



A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under Connecticut Law

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

In Connecticut, a person is eligible to register to vote if she is:

- At least 18 years old (or will be 18 years old on or before election day).
- A United States citizen
- A bona fide resident of the Connecticut town in which she is applying.¹

Connecticut restricts the following individuals from voting:

- Persons who have been convicted of a felony, unless they have completed their sentences, parole, paid their fines, and had their voting rights restored by the registrar.²
- Persons who are “mentally incompetent.”³

Any person being held at a community correctional center or a correctional institution, whose voting rights have not been denied, (people who are awaiting trial or people who have been convicted of a misdemeanor) shall be deemed to be absent from the town or city of which he is an inhabitant for purposes of voting.⁴ They may apply for an absentee ballot.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?

In Connecticut, an application will be rejected unless it includes the following minimum information:

1. Full name.
2. Date of birth.
3. Residence address.
4. Statement of U.S. Citizenship, provided the registrars of voters have contacted such applicant to provide an opportunity to answer such question,
5. Applicant’s signature and the date.⁵

An application may also be rejected if the Secretary of State determines it is “substantially defective.”⁶

If the applicant is registering for the first time by mail, she may include a copy of one of the following to avoid being required to produce this ID at the polls:

- A current driver’s license or other photo identification.
- A utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government.⁷

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS?

In Connecticut, the deadline for submitting registrations in person before primaries is noon on the last business day before the primary. If the application is mailed in, it must be postmarked on or before the 5th day before the primary.⁸

¹ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-12

² Conn. Stat. Gen. § 46a

³ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-12

⁴ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-14a

⁵ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-23g(e).

⁶ id.

⁷ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-23r

⁸ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-23a.



A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under Connecticut Law

The deadline for submitting registrations in person before elections is the 7th day before the election. If the application is mailed in, it must be postmarked by the 14th day before the election.⁹

WHAT ARE THE STATE RULES GOVERNING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES?

- A. *Are there restrictions on copying completed voter registration applications prior to submitting them to the registrar?*
There are no restrictions listed in the Connecticut election code.
- B. *Are voter registration groups subject to time limits for submitting the voter registration applications they have collected?*
There is no specific time limit mentioned, but the election code requires anyone to whom a voter registration is entrusted by the applicant to mail or deliver the application “immediately.”¹⁰
- C. *Are voter registration groups prohibited from putting identifying marks on completed voter registration applications?*
There are no such restrictions in the Connecticut election code.
- D. *Are there special rules requiring a third party to sign her name to the completed voter registration application?*
Third parties are not required to sign their names to the applications. However, if the applicant can not sign the application, she may authorize another person as her agent to assist her. The agent must sign the applicant’s name followed by the word “by” and then the agent’s signature.
- E. *Does the state require voter registration organizations to register or file other information detailing its voter registration activities?*
No.
- F. *Does the state require any training in order to conduct voter registration drives?*
No.
- G. *Does the state have restrictions on who may help others register to vote?*
There are no Connecticut laws that place restrictions on who may assist others to register.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR CORRECTING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS?

- A. *If a voter registration application is incomplete, may the voter registration drive write the missing information on the application with the consent of the applicant?*
This is not addressed in the Connecticut election code. This answer will be updated when the Connecticut Secretary of State responds to a Project Vote call seeking information on the topic.
- B. *How may an applicant correct an incomplete application after it has been submitted to county election officials?*
If the question on U.S citizenship is not filled in, the registrar must contact the applicant for the information. There is no formal provision that requires registrars to contact applicants for the other information on the application.

⁹ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-23g(d)(2).

¹⁰ Conn. Stat. Gen § 9-23g (b) (Mail-in application for admission), Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-23n (Definition of voter registration agency) 2



2101 S. Main St. • Little Rock, AR 72206 • 1.800.546.8683 • 501.376.3952 fax • www.projectvote.org

A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under Connecticut Law

If the voter registration application is not approved, the town registrar of voters will send notice to the applicant explaining the reasons he or she has not been admitted as an elector.¹¹ The applicant may appeal the denial. Notice of an appeal must be in writing and delivered to the registrars or to the board for admission of electors. If the appeal is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision of the local registrars or board to the State Elections Enforcement Commission. This appeal must be in writing and filed within 14 days of the decision.¹²

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional legal or other competent advisers. Project Vote is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from the use of this information.

For more information, contact:

PROJECT VOTE

2101 S. Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72206
1-800-546-8683
www.projectvote.org

¹¹ Conn. Stat. Gen. § 9-30

¹² Conn. Stat. Gen. § 6-31f