Eligibility for Absentee Voting in West Virginia

An absentee voter is a voter who is eligible to vote and cannot make it to the polls during Early Voting or on Election Day. This document details the eligibility for absentee voting by-mail.

Absentee by Mail Eligibility

Voters not able to vote in person during Early Voting or Election Day due to one of the following circumstances may vote a regular absentee ballot by mail:

- Illness, injury or other medical reason (due to concerns of COVID-19, all voters may apply to vote absentee in the 2020 Primary Election because of “medical reason”)
- Disability or advanced age
- Incarceration or home detention (does not include individuals convicted of any felony, treason, or election bribery)
- Work hours and distance from county seat
- Inaccessible early voting site and polling place
- Personal or business travel*
- Attendance at college or other place of education or training*
- Temporary residence outside of the county*
- Service as an elected or appointed state or federal official*

“*” indicates that the voter must receive ballot at an address outside of the county.

Electronic Absentee for Voters with Physical Disabilities

- Voters with physical disabilities that prevent them from voting in person and from voting paper ballots without assistance may request to receive their ballots electronically. View our Electronic Absentee Informational Flyer.

Military and Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters Eligibility

The following voters are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA):

- Members of the United States uniformed services and Merchant Marines on active duty
- Their spouses and dependents
- United States citizens temporarily or permanently residing outside the country

Special Absentee Voting List Eligibility

Voters may apply and receive a ballot in every election for one of the reasons below:

- Participation in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)
- A permanent, physical disability prevents voter from going to the polling place

Emergency Absentee Voting Eligibility

Voters in the hospital on Election Day and last-minute replacement poll workers may call the County Clerk to have an application and ballot delivered to them.

The County Commission may adopt a policy before each election to extend emergency absentee voting to the following individuals:

- Voters who have resided in a nursing home within the county for less than thirty days
- Voters who are in a hospital or other duly licensed health care facility within an adjacent county or within thirty-five miles of the county seat
- Voters who become confined, on or after the seventh day preceding an election, to a specific location within the county because of illness, injury, physical disability, immobility due to advanced age, or another medical reason.

Revised 4/1/2020