

If you are a non-resident property owner in a Connecticut city or town and a U.S. citizen at least 18 years old, you may still be able to vote on certain local tax or budget questions in that town if you are on its last completed grand list, even if you are registered elsewhere. Call your registrars for information.

Polls are open on Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Any person in line at a polling place by 8:00 p.m. may vote. For voting on town referenda, such as local budget votes, polling locations and hours may vary. Call your registrars for details.

If you arrive at your polling place to vote in a federal election and find that you are not on the voting list, you may be able to complete a Provisional Ballot to vote. Also, you may be able to register and vote at the Election Day Registration location. The election officials at the polls or in your town hall will have details.

Should I Join a Political Party?

Joining a party enables you to:

- vote in primaries and caucuses.
- volunteer for campaign work and serve on your party's town committee. Town committees nominate and endorse candidates for municipal offices, boards, and commissions, and choose delegates to party conventions.
- participate, as an elected delegate, at your party's state and national conventions.

To join a political party, you must choose a party affiliation either when you register or any time afterwards. You can drop or change your party affiliation by using a mail-in registration card to notify your registrars of voters.

If you switch parties, your new party privileges become effective after three months. However, if you've been unaffiliated for at least three months, and switch from unaffiliated to any

party, your new party privileges become effective immediately. Otherwise, the 3-month waiting period applies.

For More Information

Check your town website, your local library, or your local phone book to contact your local officials. Your town clerk can provide the names of political party chairs of local town committees.

Also check:

League of Women Voters of CT

(www.lwvct.org)

- Directory of State and Federal Elected Officials
- Resources for voters
- Links to local Leagues

Secretary of the State

(www.sots.ct.gov)

Office of the Secretary of the State
Legislation and Elections Administration
Division (LEAD)
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 509-6100; 1-800-540-3764
TDD: (860) 509-6191; 1-800-303-3161
Fax: (860) 509-6127

What is the League of Women Voters?

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League members are men and women of every age, race, background, and political perspective. They believe that informed citizens are essential to effective government in a democracy.

The League is divided into two branches: the LWVCT, Inc. that advocates for good government and the LWVCT Education Fund, Inc., founded in 1974, a non-profit corporation recognized as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

For more information on the League of Women Voters of CT, for voters' guides, or to locate a local League in your area:

Phone: (203) 288-7996
Fax: (203) 288-7998
E-mail: lwvct@lwvct.org
Website: www.lwvct.org

This publication
is funded by
the family and friends of the late
Rae Webber

Revised August 2013

Registering and Voting in Connecticut



League of Women Voters®
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Education Fund, Inc.

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Do I Have to Register to Vote?

You must be registered in order to vote in all elections and primaries. Former state residents who moved to another state after its registration deadline and are otherwise eligible may vote for President and Vice President using a "Presidential Ballot" available from the town clerk in their former Connecticut town.

Who May Register To Vote?

In Connecticut, you must complete a voter registration form to become eligible to vote in federal, state, and local elections.

- Any U.S. citizen who is a Connecticut resident and will be 18 years old by Election Day may register to vote.
- Any 17-year-old who will be 18 years old by Election Day and who otherwise meets the qualifications of an elector may register and vote in a primary.
- If you have been convicted of a felony but have been released from confinement and parole, you can consult the registrar of voters in the town where you live for more information about registering to vote or restoring your voting rights.

Where and When Do I Register?

You may register to vote as soon as you become a resident of any Connecticut town or city. There is no waiting period, but there are deadlines.

You may get a voter registration form at any town or city hall, public libraries, the Department of Motor Vehicles, other state agency offices, or via the "for voters" page at our website www.lwvct.org. Or call your registrars or municipal clerk to have a voter registration form sent to your home. Mail or hand in your form to the registrar of voters of the town or city where you reside.

If you have a disability, your registrar of voters will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Primary

- Your mailed-in application must be postmarked or received by your registrar of voters, or by a voter registration agency, by the 5th day before a primary.
- You may apply in person to your registrar until 12:00 noon on the last business day before a primary.

General Election

- If you mail in your application, it must be postmarked or received by a voter registration agency by the 14th day before an election.
- You may register in person at the registrar of voters' office in your town/city hall up to 7 days before an election.
- Special exceptions exist for people who move, become citizens, or turn 18 after these deadlines.

Any unregistered Connecticut resident who is otherwise eligible to vote, or any registered voter who has moved to a new town, may register and vote in person on Election Day at the town's Election Day Registration location. Contact your local registrars of voters' office for information about location, hours of operation, and ID requirements.

When Should I Submit a New Registration Card?

You must re-register when you move to a new town within Connecticut. You should also fill out a new voter registration form if you change your name, change your party affiliation, or move within your town. A change of address may affect your voting location.

Who May Vote in a Primary?

A primary is an election within a political party for the nomination to represent it in the next general election. The parties set their own rules and presently allow only their own members to vote in a primary.

If you are a registered voter with a party affiliation and will be at least 18 by the next general election, you can vote in your party's primary before that election. You can check with your registrars of voters to confirm your party affiliation.

Do I Have to Show Identification to Register?

Connecticut's voter registration application requests either a DMV ID number or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you go in person to fill out a registration form at your town or city hall, you should bring your identification with you to facilitate the registration process. However, you are not required to show any identification when you apply to register by mail or at a registration drive conducted by any non-governmental organization, such as the League of Women Voters.

If you appear at your town's Election Day Registration location to register and vote, you will need to supply proof of identity and residence. You should contact your local registrars of voters' office for information on acceptable identification.

Do I Have to Show Identification at the Polls?

You will be asked to provide identification each time you go to the polls. For most voters, acceptable polling place identification includes:

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a driver's license or non-driver DMV photo ID

- a Social Security card
- any other "preprinted form of identification" with your name and address, name and signature, or name and photo. Examples include a student ID, credit card, paycheck, or a US Passport.
- an affidavit of identity, signed under penalty of false statement.

If you did not provide verifiable identification when registering to vote, signing an affidavit of identity is not allowed. In this case, the only acceptable forms of polling-place identification are

- a current and valid photo ID that shows your name and address
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government document or check that shows your name and current address.

If you appear at the Election Day Registration location and your identification does not include proof of residency, you will need to submit something that shows your current address.

Where and When Do I Vote?

You are assigned to a specific polling place according to your home address. Contact your local registrars for the location of your polling place. You can also look up your polling place online via the "for voters" page of our website www.lwvct.org.

State and national elections are held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. Municipal elections, held in odd-numbered years, are scheduled in November in most Connecticut towns. Some towns hold elections in May.