

applying, the application must be signed by both you and your helper.

If you need help in filling out the absentee ballot, you may get that help from anyone you choose other than a candidate or an agent of a candidate, political party or party committee, except when the candidate or agent is a member of your immediate family. You may ask your helper to fill the ballot out in your presence, but you must express your wishes to the helper and not let the helper tell you how to vote. The helper must sign his or her name, along with your name, on the ballot envelope. Your helper must also add the word “by” next to his or her own signature.

**Get a Permanent  
Absentee Ballot**

If you meet the requirements for getting an absentee ballot and are permanently physically disabled, you may submit a request to your Town Clerk for an application to automatically receive absentee ballots for all following elections, primaries, and referenda held in your town.

To get put on the list for permanent absentee ballots, you must submit a medical provider’s statement attesting to your disability. The provider may be a doctor, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner. You can bring or mail in the statement with your request, or you can have your provider mail it to your Town Clerk immediately following your written request.



**VOTING  
OPTIONS  
for  
Voters  
With Disabilities**

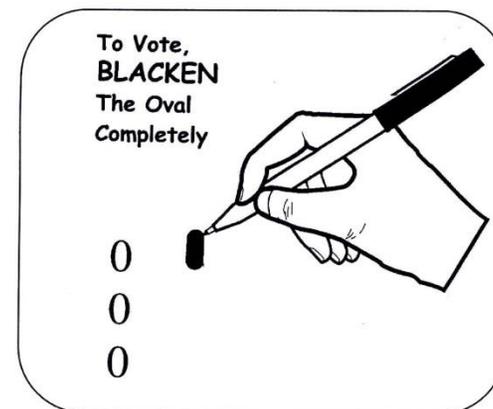


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The state of Connecticut provides many options for voters who find it difficult to mark their ballots or to get to their polling place.

## At the Polls

### Ask for Priority Check-In

If you can make it to the polling place but cannot wait for long periods in line, you can ask the moderator to bring you to the head of the check-in line.

### Bring a Helper

If you want assistance in marking your ballot, you may bring a helper of your choice. This can be a friend or family member, even if the helper is under age 18, so long as the helper is NOT your boss at work, union shop steward, or a candidate in the district where you vote (unless the candidate is one of your family members). Any other helper you pick can come into the privacy booth with you and even mark the ballot for you, as long as you, the voter, put your ballot into the tabulator once it's marked.

### Use the Special Equipment

For voters who come to the polls without an assistant but have difficulty reading or marking the ballot, special equipment is available that lets you create a marked ballot using a touch-screen or a special keypad.

If you want to use the special system, you should ask the poll moderator or one of the assistant registrars to accompany you to the phone desk and help you with the equipment. It will print out a ballot for you once you tell it you are finished voting.

Once the ballot has been printed, you can also ask the poll worker to help you put the ballot into the correct slot in the voting machine, and your ballot will be counted automatically at the end of the night.

### Ask for Curbside Check-In

If you can get to the polling place but can't get out of your car or van because of a temporary incapacity, you may request that a ballot be brought to you. Two registrars or assistant registrars will take a ballot, along with a privacy sleeve (usually a manila folder) to your car window. Once you show the poll workers your proper identification, one of them will hand you the ballot and privacy sleeve. You will be asked to mark the ballot in the presence of the poll officials so that they cannot see how you are voting. You should then place the ballot in the privacy sleeve and hand the packet back to one of the poll officials, who will bring it inside, go through the check-in line and have your name marked off as having voted, put your ballot into the tabulator, and hand the privacy sleeve to the tabulator tender. Your ballot will be counted automatically at the end of the night.

## Can't Make it to the Polls?

### Get an Absentee Ballot

To be eligible to vote absentee you must be

- an eligible voter and
- unable to appear at your polling place for one or more of the following reasons:
  - ▶ on active service in the armed forces
  - ▶ absent from your town or city during all voting hours
  - ▶ ill
  - ▶ physically disabled
  - ▶ following religious rules forbidding secular activity on election day
  - ▶ serving as an election official at a polling place other than your own.

To get an absentee ballot you must first sign an absentee ballot application and mail or hand-deliver it to your Town Clerk. Your Town Clerk will check it in and hand or mail you a ballot, an inner envelope, and an outer envelope.

Once you have marked your ballot, you must seal it into the inner envelope and sign the envelope. If you are mailing it in, you should then put the sealed inner envelope into the outer envelope, make sure the outer envelope is addressed to your Town Clerk, seal that, put a postage stamp on it, and mail it in. If you are hand-delivering it, you will skip the postage stamp.

Anyone can help you apply for an absentee ballot, but if you have received help in