

ABSENTEE VOTING GUIDE FOR REQUESTING & RECEIVING ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Information provided by the Maine Secretary of State's Office:

Effective April 10, 2000: Maine now has "no reason" absentee voting. The law now permits absentee ballots to be cast at any election by any voter who properly requests a ballot.

Voting at City Hall - A voter may cast his/her ballot at City Hall during normal working hours (Monday - Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm). Absentee ballots are available approximately 30 days prior to the election. No application is needed. The ballot is witnessed by the city clerk, deputy clerk or assistant clerk.

Note: If the voter requests to take the absentee ballot, the voter may do so after completing an application. The voter returns the ballot by mail or in person to the clerk.

Telephone Request - A voter may request a ballot by telephone. The clerk completes an application with the voter over the phone. The clerk verifies the voter's identity by confirming the voter's residence and date of birth. The clerk mails the ballot to the voter at the address listed on the request. No one other than the voter may request an absentee ballot over the telephone.

No witnesses are needed, unless the voter is assisted. If assisted, the aide and 1 other person signs as witness. The voter returns the ballot by mail or in person to the clerk.

Written Request by the Voter (Received by Mail, by Fax or In Person) -

A voter may request a ballot by completing an application or written request. The clerk mails the ballot to the voter at the address listed on the request, or gives the ballot to the voter, to take with him/her. No witnesses are needed unless the voter is assisted. If assisted, the aide and one other person signs as witness. The voter returns the ballot by mail or in person to the clerk.

Written Request by the Voter's Immediate Family Member (Received by Mail, by Fax or In Person) - An immediate family member (spouse, parent, child, sister, brother, stepparent, stepchild, stepsister, stepbrother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, guardian or former guardian (relationship must be indicated on the application) of the voter may request a ballot on behalf of the voter. An application or written request must be completed by the immediate family member.

The clerk mails the ballot to the voter at the address listed on the request, or releases the ballot to the immediate family member. No witnesses are needed unless the voter is assisted. If assisted, the aide and 1 other person signs as witness. The voter or immediate family member returns the ballot by mail or in person to the clerk. Immediate family member request is not considered a 3rd person ballot. If the ballot is returned by another immediate family member, the other immediate family member must also sign the application or written request indicating they returned the ballot. The family member must state his/her relationship to the voter.

Written Request by the Voter (Received by Mail, by Fax, or In Person)-3rd Person Designated

- A voter only may request a ballot to be delivered by a 3rd person. The voter must request a 3rd person ballot, by completing an application or written request. A 3rd person can not be a candidate or a member of a candidate's immediate family.

The clerk releases the ballot to the 3rd person only named in the request. Ballot must be witnessed by a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or 2 other individuals. If assisted, the aide and 1 other person signs as witness. The 3rd person returns the ballot in person to the clerk. The voter may return the ballot in person, however witnesses are still required if a 3rd person handles the ballot going out or coming back. A 3rd person may have up to 5 absentee ballots for a municipality at one time.