



Application for Ongoing Absentee Ballot Status

State election law provides that a voter who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identifies as having a disability may apply for ongoing absentee voter status. A voter who qualifies will automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election, municipal election and any other election for which the voter is eligible to vote and need not submit a request for each election.

Application Received
(Date/Time)

Application Accepted/
Entered in CVR
(Date/Time)

1. Full Name of Registered Voter Requesting the Ballot _____

2. Residence Address of Voter _____
(Street Address) (Municipality)

3. Voter's Date of Birth ___ / ___ / _____

4. Contact Information – Please complete. Clerk will use only to notify the voter if there is a problem with the application or ballot.
Daytime Phone Number _____
Email Address _____

5. **Primary Ballot requested (Required for primary election only):** A voter not enrolled in a political party may participate in a party's primary without enrolling in the party. An unenrolled voter may vote only one party's primary ballot at each primary election. Indicate the party for which you want to receive a ballot. NOTE: A voter enrolled in a party will receive the ballot for that party regardless of the party indicated below.

Democratic Green Independent Libertarian No Labels Republican Referendum Only

6. Mailing address at which voter will receive absentee ballot: _____

7. Voter must check the applicable box(es) below indicating the reason(s) the voter qualifies as an ongoing absentee voter (Check all that apply):

- I will be at least sixty-five (65) years of age by the next election
- I have a disability

I certify, under penalty of law, that the information provided on this application is true.

8. Signature of Voter _____ Date _____

AIDE CERTIFICATE (Must be Completed if Applicant was Assisted as Designated Below)

If the voter received assistance in reading or signing this application, the person who assisted the voter must complete and sign this certificate.

I helped this voter: read the application sign the application read and sign the application

Signature of Aide _____ Printed Name of Aide _____

The Municipal Clerk or Secretary of State shall remove a voter's ongoing absentee voter status only for specific reasons stated in law. These include (1) Voter requests in writing that ongoing status be terminated; (2) Voter dies or becomes disqualified; (3) Voter is cancelled in the central voter registration system; (4) Voter's absentee ballot is returned as undeliverable; (5) Voter does not vote by absentee ballot in a general election (election of federal, state and county official occurring in November of even-numbered year); or (6) Voter's status is changed to inactive in the central voter registration system because the voter failed to respond to a change of address mailing. **If a voter with ongoing absentee ballot status moves out of a municipality, the voter's ongoing status is also terminated. The voter must submit a new application to the voter's new residence municipality.**



Department of the Secretary of State

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Julie L. Flynn
Deputy Secretary of State

To: Municipal Clerks
From: Melissa Packard, Director of Election Administration, Audits and Administrative Services
Re: Ongoing Absentee Voting Implementation
Date: January 22, 2024

Beginning February 1, 2024, voters who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identify as a voter with a disability (or who meet both conditions) can submit a written application to request ongoing absentee voter status. This means that after submitting the application, the voter does **not** need to submit an application for each election; instead the voter will automatically receive an absentee ballot for each ensuing statewide election, municipal election and any other election for which the voter is entitled to vote.

The law further provides that the voter's ongoing absentee voter status may only be terminated by the Clerk or the Secretary of State upon:

- (1) The written request of the voter;
- (2) The death or disqualification of the voter;
- (3) The cancellation of the voter's registration record in the central voter registration system;
- (4) The return of an absentee ballot as undeliverable;
- (5) The failure of the voter to vote by absentee ballot for a general election; or
- (6) The designation of the voter's status as inactive in the central voter registration system.

A voter applying for this status must do so in writing using the form designed by the Secretary of State and must originally sign the application and submit it to the Municipal Clerk. A copy of the application is provided with this memo and will be posted on the Secretary of State's Upcoming Elections web page. The voter must provide a telephone number and/or email address so that the voter can be notified if the voter's status is terminated because the voter has moved out of the municipality.

Initial Implementation

When the State of Maine implements its new CVR, ongoing absentee voter status will be fully automated with the new CVR. Training on this functionality will be provided when municipal officials receive training on the new system (see CVR memo provided in this mailing).

Until the new CVR goes live, Municipal Clerks will need to track applications using a "tickler" system, as follows:

- 1) When a voter submits a written, signed application on or after February 1, 2024, issue the voter a ballot for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary election (if the voter is eligible and has not already been issued a ballot for the election). The request method for the voter should be Written Voter.
- 2) Take a photocopy of the application. The copy should be used as the voter's application for the current (3/5/24 election) and the original should be put into a folder for future elections. Hold onto the original applications. You will receive further information on how to enter these requests into the new CVR so that the request will be populated automatically for each election until the voter's ongoing status is cancelled.