

A note from the Clerk's office about the upcoming election and absentee ballots:

As many of you are aware, the June primary was postponed until July 14, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The Secretary of State's office has implemented many plans to help each town conduct elections safely, including providing hand sanitizer, masks, face shields and 'sneeze guards' for election workers. Having said that, with social distancing requirements and the need to clean voting booths, in person voting may take longer than usual. In order to keep everyone safe, we do need for voters to wear face coverings when they enter the Town House. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Maine is a state which has a "no-excuse" standard for absentee ballots, meaning that any registered voter can request an absentee ballot. There are many ways to request the ballot: you can stop by the town office and get an application; you can call the office and request a ballot for yourself, or request an application on behalf of someone else. You can go online at [www.maine.gov/sos/cec](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec) to request a ballot. Follow the link on the right to the "Absentee Ballot Request Service" Regardless of how you request one, a ballot will be mailed directly to you. You can return it via mail or drop it off at the Town office, up to and including the day of the election. If you choose to receive or return your ballot via mail, please allow for at least 5 business days for mail to be delivered. Ballots must be returned to the Town no later than 8 PM on Election Day.

Other deadlines to keep in mind; if you are currently not enrolled in a party, you will not be eligible to vote in the primaries. If you are unenrolled, you may enroll in a party any time, including on election day, by filling out a voter registration card. If you are currently enrolled in a particular party and wish to change your party affiliation, you must do so on or before June 29. Voters who have recently enrolled in a particular party must wait 3 months before switching parties again.

One more thing to keep in mind...we are required by State Law to keep up-to-date registration cards for all voters. If we do not have current addresses on file, voters may be asked to fill out a new card. Please understand we are trying to comply with State mandates and we apologize for the inconvenience and extra time this may take on election day. If you know that you have recently changed your address, your mailing address, your name, etc. please stop by the office to check and update our records before election day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Clerk's office at 342-5544 or email [tcmontville@fairpoint.net](mailto:tcmontville@fairpoint.net).