

Disclaimer:

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:

1. What do I do if it is after 6:00 AM and the polling place is not open?

Immediately contact the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission to report the problem. You can find additional information online at <http://www.ct.gov/seec/site/default.asp>

2. What do I do if it is after 6:00 AM and the polling place is open, but the voting machines have not arrived?

Immediately contact the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission to report the problem. You can find additional information online at <http://www.ct.gov/seec/site/default.asp>

If the polling place is open at 6:00 a.m. but the voting machines have not arrived, call headquarters immediately. Voters should be permitted to vote by paper ballots (preferably) or by provisional ballots if there are no machines available. Provisional ballots are a LAST resort.

3. What do I do if it is 8:00 PM and my polling place is closed or closing and they will not let me vote?

Immediately contact the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission to report the problem. You can find additional information online at <http://www.ct.gov/seec/site/default.asp>

4. There are equipment problems at my polling place and I cannot vote. What should I do?

Encourage the voter to ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot or by provisional ballot. If a caller reports problems with machines, immediately contact the Electronic Frontier Foundation representative at the call center to walk you through the appropriate steps to solve the machine problem.

5. I changed my name after registering but before the Election Day. Can I vote?

Connecticut voters must submit their change of name to the Registrar of Voters at least five weeks prior to Election Day. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-42a(b)**

Alternatively, a voter may re-register to vote by mail using his or her new name at least fourteen days prior to an election.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-23a, 9-23g(d)(2), 9-23g(d)(3)

A voter may re-register in person using his or her new name no later than noon on the last business day before the election. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-23a**

As a last resort, voters are encouraged to bring identification with their former names.

Identification and Provisional Ballots:

1. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Yes.

A voter who presented proper identification when registering by mail can vote by regular ballot once the voter signs a statement attesting to his or her identity. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-23r(b), 9-261**

If the voter, who registered by mail, did not present acceptable identification at that time, the voter may vote by provisional ballot in an election for federal office. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-23r(a), 9-23r(d)**

If possible, a voter should be encouraged to go and get some form of acceptable identification and NOT cast a provisional ballot.

2. I am a registered voter who is not on the registry list at my polling place. Can I vote?

Confirm that the voter is eligible to vote (i.e., meets the age, criminal status, citizenship and residency requirements) and that the voter registered in time to vote in this election. Next, using the online poll locator tool, available at www.vote411.org, make sure the voter is at the correct polling place.

If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, but the voter's name does not appear on the registry list, direct the voter to contact the registrar of voters to determine if the voter's name can be restored to the registry list or transferred from the registry list at another polling place. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-35, 9-42, 9-232l(a)**

If the voter still is not on the registry list, let the voter know that he or she can vote by provisional ballot in an election for federal office. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-232l(a)**

3. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID. What do I do?

Alert a commander immediately to report the problem. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote by a REGULAR ballot (unless the voter is a first time voter who registered to vote by mail and has not previously provided a copy of their ID, in which case they can vote by provisional ballot). **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-23r(b), 9-26l**

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the registrar of voters' office for that municipality. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

4. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Provisional ballots are a LAST resort and are only available in Connecticut in an election for federal office. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-232i through 9-232o, inclusive**

The moderator at the polling place should provide the voter with a provisional ballot once the voter has properly applied for one. The voter should mark the provisional ballot according to his or her choices and fold the provisional ballot in the presence of the moderator. The voter should deposit the provisional ballot into a serially-numbered envelope provided by the moderator. The moderator should provide the voter with a receipt so that the voter can later verify whether the provisional ballot was counted. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-232l, 9-232m**

Provisional ballots must be verified and counted within six days of the Election Day, according to procedures prescribed under Connecticut law. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232n**

Where to Vote:

1. Where do I vote (for voters who have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations at www.vote411.org. Contact the registrar of voters to determine polling place locations in the voter's voting district.

2. I have moved to a different polling place within the same municipality or voting district and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within the same voting district, the voter should go to the appropriate polling place for that voting district. If the registry list still reflects the

voter's old address, the voter will be asked to update his or her registration. The voter must submit a signed request to the registrar of voters stating the voter's present address, the date the voter moved and the address at which the voter was last registered. The voter must also provide a written statement that he or she has not voted at any other polling place prior to the time of the request. If the voter's updated address is within the voting district and if the voter's name appears on the registry list at his or her former address, the voter must be permitted to vote. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-35(e), REGS., CONN. STATE AGENCIES § 9-35-2(a) (2008)**

3. I have moved to a different polling place outside of my former municipality or voting district and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

A Connecticut voter who moves outside of the municipality in which he or she is registered is no longer eligible to vote in the former municipality. The voter must register in his or her new municipality in order to be eligible to vote. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-12(a)**

If the registration deadlines have not passed, encourage the voter to register to vote in his or her new municipality. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-19b(a), 9-19b(b), 9-23a(b), 9-23g(d)(2), 9-23g(d)(3)**

Assistance at the polls:

1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?

Connecticut law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters, but some are not. If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the disabled, alert a commander so that an attorney can contact the registrar of voters to report the problem immediately. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-168d, 9-168e**

2. I am blind, physically disabled, or can not read English and require assistance at the polls in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above can take a person of their choice into the voting booth (except an employer, an agent of employer, or an officer or an agent of their union). Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to disabled or language minority voters if asked to do so by the voter. If a poll worker refuses to allow a disabled or language minority voter to bring a person of their choice into the voting booth alert a commander. Where there is no Legal Command Center, contact the registrar of voters for that municipality. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-264(a), 9-236b**

3. May I request general assistance from election officials at the polling place when I vote?

Yes. Voters have a right to examine sample ballots, receive instructions and demonstrations on the use of the voting machines, and receive further instructions on the manner of voting once inside the voting booth. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-236b, 9-255, 9-260, 9-261(d)**

Miscellaneous Issues:

1. What do I do if I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls?

All poll monitors, including Election Protection volunteers, must stay at least 75 feet from the entrance to the polling place. They can solicit you if they comply with this rule. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-236**

If they are violating the 75-foot requirement, alert a commander to report the problem. Let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess if calling an election official is necessary.

2. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Any voter who has already returned an absentee ballot and who finds he is able to vote in person must request that his or her ballot be withdrawn. This request must be made to the town clerk before 10:00 a.m. on Election Day. The voter must sign the absentee ballot envelope, which will remain sealed and will be marked “rejected.” The clerk will give the voter a signed statement that the voter can show to the moderator at the polls to vote in person. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-159o**

3. What do I do if there are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters?

Intimidation of or interference with voters violates Connecticut law. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-236(a), 9-366**

Alert a commander immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. If the voter agrees, put them on hold while you call the Legal Command Center so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible. After hanging up with the caller, call back the Legal Command Center and fill the attorneys there in on the details. Also, alert the call center manager.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, contact the registrar of voters for that municipality. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem. Again, be sure to alert the call center manager.

4. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Maybe. Under Connecticut state law, your right to vote is suspended upon conviction of a felony and commitment to confinement. You have the right to a restoration of your voting rights following your release from confinement and, if applicable, your discharge from parole. You must submit proof of your release or discharge. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-46a(a), § 9-46a(b)(1)**

5. I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?

College students may register and vote where they go to school provided that they consider that location their voting residence. A voting residence is the residence the student claims as their home. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-12(a)**

Students must be held to the SAME eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student has been turned away at the polls, ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements (age, criminal status, residency and citizenship requirements) and that they have registered on time for this election. If so, alert a commander to dispatch an attorney to the location and to contact a local election official.

6. Someone has challenged my right to vote? What should I do?

Any voter who is challenged as to his or her identity or residency must prove his or her identity or residence either by the sworn testimony of another voter or by evidence satisfactory to the moderator. **Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-170, 9-171, 9-172**

Any challenge as to a voter's identity or residence must be made under oath, administered by the moderator. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232(b)**

If the moderator accepts the challenge and the voter cannot vote by regular ballot, the voter may request a challenged ballot by submitting an application to the moderator. The application must include an affidavit by the voter that he or she is eligible to vote at the election. **Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-232d**