

# Absentee Voting Checklist

- ☑ **Submit an Absentee Ballot Application as far in advance of an election as allowable.**
- ☑ **Read the Absentee Ballot instructions carefully.**
- ☑ **Complete the Absentee Ballot and follow the instructions for returning it. Make sure that you sign and date the Ballot Envelope.**
- ☑ **Return your Absentee Ballot as soon as possible after you receive it.**
- ☑ **All Absentee Ballots must be received by the Department of Elections Office for your county no later than the closing of the polls at 8 p.m. on Election Day.**
- ☑ **If you are a member of the military or living overseas, see the brochure entitled "Voting while you are in the Military or Living Overseas."**



**You can vote by Absentee Ballot if you are away due to work, school, religion, vacation, illness or disability**

## State of Delaware Department of Elections

Office of the State Election Commissioner  
905 S. Governors Ave., Ste. 170  
Dover, DE 19904  
Phone: (302) 739-4277  
Fax (302) 739-6794  
Email: [Coe\\_vote@delaware.gov](mailto:Coe_vote@delaware.gov)  
Website: <https://elections.delaware.gov>

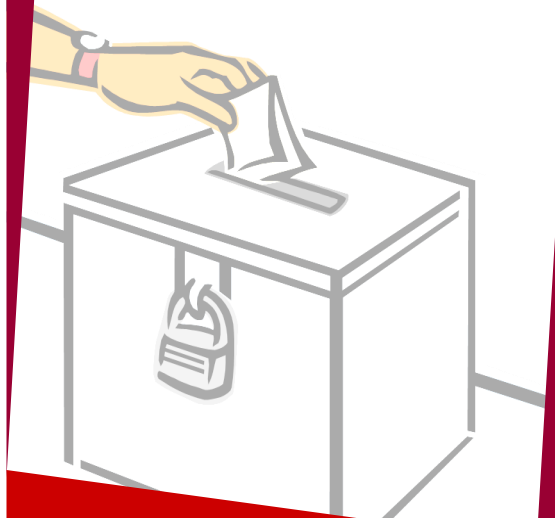
New Castle County Office  
Carvel State Office Building  
820 N. French St., Suite 400  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: (302) 577-3464  
Fax: (302) 577-6545  
Website: <https://electionsncc.delaware.gov>

Kent County Office  
100 Enterprise Place, Suite 5  
Dover, DE 19904  
Phone: (302) 739-4498  
Fax: (302) 739-4515  
Website: <https://electionskc.delaware.gov>

Sussex County Office  
119 N. Race St.  
P.O. Box 457  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
Phone: (302) 856-5367  
Fax: (302) 856-5082  
Website: <https://electionssc.delaware.gov>

## State of Delaware Department of Elections

*Absentee Voting:  
How to Vote  
When You  
Can't Go to  
the Polls*



# Absentee Voting

Work/School/Religion/Vacation/Illness/Disability

If you are a registered voter in your Election District, but you are unable to appear at the polls to vote in person for a reason stated in the law, you are eligible to vote by Absentee Ballot. Absentee Ballots may be used for the following reasons:

- You are in the public service of the United States or the State of Delaware and are unable to come to the polls. This also applies to spouses or dependents who reside with or accompany public servants of the United States or of the State of Delaware or members of the Uniformed Services.
- Your business or occupation prevents you from coming to the polls. This also applies to:
  - persons providing care to a parent, spouse or child who is living at home and requires constant care,
  - students, and
  - otherwise eligible persons who are incarcerated.
- You are sick, or temporarily or permanently physically disabled
- You are on vacation
- The tenets or teachings of your religion prevent you from coming to the polls

## Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot

You must be registered to vote in Delaware before you can use an Absentee Ballot. Those who are registered

to vote in Delaware must first submit a completed Absentee Ballot Application to the Department of Elections Office for the county in which they live. You may complete an application online at <https://ivote.de.gov> or obtain one from the Department of Elections Office for your county.

Submit your Absentee Ballot Application online or to the Department of Elections Office for your county as early as possible before the election. Be sure to check the application to see if this applies to you. You will only be able to vote in a Democratic Primary if you are a registered Democrat and vote in a Republican Primary if you are a registered Republican.

The application can be used to make any changes in your name, address or party affiliation.

## Voting by Absentee Ballot

You may vote by Absentee Ballot in person at the Department of Elections Office for your county or by mail. To vote in person, contact the Department of Elections Office for your county to determine when Absentee Ballots will be available and the hours for voting. Be sure to take proof of identity with you when you go to vote. The last day to vote absentee in person is at 12 noon the day before the election. For those voting by mail, the Department of Elections Office for your county will mail your Absentee Ballot to you as soon as they are available. This is usually about 35 days prior to a Primary Election and 45 days prior to a General Election.

Read and follow the instructions for completing and returning your Absentee Ballot. Put the Absentee Ballot

in the Ballot Envelope, seal it and sign it.

If you are returning your Absentee Ballot via a foreign postal system, send it by Airmail then use the required foreign postage to make sure that it arrives to its destination in a timely manner.

Absentee Ballots must be received by the Department of Elections Office for your county no later than close of the polls on the day of the election.

## Permanent Absentee Status

A registered voter eligible to vote by absentee ballot for the following reasons may request for permanent absentee voter status by applying in writing to the Department of Elections Office for the county where the voter is registered to vote. An absentee ballot will automatically be sent for each election in which the person is entitled to vote.

Special Qualifications regarding Permanent Absentee Voter Status:

- Because such person is in the public service of the United States or of the State of Delaware, or a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying him or her. Also applies to members of the Uniformed Services; or
- Because such person's business or occupation is providing care to a parent, spouse or child who is living at home and requires constant care; or
- Because such person is sick, or temporarily or permanently physically disabled; or
- Because such person is temporarily residing outside of the U.S. and the District of Columbia, or a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying him or her