

## Voting by Mail

**On July 6th the Governor signed new legislation - An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID. All registered voters qualify to vote by mail in the fall 2020 elections.**

The legislation requires the Secretary of State to mail an application, in advance of both fall elections, to all registered voters who have not already applied for a vote by mail ballot (see additional information on dates applications will be mailed). The application is pre-addressed and postage paid to be returned to the Wrentham Town Clerk's Office as is the ballot return envelope.

**ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL RECEIVE AN APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AROUND JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

	State Primary	State Election
Approximate date of postcard application mailing	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	September 14th

**MOST VOTERS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT - BUT ALL VOTERS QUALIFY FOR AN EARLY VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT**

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### **Deadlines for Vote by Mail applications to be received at Town Clerk's Office**

Primary - September 1st

Wednesday, August 26th - 5PM

Presidential - November 3rd

Wednesday, October 28th - 5PM

**APPLY EARLY** - to allow ample time for processing your application and for the postal services to deliver your ballot to you. If you are concerned about applying too early - please note that voters can hold on to their ballot and return it during the week prior to the election. Voters who receive a vote by mail ballot but do not return it prior to election day may appear to vote in person on election day to cast a ballot. Any voter that has returned a vote by mail ballot (or voted early in person) cannot vote on Election Day.

Applications can be returned by US mail (postage is pre-paid on the post card application mailed to you), placed in the **black** drop box outside of Town Hall (located on the right side of the main entrance) or scanned & emailed to [townclerk@wrentham.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@wrentham.ma.us).

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### **[TRACK YOUR APPLICATION AND BALLOT](#)**

Voters who have applied for a vote by mail ballot may use this link to track the status of their application as well as their ballot status (mailed / received back). Please note that we anticipate a large volume of applications (there are almost 9,000 voters in Wrentham) and request you **allow at least 2 weeks before checking the status of your application and allow a minimum of 10 days to receive your ballot from the status date of mailing.** Please DO NOT

contact the Clerk's Office to check on your status until the recommended amount of time listed above has passed. Inquiries should be sent to [townclerk@wrentham.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@wrentham.ma.us).

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### **SELECTION OF BALLOT TYPES - PRIMARY ELECTION ONLY**

In a primary election, a voter who is NOT registered in a political party (Unenrolled or commonly known as Independent) must specify the party ballot type of choice on the application to vote by mail. We are unable to process applications for Unenrolled / Independent voters who do not select a party ballot type on their application. Unenrolled / Independent voters who select a party ballot type do not become registered in that party - they remain Unenrolled / Independent voters. Voters who are registered in one of the 4 political parties (Democrat, Republican, Green-Rainbow, Libertarian) MUST take that party ballot and are not given a choice of ballot type - [verify your party enrollment](#) or [change your party enrollment](#) prior to the deadline to register to vote and before applying for a mail in ballot.

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### **RETURN OF VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS**

Mailed Ballots include a postage pre-paid return ballot envelope addressed to the Town Clerk's Office. You may return your ballot by mail (please see deadlines below) or hand deliver it by placing it in the **black** drop box outside of Town Hall (located on the right side of the main entrance) - deadline is close of polls on Election Day. Ballots can NOT be returned to polling location on Election Day - they must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office for processing before they are delivered by Town Clerk's staff to the polls to be cast on Election Day. Voters who receive a vote by mail ballot but do not return it prior to Election Day may appear to vote in person to cast a ballot on Election Day. Any voter that has returned a vote by mail ballot (or voted early in person) is not permitted to appear to vote in person on Election Day.

### **DEADLINES FOR BALLOTS TO BE RETURNED AND COUNTED**

**State Primary** - All ballots must be received at Town Hall by **8:00 pm** on **September 1st**

**State Election** -

- Ballots returned in the drop box must be received by **8:00 pm** on **November 3rd**
- Ballots returned by mail must be **postmarked by November 3rd** AND **received by** the Town Clerk by **5:00 pm** on **November 6th**.

Please note that US Postal delivery services are not consistent and can range from 3 to 11 days. We recommend voters return their ballots in the **black** drop box outside of the Town Hall (located on the right side of the main entrance) by 8:00 pm on Election Day to ensure it arrives back to us in time to count.

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## **Early Voting (by Mail and In Person) FAQs:**

### **If I applied for a vote by mail ballot can I appear to vote in person at an early voting site or at the polls on Election Day?**

If your vote by mail ballot has not been received back to the Town Clerk's Office – YES. You may still appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day. These voters will be required to complete additional paperwork and will need to show an ID. If your mail in ballot is received after you voted early in person or at the polls on Election Day that ballot will be rejected and will not be counted.

If a vote by mail ballot has already been received back by the Town Clerk's Office - NO. A returned vote by mail ballot is considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, early in person or in person at the polls on Election Day.

### **If I vote early in person can I appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day?**

NO - If you appeared to vote early in person your ballot will be considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, or in person at the polls on Election Day. Voting in Person at the Polls after submitting an early ballot is prohibited as outlined in 950 CMR 4 7.19.

### **When & how is an early voter's ballot cast?**

All vote by mail and early voting in person ballots will be opened and inserted into the tabulators at the polls on Election Day. These ballots will be kept secured, locked, and unexamined until the polls are closed on Election Day.