

APPLYING FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

If a registered voter is unable to vote in person on Election Day, he may apply to the Town Clerk for an absentee ballot for any of the following reasons:

- Absence from the Town during all of the hours of voting
- Illness
- Physical disability
- Active service in the armed forces
- Duties as an election official at a polling place
- Religious tenets

Before a ballot can be issued to the voter, an application must be completed and returned to this office. The application can be obtained in person, by mail on **this webpage** under forms (the application must be printed, signed by the voter and mailed or hand delivered to the clerk's office).

Absence or inability to vote in person does not mean that you must forfeit your right to vote! Voters are urged to contact the clerk's office at 860-423-9634 with any specific questions.

****NEW LEGISLATION***

Public Act 12-57, "An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status for the Permanently Disabled" created permanent absentee balloting status for certain individuals and became effective January 1, 2013.

IN GENERAL

To be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, an elector must file with the Town Clerk an absentee ballot application together with a doctor's certificate stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place. The doctor's note should be on letterhead. There is no prescribed form—the doctor's note and the absentee ballot application would satisfy the requirement of the law.

Permanent absentee ballot status enables the elector to receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary, and referendum in the municipality in which they are eligible to vote. Absentee ballots are available 21 days before a Primary and 31 days before an Election.

ELIGIBILITY

In January of each year the Registrars of Voters will send written notice to each elector with permanent absentee ballot status to determine if the elector continues to reside at the address on the permanent absentee ballot application. If the elector fails to respond to the notice, the permanent absentee ballot status will be removed, but the elector will remain on the voter registration list.

PROCEDURE

The Freedom of Information Commission has indicated that they feel that any doctor's note on file with the Town Clerk is **not** subject to disclosure. The original absentee ballot application, however, would continue to be subject to disclosure just like any other application for absentee ballot.

The federal MOVE ACT (Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment) was signed into law by President Obama on October 28, 2009 and makes provisions for mailing a ballot electronically, upon request, to a

voter who is in the military or who is an overseas citizen and their dependents. Electronic voting is only for elections that have federal offices on the ballot. (Electronic means faxing as well as emailing).

The actual ballot is a blank ballot format that is sent along with a list of candidates. If you qualify for an emailed ballot, please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@scotlandct.org . As well as the ballot, the absentee ballot application can now be faxed or emailed to us.

If you are not military personnel, an overseas voter or their dependent, please follow the instructions outlined below to request an absentee ballot.

Instructions

1. Open the appropriate application under **forms on this webpage.**
2. Print the form on white paper.
3. Complete the required information on the form.
4. Mail it to:
Town Clerk
Town of Scotland
P.O. Box 122
Scotland , CT 06264