried out of the office.

Click here for an Absentee Ballot request form to be completed by an individual for their own use or to request an Absentee Ballot for a Family Member:

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf>

PROCESSING

Absentee ballots are mailed with a pre-addressed return envelope. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office **directly** by U.S. Mail or hand delivered **directly** to the Clerk's Office by the voter or a family member, who must then sign the outer envelope in our presence. ***Absentee Ballots should NOT be left in the "Drop-Off" box outside of the Town Hall.*** Complete instructions are enclosed with each ballot for the proper return of the ballot. Ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk before the close of the polls on election day.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information contact our office at 978-456-4100 or visit the Secretary of State's Election website at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/> and connecting links for all election-related information.