

Absentee Voting & Voter Registration FAQ's

1. If I request an absentee ballot, do I have the option of picking it up from the town hall instead of having them mail it to me?

If the voter is requesting the absentee ballot electronically through the Maine Online Ballot Request System, the ballot will be mailed to the voter. There is no other option for delivery of the ballot when using this method of request.

A voter can download the application form provided on our website and submit the completed application to us and receive the ballots in person. This option will become available once we receive the ballots in early October. They have the option of voting here in the office and turning it back into us or taking the ballots home with them to vote and return either by use of the drop box, bringing it into the office directly or by mailing it to us.

2. If I request an absentee ballot and then change my mind and want to vote at the polls, can I?

A voter that has requested an absentee ballot can change their mind and vote in person as long as they **have not returned** their ballots to our office. Once the ballots are received by the Clerk, verified for completeness, and logged into the Maine Central Voter Registration System as accepted they are considered voted ballots. The incoming voting list notates an AV for absentee vote in the checkbox area of the incoming voter list to ensure that they do not vote in person.

3. How does "early voting" work? Can I come into town hall and complete a ballot before the 11/3 election? When can I do that if so? What does that entail?

Maine has absentee voting only, however it does allow a voter to come into the office and vote here but they will still seal the completed ballots in an envelope that will be secured in the vault until processed either during the approved early absentee processing times selected by the Clerk or on voting day. This option becomes available once the ballots are received in early October.

4. Please tell me the ways I can register to vote in Eliot? What are the forms of ID needed? Can I register to vote and then early vote the same day?

Residents of Eliot can register to vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office during our customer service hours which are currently Mon & Wed: 7:30am to 1:30pm, Tues & Thurs: 10:30am to 4:30pm. Closed on Friday. This office schedule due to COVID-19 has been extended through 09/30 and will be accessed again at that time. A resident can also register to vote via mail until the closed period begins at the close of business on the 15th day before the election which is Monday, October 19th. When in the 15-day period before the election it is necessary to register to vote in person. Whichever method of registering is chosen, we require proof of identity and residency. If they have a Maine Driver License or State ID Card with their Eliot address on it, this will provide all information needed. For identity we can also use a Passport, Military ID or Out of State Driver License, signed Social Security Card, or certified birth certificate but would need proof of residency in addition, such as a Bank Statement, government check, Utility Bill, Medical or Insurance Statements, or Rental Contract to name a few. A person can register to vote and absentee vote or receive an absentee ballot to take home on the same day as long as all identification and residency requirements are met.