

2020 Absentee Ballot Requirements and Instructions

For your absentee ballot vote to be counted, please follow these steps:

STEP 1: You must be qualified to vote by absentee ballot for one of the reasons listed on Page 1 of these instructions, which includes concern about exposure to infection from COVID-19 or exposing others.

STEP 2: Fill out your ballot. Follow the instructions on the ballot. If you require assistance due to a disability, you may have someone else assist you. The person who assists a voter who has a disability must sign a statement acknowledging the assistance on either the absentee ballot application form and/or affidavit envelope (See Step 4 below).

Important: When filling out your ballot, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice on the ballot. If the instructions indicate you may vote for more than one candidate for a particular office, do not vote for more than the number of candidates stated in the instructions. If you vote for more than the stated number of candidates, your vote for that office will not be counted.

STEP 3: Once finished marking the ballot, the voter or the person assisting the voter must place the ballot inside the smaller affidavit envelope sent to the voter with the ballot, then seal that smaller affidavit envelope. RSA 657:17

STEP 4: Next, the applicant must sign the affidavit printed on the outside of the affidavit envelope, unless that person receives assistance due to a disability. The signature certifies under penalty of voting fraud that you meet one of the requirements to vote absentee, RSA 657:7. If the voter is unable to sign due to disability, the person assisting the voter must instead complete the section of the application and affidavit that reads "I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he/she has a disability."

Signature _____ Print Name _____ RSA 657:17.

STEP 5: Place the completed affidavit envelope, containing the marked ballot, inside the larger envelope.

If you are not yet registered and are returning absentee voter registration forms and proof of qualifications, place those documents inside the larger envelope.

Do not place voter registration documents in the smaller affidavit envelope. Seal the larger envelope.

STEP 6: In the upper left corner of the larger envelope, print the voter's name, address, and voting place. RSA 657:17. Place postage on the larger envelope and mail it to the clerk. As an alternative, the voter, or a delivery agent may personally deliver the envelope to the clerk. If delivered to the polls on election day by a delivery agent he or she will be required to present government issued photo identification or have his or her identity verified by the clerk and complete a form provided there by the clerk. RSA 657:17. Family members, nursing home and elder care facility administrators, and a person assisting a voter with a disability who signs the absentee ballot affidavit (limited to delivering ballots for 4 voters) may be a delivery agent. See RSA 657:17: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/LXIII/657/657-17.htm>

The envelopes containing your absentee ballot must be received by the clerk no later than 5:00 PM on election day. RSA 657:21-a, V; 657:22.

NOTE: If the voter delivers the absentee ballot, affidavit, sealed in the larger envelope in person to the clerk, the voter may voluntarily prove his or her identity using a qualified photo identification, such as a driver's license or non-driver ID issued by any state. If the voter proves identity, the larger envelope and the Clerk's list of absentee voters will be marked "voter verified." If the voter's absentee ballot is challenged on election day, the Moderator may consider this evidence that the voter's identity was verified by the clerk when ruling on the challenge.

Visit the Voter Look-up website: <https://app.sos.nh.gov> after the next session of the supervisors, to verify that you have been registered. Contact your clerk if you have questions regarding the information on the Voter Look-up website. RSA 657:26.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Instructions for
STATE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION



HOW TO MARK YOUR BALLOT:

To Vote: Completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice. For each office, vote for not more than the number of candidates stated in the sentence: "Vote for not more than ____." If you vote for more than the stated number of candidates, your vote for that office will not be counted.

To Vote by Write-In: To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write in the name of the person in the "write-in" space. Completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice.

To Vote on a question on the ballot: Completely fill in the oval opposite either YES or NO indicating your choice on that question.

PROCEDURE AFTER MARKING YOUR BALLOT:

After marking the ballot, the voter or the person assisting a blind voter shall enclose and seal the same in the small inner affidavit envelope. The voter shall execute the affidavit. If you are voting absentee because of COVID-19 concerns, execute the affidavit "Absence Because of Religious Observance or Physical Disability. Even if you do not consider yourself a person with disability in other circumstances, this term applies for registering to vote and voting in 2020. Make sure you read the affidavit before signing. A person assisting a blind voter or a voter with a disability in executing the affidavit shall sign a statement on the affidavit envelope acknowledging the assistance and shall enclose and seal the small inner envelope with the affidavit in the larger outer envelope. On the larger outer envelope, fill in the name of the town or city where you are entitled to vote, write your full name, address and voting place in the upper left hand corner.

Affix postage and mail the larger outer envelope to the clerk in the city or town in which you are entitled to vote **OR** the voter may personally deliver it or have it delivered by the voter's "delivery agent."

A delivery agent may be:

- a) The voter's spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandchild, father-in-law, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, stepchild; or
- (b) If the voter is a resident of a nursing home as defined in RSA 151-A:1, IV, the nursing home administrator, licensed pursuant to RSA 151-A:2, or a nursing home staff member designated in writing by the administrator to deliver ballots; or
- (c) If the voter is a resident of a residential care facility licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2, I(e) and described in RSA 151:9, VII(a)(1) and (2), the residential care facility administrator, or a residential care facility staff member designated in writing by the administrator to deliver ballots; or
- (d) * A person assisting a blind voter or a voter with a disability who has signed a statement on the affidavit envelope acknowledging the assistance. *A person assisting blind/disabled voters may not deliver more than 4 absentee ballots in any election.

If delivered to the polls on election day by a "delivery agent" he or she will be required to complete a form provided there by the clerk and to present government issued photo identification or have his or her identity verified by the clerk. RSA 657:17.

Absentee ballots delivered through the mail or by the voter's delivery agent shall be received by the town, city or ward clerk no later than 5:00 PM on the day of the election.

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposely providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

Visit the web site: <https://app.sos.nh.gov> to track your ballot. You may verify receipt of your application, the date when your absentee ballot was mailed to you, the date the clerk receives your completed absentee ballot, and after the election learn if your absentee ballot was rejected/not counted and why. Contact your clerk if you have questions regarding the information on the track your ballot site.

NOTE: Your ballot must be received by the town or city clerk, ***no later than 5:00 p.m. on election day in order to be submitted for counting.***