



Connecticut's Early Voting Law

What is early voting?

Early voting is the opportunity for voters to cast their ballots prior to election day. This can take many forms, depending on the state, such as allowing in-person early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, or all-mail voting.

In the 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly authorized in-person early voting for elections held after April 1, 2024. Under this schedule, the first election utilizing early voting will be the Presidential Preference Primary held April 2, 2024.

Additionally, a constitutional amendment authorizing no-excuse absentee voting will be submitted to voters during the 2024 general election.

Where can I vote early?

Under the new law, each town must establish at least one early voting location. This location must (1) be approved by the secretary of the state; (2) be accessible to voters with physical disabilities; and (3) if space is available, have parking spaces for elderly people and people with disabilities.

Towns with populations of at least 20,000 may offer additional locations if the town's legislative body authorizes it.

When can I vote?

The length of the early voting period depends on the type of election:

- 14 days for general elections;
- 7 days for most primaries; and
- 4 days for special elections and the presidential preference primary.

These periods generally include weekends (but not legal holidays) and end two days before the election to allow elections officials to prepare for election day. The opening date is shifted to accommodate this (e.g., for a general election, early voting opens at least 15 days before the election).

For all elections, early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Additionally, for general elections and most primaries, the locations must be open on the last Tuesday and Thursday of the period from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If I am not registered to vote, can I vote early in a general election?

Under existing law, a person can register to vote on election day for a general election through election-day registration. The new law adapts this system to allow individuals to register to vote any time during the early voting period for general elections and cast his or her vote the same day.

If I am not affiliated with a political party, can I vote early in a primary election?

The new law allows individuals who are not registered AND unaffiliated with a political party to register to vote and join a party during the early voting period for a primary. However, the individual must wait at least one day after enrolling before they can cast their vote in that primary. Voters who are already registered may only vote in the primary if they are affiliated with the party before the early voting period begins.

What do I need to do to vote early?

Under the new law, a person must:

- ✓ Appear in person at an early voting location when it is open;
- ✓ Identify themselves just as if they were voting in person on election day (e.g., showing adequate identification or signing an affidavit attesting to his or her identity); and
- ✓ Declare under oath that he or she has not previously voted in the election.

Once these steps are complete, the election official must verify the person's eligibility, and if the person is eligible, must provide an early voting ballot. The ballot includes an affirmation the person must sign that affirms this.



How will I know when early voting starts?

Every two years, the secretary of the state publishes a voter guide containing election-related information. The new law requires the guide to indicate the days that early voting will be available and the hours that early voting locations will be open.

Additionally, each municipality must publish this information and the location of the municipality's early voting sites in a local newspaper and on its website before the early voting period begins.

How did the state adopt early voting?

In 2019 and 2021, the legislature adopted, by majority vote, resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment allowing for in-person early voting. With this adoption, the proposed constitutional amendment was submitted to and approved by voters at the 2022 general election. During the 2023 legislative session, an early voting bill was signed into law ([PA 23-5](#)) and later amended, primarily adjusting the act's effective dates ([PA 23-204](#)).

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More**

Early Voting, [OLR Report 2023-R-0018](#)

[Early Voting Law Analysis \(PA 23-5\)](#)

[Early In-Person Voting](#), National Conference of State Legislatures

[Proposals for Early In-Person Voting in CT](#), Center for Election Innovation and Research

