

Absentee Voting and Accessibility

Promote the vote by educating people about their rights when it comes to absentee voting. Protect the vote by ensuring that these rules are followed in your community.

Federal and state law requires every city and township to provide accessible registration and voting locations for voters who are disabled or otherwise unable to get to the polls.

If you are unable to get to the polls on Election Day, you may vote by absentee ballot. Any registered voter, for any of the following reasons, is eligible to cast an absentee ballot:

- ▶ Students, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- ▶ Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, government employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- ▶ Workers who for reasons of employment will not be able to vote on Election Day
- ▶ Physically disabled persons
- ▶ Persons on vacation
- ▶ Persons age 65 or older
- ▶ Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on Election Day or at least four days prior to the election
- ▶ Persons with a death or funeral in the family within three days before the election
- ▶ Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial
- ▶ Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons
- ▶ Persons who cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs.

These are only some of the criteria for obtaining absentee ballots. Each state has its own requirements for absentee voting and provides information on how to obtain an absentee ballot. Use the resources listed below to learn your state's procedure for casting a vote by absentee ballot.

Resources for More Information on Absentee Voting

- ▶ **State-by-State Guide to Absentee Voting** to identify each state's requirements for absentee voting and access related forms or applications - www.iop.harvard.edu
- ▶ **Federal Voting Assistance Program** for Uniformed Services members and overseas citizens - <http://www.fvap.gov/>
- ▶ **US State Department** 2008 Absentee Voting Information for Americans Abroad - http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info_2964.html