

What is the difference between Early Voting and Absentee Ballots?

As always you can go to the polling place on Election Day to cast your ballot for your chosen candidate. With the passing of early voting, you have more options. All ballots are counted on Election Day.

How does Early Voting Work? In Newtown, Early Voting is being held at the Registrar of Voters' office in the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street. You will enter the office and show ID so we can verify your eligibility to voter. For the Primary we will also check your party privileges. Once verified you will be given a ballot and an envelope to put your completed ballot in.

You will be instructed to fill in the ovals of your chosen candidates. Remember you may skip any race you do not have a chosen candidate for. Once you have finished voting you will put your ballot in the envelope. You must sign the envelope which states you have not voted, nor will you vote again for this election. You then bring your envelope to the attendant where they will mark you off as having voted and check to make sure you have signed the envelope. If the envelope is not signed your ballot is not counted so this step is for your protection. You will then put the envelope into the receptacle. At the end of the night, we balance the ballots to the list of ballots cast and they are secured until Election Day morning when they will be put through the tabulator and counted. It is very easy and safe.

Many have used absentee ballots for years. You can apply for an absentee ballot by mail, email or in person at the Town Clerk's office. They are open 8-4:30 Monday through Friday.

Once you receive your ballot you should fill in the ovals of your chosen candidates. You will then put your ballot into the inner envelope and sign the sealed envelope. Once you sign the inner envelope you will put the ballot into the envelope with the return address on it. You will seal it and you can mail it back to the Town Clerk's office, drop it in the Ballot box at the entrance to the Municipal Center or bring it back into the Town Clerk's office to turn it in. Occasionally absentee ballots are rejected. If the inner envelope is not signed with your ballot inside of the envelope it must be rejected. If more than one ballot is in the envelope, it will be rejected. If the ballot is not received by the Town Clerk's office by 8pm on Election Day, it will be rejected.

There are directions in the envelope when you receive the ballot so you should read them over if you have any questions.

We are hopeful that we will have a good turnout at early voting for this Primary even though it is decided already. We know the process works and is secure but would like to be able to judge the timing to help us plan for staffing accordingly. It is also a good chance to see if early voting is a good fit for you, the voter.

This November is the Presidential Election. Last time we had over 90% turnout and won the Democracy Cup for highest turnout in our size category. We are hoping to win that cup back this November. We need your help to do this. Early Voting will make voting easier for many people. It will help with planning your obligations and should be quicker and easier than voting on Election Day. Please give it a try, give us feedback and spread the word.