



What to Expect at the Polls

Presented by the
League of Women Voters of
Northern Fairfield County

“The success of Democracy doesn't depend on a few persons who do great things, but on many persons who do small things faithfully...”

—Maud Wood Park, First
LWVUS President



Sponsored by
the



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

What we'll cover

- **The voting process**
 - Before you leave home
 - When you get to the polls
 - Marking your ballot
 - FAQ
- **Brief Q & A**

When do I vote?

Election Day is November 3, 2020

- In Connecticut, voting places will be open from **6 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
 - If you're registered and in line at your voting place by 8 p.m., you'll be able to vote.
 - You don't need to be "inside" by 8 p.m., just in line to vote.

Where do I vote?

Voters who are registered in Connecticut can confirm their voting places at:

<https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>



What do I need to take along when I go to vote?

For Most Voters

- Any pre-printed form of ID that shows your name and address or name and signature or name and photograph such as a driver's license, student ID or a social security card.

For some first time voters who have an * mark next to their name

- Copy of current and valid photo ID that shows your name and address Or
- Copy of current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows your name and address OR
- Cast a provisional ballot if you have no I.D. and have a mark * next to your name (and get a receipt from a polling place supervisor) or
- Sign an affidavit in lieu of presenting ID



VOTE

**What should I expect
at my polling place?**

- As you enter, you may see **posters** that **describe voter rights**, and what **I.D. is needed to check in**, as well as a **blow-up of the ballot**.
- **Poll workers** will be on hand to answer questions.
- **Check-in tables** will have workers assigned to specific streets, organized alphabetically. Checkers ask to see each voter's identification. (Keep in mind that some first-time voters will need to present I.D. as described previously.)
- Next you'll be directed to a **ballot clerk** who will give you a **blank ballot**. (All locations will also provide **privacy folders** that you can choose to use to conceal your marked ballot as you take it to the voting machine.)

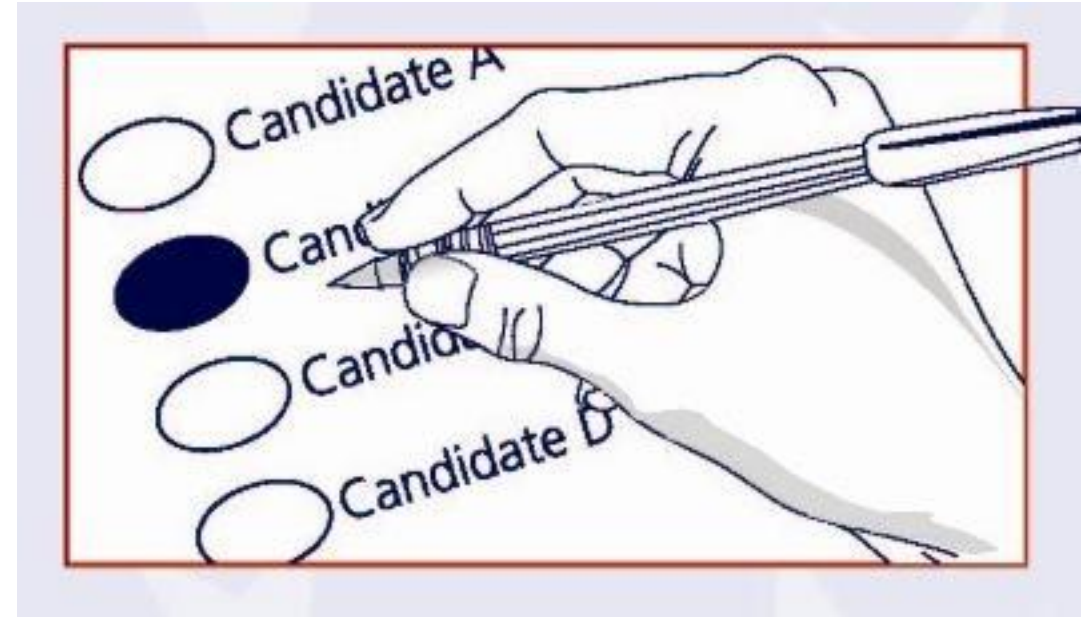


Photos: CT Post

- Take your ballot and folder to any nearby “**privacy booth.**”
- Each booth should have a **black pen** for your use.
- There should be a magnifier available too – if not, and you require one, ask a poll worker to help.



- Take a moment to look over the ballot first; be sure to check whether it's two-sided and, if it is, vote for the candidates or questions on side 2!
- Then use the pen to **carefully mark your choices on the ballot**, completely filling in the ovals that correspond to the candidates you prefer.
- If you make a mistake—such as filling in the wrong oval—don't try to correct it. Instead take the ballot to a ballot clerk, and request a new one. The clerk will mark the first ballot “spoiled” and discard it.



- What if you want to “**write in**” the name of a person not listed on the ballot? How does that work?

- When you've marked the entire ballot, review it carefully, then place it in the privacy folder and **go to the voting machine**. Insert the ballot (face up or down) into the slot on the machine, and hand the folder to the "tabulator tender" nearby. (If there's a problem with your ballot, it will be rejected immediately and the tabulator tender will help remedy it.)
- On your way out, **don't forget to get your "I voted" sticker**—and feel proud that you've done your part to keep American democracy strong!



What if I need special assistance?

- **Help is available at the polling place:** Voters who need assistance are entitled to receive it from anyone they wish, as long as that person is not an employer, union representative, or candidate (unless it's a family member).
- Every CT polling place will offer “**curbside voting**” for voters who are physically unable to walk into the polling place. If you require this, notify a worker at the polling place who will arrange for help at the curb.
- Any Connecticut voter encountering election-related problems can contact the Secretary of State’s **Election Day hotline** at **1-866-733-2463** or by email to elections@ct.gov.
- **Know [your rights as a voter in Connecticut](#).** (Available in English [and Spanish](#).)
- **Last-minute campaigning:** Connecticut’s General Statutes limit how close campaigners or signs can be to the polls, so people can vote without harassment or intimidation. prohibit activities within a **75 ft. radius of poll entrances**.

What does the ballot look like?

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Danbury, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 5, 2019

Voting District 1
Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE → PARTY ↓	1 MAYOR VOTE FOR ONE	2 TREASURER VOTE FOR ONE	3 TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	4	5	6	7 COUNCIL AT LARGE VOTE FOR ANY SEVEN	8	9	10	11 COUNCIL VOTE FOR ANY TWO	12	13	14	15 BOARD OF EDUCATION FULL TERM. SIX TO BE ELECTED. NOT MORE THAN THREE FROM ONE PARTY VOTE FOR ANY SIX	16	17	18
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A CHRISTOPHER C. SETARO	<input type="radio"/> 2A KATE JOHNSON	<input type="radio"/> 3A ANDREA GARTNER	<input type="radio"/> 4A ROBERT J. TABORSK	<input type="radio"/> 5A TIMOTHY K. GABURUNGYI	<input type="radio"/> 6A WILSON HERNANDEZ	<input type="radio"/> 7A ROBERTO ALVES	<input type="radio"/> 8A ANJALI E. ILLESCAS	<input type="radio"/> 9A FRANK SALVATORE JR.	<input type="radio"/> 10A HELENA M. ABRANTES	<input type="radio"/> 11A DENNIS R. PERKINS JR.	<input type="radio"/> 12A GEORGE O'LOUGHLIN	<input type="radio"/> 13A JOSEPH W. BRITTON	<input type="radio"/> 14A KATE A. CONETTA	<input type="radio"/> 15A GLADYS B. COOPER	16A	17A	18A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B MARK D. BOUGHTON	<input type="radio"/> 2B DANIEL P. JOWDY	<input type="radio"/> 3B JANICE R. GIEGLER	<input type="radio"/> 4B COLLEEN A. STANLEY	<input type="radio"/> 5B MICHAEL J. ESPOSITO	<input type="radio"/> 6B WARREN M. LEVY	<input type="radio"/> 7B BRUCE E. BENNETT	<input type="radio"/> 8B EMILE G. BUZAID JR.	<input type="radio"/> 9B RACHEL E. CHALESKI	<input type="radio"/> 10B PHILIP D. CURRAN	<input type="radio"/> 11B IRVING MATTHEW FOX	<input type="radio"/> 12B JOHN D. PRIOLA	<input type="radio"/> 13B A. KATHRYN HOOGDON	<input type="radio"/> 14B MAEGEN E. BOLLIN	<input type="radio"/> 15B RALPH G. PIETRAFESA	<input type="radio"/> 16B LOREN L. DALY	<input type="radio"/> 17B ALBERT A. RUSSO	<input type="radio"/> 18B VEASNA ROEUN
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1C CHRISTOPHER C. SETARO	<input type="radio"/> 2C KATE JOHNSON	<input type="radio"/> 3C ANDREA GARTNER	4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C TIMOTHY K. GABURUNGYI	<input type="radio"/> 6C WILSON HERNANDEZ	<input type="radio"/> 7C ROBERTO ALVES	<input type="radio"/> 8C ANJALI E. ILLESCAS	9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C HELENA M. ABRANTES	<input type="radio"/> 11C DENNIS R. PERKINS JR.	<input type="radio"/> 12C GEORGE O'LOUGHLIN	<input type="radio"/> 13C JOSEPH W. BRITTON	<input type="radio"/> 14C KATE A. CONETTA	15C	16C	17C	18C
INDEPENDENT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1D MARK D. BOUGHTON	<input type="radio"/> 2D DANIEL P. JOWDY	<input type="radio"/> 3D JANICE R. GIEGLER	<input type="radio"/> 4D COLLEEN A. STANLEY	<input type="radio"/> 5D MICHAEL J. ESPOSITO	<input type="radio"/> 6D WARREN M. LEVY	<input type="radio"/> 7D BRUCE E. BENNETT	<input type="radio"/> 8D EMILE G. BUZAID JR.	<input type="radio"/> 9D RACHEL E. CHALESKI	<input type="radio"/> 10D PHILIP D. CURRAN	<input type="radio"/> 11D IRVING MATTHEW FOX	<input type="radio"/> 12D JOHN D. PRIOLA	<input type="radio"/> 13D A. KATHRYN HOOGDON	<input type="radio"/> 14D MAEGEN E. BOLLIN	<input type="radio"/> 15D RALPH G. PIETRAFESA	<input type="radio"/> 16D LOREN L. DALY	<input type="radio"/> 17D ALBERT A. RUSSO	<input type="radio"/> 18D VEASNA ROEUN
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	1E	2E	3E	<input type="radio"/> 4E CINDY ROBIN OWENS	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	10E	11E	12E	13E	14E	15E	16E	17E	18E
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1F	<input type="radio"/> 2F	<input type="radio"/> 3F	<input type="radio"/> 4F	<input type="radio"/> 5F	<input type="radio"/> 6F	<input type="radio"/> 7F	<input type="radio"/> 8F	<input type="radio"/> 9F	<input type="radio"/> 10F	<input type="radio"/> 11F	<input type="radio"/> 12F	<input type="radio"/> 13F	<input type="radio"/> 14F	<input type="radio"/> 15F	<input type="radio"/> 16F	<input type="radio"/> 17F	<input type="radio"/> 18F

(Remember, for some elections the ballots may have 2 sides!)

- Cities and larger towns often have more than one legislative district at the local and state levels. For some cities and larger towns in CT, there are different ballots.
- To find your specific ballot, you'll need to [find out what town voting district you live in](#). Then look at the upper right corner of the ballots to find the voting district (and the Congressional, Senatorial, and Assembly districts) that pertain to your address.
- In some elections, local or state questions are also on the ballot.



**What seats are
open?**

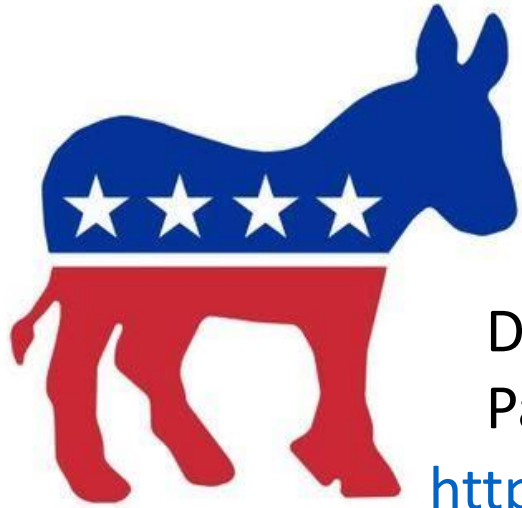
A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy, draped pattern. The blue field with white stars is visible in the upper left corner.

Who are this year's candidates?

See sample ballot for your district:

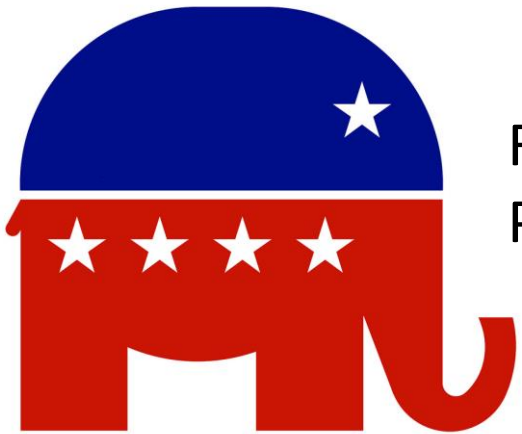
<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Town-Ballots/Ballots>

CT has 2 major political parties



Democratic
Party

<https://ctdems.org/>



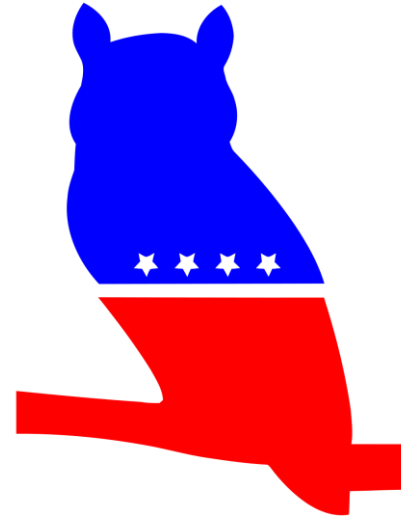
Republican
Party

<http://ct.gop/>

And several minority parties



Green Party



Independent Party



How do I evaluate candidates?



Decide which issues *you* care about, and the qualities *you* want in a leader.

- Look at candidates' websites and officially published statements
- Read their party platforms, and pay attention to the stated goals of the political party
 - [Democratic Party platform](#)
 - [Republican Party platform](#)
 - [Libertarian Party platform](#)
 - [Green Party platform](#)
- Pay attention to candidates' positions on issues, their backgrounds and experience, and their leadership abilities
- For more details, see votesmart.org/

Learn how others view the candidates...

- What are the opinions of others in the community?
- Learn about any endorsements received
- Examine the source of a candidate's campaign contributions



**and beware of
“distortion
techniques”**



- Name calling / Appealing to prejudice
- Loaded statements and over-promising
- Catchwords
- Baiting
- Evading real issues

Before you pick a candidate, ask yourself

- which person's views on the issues do you agree with the most?
- who ran the fairest campaign?
- which candidate was most knowledgeable about issues?
- which candidate has the leadership qualities you are looking for?



Frequently asked questions

- Can I take a copy of the ballot to the polls?
- Do I have to vote for every candidate or referendum question?
- Will I be able to find voting information in Spanish?
- Is it possible to register on Election Day?
- Can a person who has committed a felony vote in Connecticut?
- Can I wear clothing or pins displaying political logos when I go to vote?
- What about voter “etiquette”: Cellphones? Selfies?



What if I know that I won't be able to go to the polls on Election Day?

- **Request an “absentee ballot” from your Town Clerk** if you can answer yes to **any** of these questions.
 - Are you an active member of the U.S. armed forces?
 - Will you be out of town during all the hours of voting on Election Day?
 - Does illness prevent you from voting in person on Election Day?
 - Do your religious beliefs prevent you from performing secular activities like voting on Election Day?
 - Will you be serving as an election official at a polling place other than your own during all voting hours?
 - Do you have a physical disability that prevents you from voting in person on Election Day?
- The Town Clerk for your city or town is the person who handles Absentee Ballots. You can find your Town Clerk's contact info here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/Town-Clerk/73019-Town-Clerks-List.pdf?la=en>

- Voters, their family members or the voter's designee (a designee is a person caring for the voter because of illness or disability) can download the application for an Absentee Ballot at: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SOTS/ElectionServices/ElectForms/electforms/aabengpdf.pdf?la=en> or a voter can request that it be mailed to the voter's address.
- Once an absentee ballot is obtained it must be completed **by the voter** following the instructions that are included and returned by mail or hand delivered to the Town Clerk's office by the **voter, a family member or the voter's designee.**
- A voter can also visit their Town Clerk's Office **in person**, fill out the application for an absentee ballot, and hand in their ballot ***in person*** all in one step.
- Only complete absentee ballots **received before the polls close** on Election Day will be counted.
- If you have a permanent disability, you may be eligible to apply for a **permanent absentee ballot.** Contact your local [Town Clerk](#) for details.
- What happens if I become suddenly ill or am suddenly hospitalized? A voter can apply for an Emergency absentee ballot file: [///C:/Users/NL/Documents/ed3eEngpdf%20\(1\).pdf](///C:/Users/NL/Documents/ed3eEngpdf%20(1).pdf) if they have an unforeseen illness, physical disability within 6 days before the close of the polls at an election, primary or referendum or because they are patients in a hospital within such a six day period.

After you make your request, the Town Clerk will process your application.

An absentee ballot will be mailed to you beginning 31 days before a general election, 21 days before a primary, 19 days before a referendum, or if your application is received after the above dates, as soon as your application is processed.

Complete it, carefully following the instructions that are included, and return it by mail or in person.

**Only complete absentee ballots received before the polls close on Election Day will be counted.
For more details, see the [Secretary of State's website](#).**



**MOST
IMPORTANTLY,
VOTE!**

in every election