



EARLY VOTING

WHY, WHAT, WHEN AND HOW

ANNA DICKERSON - REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

PENNELL HAMILTON - REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

WHO IS A REGISTRAR OF VOTERS?

- In Connecticut elections are managed locally
 - Each town has at least 2 Registrars of Voters – one from each party
- The Registrars are responsible for:
 - Maintaining the Voter Rolls
 - Conducting an annual canvass of voters
 - Conducting Voter Outreach
 - **Running Elections**
 - Early Voting
 - Supervised Absentee Voting
 - Election Day
- Registrars must:
 - Pass a set of Registrar certification courses
 - Maintain Election Moderator certification
 - Complete annual continuing education hours
- Registrars Run for election every 2 – 4 years



RUNNING ELECTIONS IS COMPLEX

- Elections in CT are designed to be:
 - Fair - **Every** vote is counted
 - Transparent - All election activity is done in full public view
 - Accessible - Every citizen eligible to vote is afforded the chance to vote
 - Inclusive - Every voter is treated the same
- CT General Statutes – Title 9 governs elections
 - Has 760 different sections
 - Printed out, covers several hundred pages of material
- Woodbridge has approximately 7,000 registered voters
 - Two Districts
 - One Polling Place



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- New Voter Registration System
 - June 2024
- New Tabulators
 - November 2024 (?)
- Early Voting
 - April 2, 2024



DEFINITION OF EARLY VOTING

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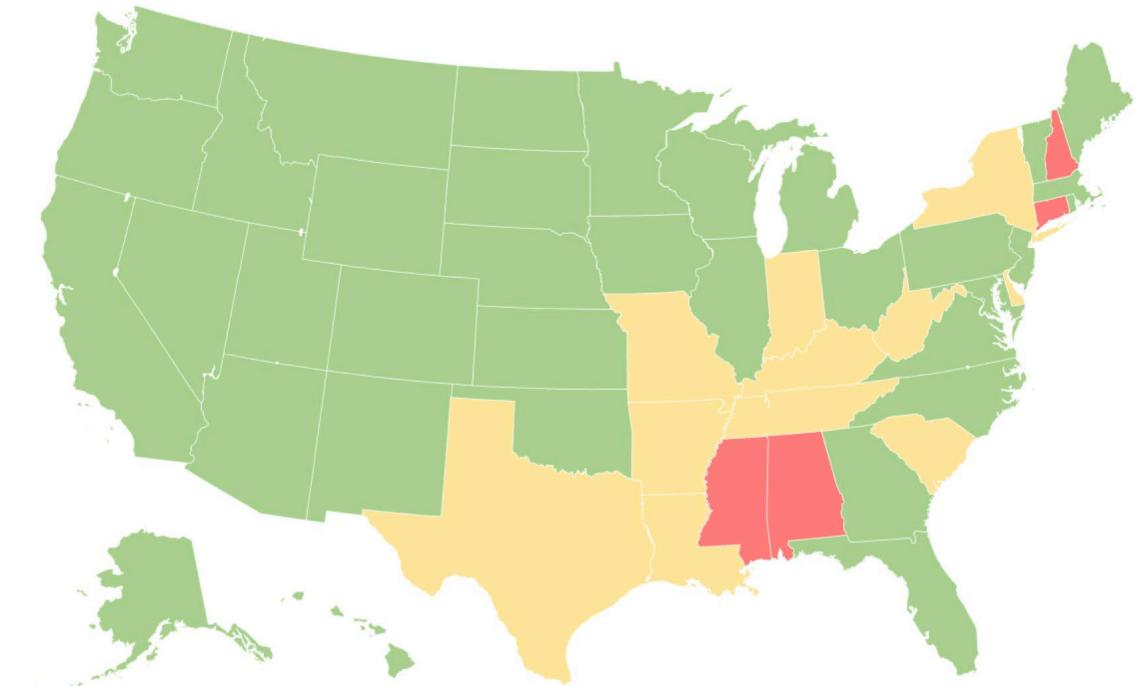
Early Voting allows any registered voter to cast a ballot in person before the day of an election without providing a reason.”

Source: Proposals for Early In-Person Voting in the State of Connecticut – The Center for Election Innovation



As of 2022 46 States had Early Voting

<p>Options to vote early in-person and by mail available to all voters.</p>	AK AZ CA ⁸ CO ⁸ DC ⁹ FL GA HI ⁸ ID IL IA KS ME	MD MA MI MN MT NE NV ⁸ NJ NM NC ND ¹⁰ OH OK	OR ⁸ PA RI SD UT ⁸ VT ⁸ VA WA ⁸ WI WY
<p>Option to vote early in-person available to all voters. Excuse required to vote by mail.</p>	AR DE IN KY	LA MO NY ¹¹ SC	TN TX WV
<p>No early in-person voting option available to all voters. Excuse required to vote by mail.</p>	AL CT ¹²	MS NH	



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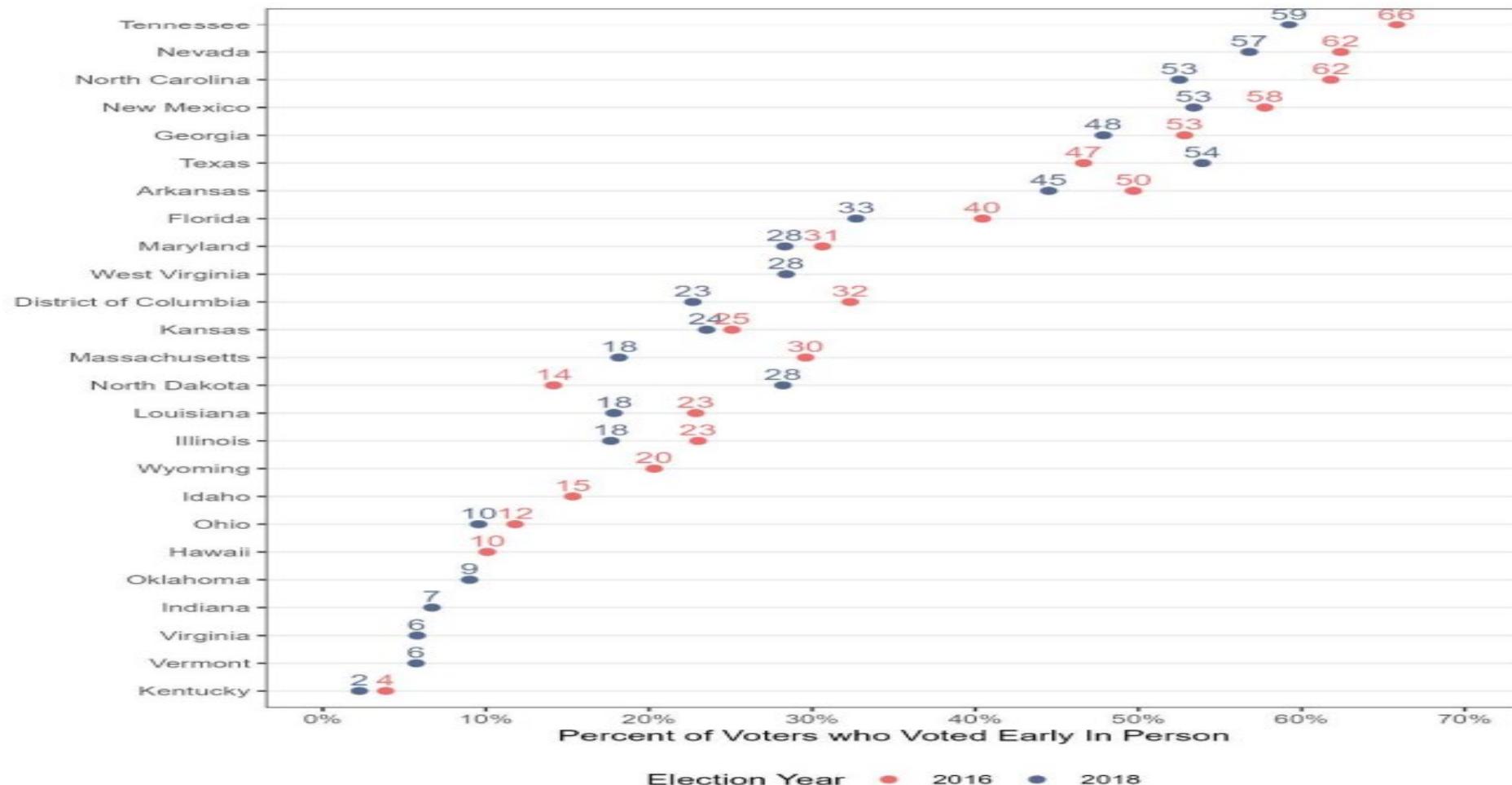
WHY EARLY VOTING?

- Convenience
- Accessibility
- Election Integrity



DO VOTERS USE EARLY VOTING?

Figure 1. Percent of Voters Who Voted Early In Person in 2016 and 2018



Source: Proposals for Early In-Person Voting in the State of Connecticut – The Center for Election Innovation





Early Voting in Connecticut

EARLY VOTING VERSUS ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Early Voting

Any registered voter may vote early in person. When an early vote is done, the ballot is considered as having been cast.

Absentee Ballot

Can only be used under specific circumstances. The ballot is not considered as cast until 10AM election day.



EARLY VOTING VERSUS ABSENTEE BALLOTS

	Early Voting	Absentee Voting
Who may use?	Any Registered Voter	<p>Any Registered Voter who meets a specified condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member of the Armed Forces• Out of Town on Election Day• Sickness prevents you from voting on election day• Religious beliefs prevents you from performing secular duties on election day• A Physical Disability prevents you from voting in person on Election Day
When	Generally, Early voting begins 15 days prior to a general election, 8 days prior to a primary and 5 days prior to a Presidential Preference Primary or Special Election.	In person or by-mail from approximately 45 days prior to an election.



EARLY VOTING VERSUS ABSENTEE BALLOTS

	Early Voting	Absentee Voting
Process	Appear in person at the early voting Polling Place to receive and cast your ballot.	Must fill out an application and submit to the Town Clerk who will supply you with an absentee ballot which you must return in-person, in the official ballot box or by mail.
ID Requirements	Same as Election Day (ID with 2 of name, signature and picture or fill out an Affidavit).	The voter's application serves as an Affidavit.
Can a voter withdraw their ballot and Vote on Election day?	No – A voter's ballot is considered as cast at early voting.	Yes – A voter may withdraw their absentee ballot up to 10AM on election day.
If a voter passes away does their vote count?	Yes – A voter's ballot is considered as cast at early voting.	No – The ballot is not considered as cast until election day.



PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY - APRIL 2, 2024

- You must be a member of a Major Party to vote in the Primary.
 - The deadline to switch from a one Party to another Party was January 2.
- Unaffiliated Voters may switch to a Party up to Noon on Monday March 25 and vote early or Noon Monday April 1 and vote on election day.
- New Voters must register by Noon the day prior to when they want to vote.
 - At the General Election voters may register on the Same Day as they want to vote.



PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY – APRIL 2, 2024

Requirement	Presidential Preference Primary	2024 Deadline or Date
Start of Early Voting Period	5 days before ¹	March 26, 2024
End of Early Voting Period	2 days before	March 30, 2024
Duration	4 days ²	4 days
Weekday Hours	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday Hours	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Hours	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	N/A ³

Polling Location will be on the first floor of Town Hall.



EARLY VOTING PROCESS (IN PROCESS)

- Parking will be available at Town Hall in the Parking Lot at the side in front of Public Works.
 - Enter at the side door
 - Follow the signs to the Early Voting office
- You will be asked to sign in at the location.
- You will be asked for Identification or to Fill out an Affidavit.
- Your information will then be entered into the Voter Registration system.
 - A label with your information will be printed and affixed to a ballot envelope.



EARLY VOTING PROCESS (IN PROCESS)

- A ballot clerk will issue you with a proper ballot.
- You will proceed to a voting booth to fill out your ballot.
 - After completing your ballot place it in the Early Voting ballot envelope and seal it.
 - Sign the affirmation on the envelope.
 - Return to Computer Clerk for Completion
- Place the envelope in the Secure Container for your primary.
- Exit the Facility



WHAT AFFIRMATION WILL I SIGN?

Election Date: _____ Serial No. _____
(Optional)

Early Voting Depository Envelope

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read and sign the Affirmation below.

If you do not understand any of the statements set forth below please ask for assistance. Once you have completed the Affirmation, you must secretly mark your ballot in the presence of the Registrars of Voters or their designees, place your ballot in this Early Voting Depository Envelope, seal this envelope and deposit this envelope in the secure Early Voting Ballot Depository Receptacle provided at the Early Voting location.

AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty of false statement (perjury), that:

1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote at an election or primary prior to the day of such election or primary.
2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today.
3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.
4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.
5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of so voting.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____ Street No. and Name _____

_____ Town _____ CT, _____ Zip Code _____

WARNING: If you sign this statement even though you know it is untrue, you can be convicted and imprisoned up to 364 days, fined up to \$2,000, or both.



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY EARLY VOTING BALLOT??

- At the end of each Early Voting Day
 - The Early Voting moderator and staff will count the ballot envelopes and reconcile with the sign in log and ballot count.
 - The ballot envelopes will be sealed in a secure envelope.
 - The registrars, moderator and early voting staff will sign off on the count
- Ballots will be stored in the registrars' safe until election day,
 - Ballots will be placed in our Fireproof cabinets.
- On Election day Early Voting ballots along with Absentee ballots will be transported to the counting team by the Town clerk.
 - Early voting ballots will be counted in a fashion similar to absentee ballots.





QUESTIONS??