

How to Apply for an Absentee Ballot

Absentee Ballots are available at the Town or City Clerk's office

Voters may print out an Absentee Ballot Application and mail it in or come into the Town or City Clerk's office to fill out an application.

The Absentee Ballot Application is for use by:

• **A registered voter** who will be unable to vote at the polls on election day due to:

- (1) absence from your city or town during normal polling hours; or
- (2) physical disability preventing you from going to the polling place; or
- (3) religious belief;

OR

• A **non-registered voter** who is:

- (1) a Massachusetts citizen absent from the state; or
- (2) an active member of the armed forces or merchant marines, their spouse or dependent; or
- (3) a person confined in a correctional facility or a jail, except if by reason of felony conviction.

To download an absentee ballot application, go to

http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee_ballot.pdf

A family member can fill out the absentee ballot application to have the ballot sent to the voter.

To download that application, go to

http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absente_ballot_fam.pdf

All absentee ballots returned by mail or hand delivered to the Town or City Clerk's office must be received before the polls close on Election Day. Ballots may be returned to the Clerk's office only. **They cannot be accepted at the polling locations on Election Day.**

Please note: Absentee ballots that are mailed to the voter can either be mailed back to the city or town clerk or hand-delivered to city or town hall by the voter or a family member. G. L. c. 54, § 92. A family member is defined in General Laws chapter 50 section 1 as:

- a spouse or any person living in the same household with the voter (even if they are not related); OR
- in-laws, father, mother, sister or brother of the whole or half blood, son, daughter, adopting parent or adopted child, stepparent or stepchild, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent or grandchild.