



Frequently Asked Questions: Permanent Absentee Ballot (PAB)

What is a Permanent Absentee Ballot?

A new election law passed in Connecticut in 2012 allows any eligible voter who is permanently physically disabled to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum held in that voter's town.

Who is eligible for a Permanent Absentee Ballot?

You are eligible to receive a permanent or automatic absentee ballot if you have a permanent physical disability.

What is needed to obtain a Permanent Absentee Ballot?

Ask your physician or medical care provider for a letter certifying that you are unable to appear in person to vote at your polling place because of your physical disability. Fill out an application for an absentee ballot and submit it—with your doctor's letter—to your town clerk. Watch for your absentee ballot to arrive in the mail about one month before the next election.

How often do I need to renew my Permanent Absentee Ballot?

Your request for an automatic absentee ballot and certification letter is kept on file and entitles you to automatically receive a ballot for each primary, election or referendum taking place during that calendar year. Each January, the registrars of voters will send a written notice to you asking whether you still live at the same address. To continue to receive your automatic absentee ballot, please reply to this notice within 30 days.

Can I cancel my request for a Permanent Absentee Ballot at any time?

Yes, you may send a request to discontinue receiving an automatic absentee ballot at any time.

Can someone request a Permanent Absentee Ballot for me?

You must request a permanent absentee ballot yourself. Use Connecticut's regular Absentee Ballot Application and ask your doctor for a letter attesting to your physical disability. Be sure to sign your application and submit both documents to your town clerk.

What if I need someone to complete the application for a Permanent Absentee Ballot for me?

Anyone can help you apply for an absentee ballot, but if you have received help in completing the application, both you and your helper must sign it. Also, if you need help in filling out the ballot, you may get assistance from anyone you choose. However, no candidate or agent of a candidate, political party or committee, shall knowingly be present when an absentee ballot applicant executes an absentee ballot, except when the candidate or agent is a member of the immediate family of the applicant. If you are unable to write, you may ask a helper of your choice to fill the ballot out in your presence. However, you must express your wishes to that person and not let that person tell you how to vote. The helper must sign his or her name, along with your name, on the ballot envelope and add the word "by" next to his or her own signature.

Is curbside voting still available for the physically disabled?

Yes. If you have arrived at your polling place but are unable to enter due to a temporary incapacity, you may request that the ballot be brought to you. You will have to show identification and privately mark the ballot while in the presence of the election officials. They will deliver your ballot in a privacy sleeve to the voting tabulator where the officials will insert your ballot to be counted.