Register to Vote!

(March 22, 2020)

During the coronavirus public health crisis, the League of Women Voters is providing information to help eligible voters access the online tools available to them. This document summarizes key facts about voting and provides links to voter registration (VR) tools provided by the Secretary of State of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Presidential Preference Primary has been delayed to Tuesday, June 2. The Secretary of State has been working with Governor Lamont to allow any voter to obtain an absentee ballot to vote in the primary. The League of Women Voters of Connecticut and our local leagues support this proposal.

In this document, you will find information about: how to register to vote online, voter registration deadlines and election dates, presidential primary voting eligibility, obtaining VR forms and other important election related questions.

Look for updates on the website of the Secretary of State:

Am I eligible to vote?

You may register and vote in Connecticut when the following apply

a) United States citizen;
b) Resident of a Connecticut town;
c) At least 17 years old (must be 18 on or before the General election day and you may vote in the Primary if you will be 18 on or before the General election);
d) Have completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a disenfranchising felony.
How do I register online?

Use the online registration site provided by the Connecticut Secretary of State: http://myvote.ct.gov/register Follow the prompts.

The portal works most seamlessly for voters with an ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. This includes driver’s license, learner’s permit and non-driving permit issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. For persons with one of these valid IDs, the system will electronically send the registration to the voter’s town of residence.

Eligible voters without such an ID may use the portal by selecting the option “I do not have a valid DMV ID”. At the end of the process, the system will generate a paper registration form that the user prints and sends to their town Registrar of Voters.

In both cases, registration is not effective UNTIL you receive a letter of confirmation from the Registrar of your town of residence.

I prefer to use a form. Where do I get one?
Voter registration forms are available from the Secretary of State. Here is a link to the forms which are available in both English and Spanish. https://tinyurl.com/ya8mdemz

I might be registered already. How do I check?
Use this link to see if you are already registered at your current address: http://myvote.ct.gov/lookup. If you have moved to a new town, you must register as a new voter (because voter registration is organized in each town). If you have moved to an address within your town or city you must re-register and check the new address box on the registration form.
What are the voter registration deadlines and the election dates?

a) **Presidential Preference Primary Election date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020
   
   **Voter registration deadlines for the Presidential Preference primary**
   
   Online/Mail: Thursday, May 28
   
   In person: Monday, June 1 (by noon)
   
   Election Day registration: Election Day Registration is **not** available in the primary

b) **U.S. Congress & State Legislators Primary date:** Tuesday, August 11 (occurs if there are within-party challengers)

c) **General Election date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020

   **Voter registration deadlines for the General Election**
   
   Online/Mail/In person: Tuesday, October 27
   
   Election Day registration: Available at specific locations, usually Town Hall

Am I eligible to vote in the presidential preference primary?

A primary is an election within a political party to nominate a candidate for the general election. In Connecticut, the parties establish their own rules for whom may vote in party primaries. Currently Republican and Democratic parties allow only members of the party to vote in their primary. Unaffiliated voters may not vote in either party’s primary.

In summary, you must be a member of a party to vote in the presidential preference primary. The decision to join a political party (or to be unaffiliated) is part of the voter registration process. You may change your party affiliation at any time through the voter registration process. However, there is a 3 month affiliation waiting period when switching from one party to another, including voting in a party’s presidential preference primary.

The date to switch from one party to another in order to vote in the June 2 primary has passed. However, if you are an unaffiliated voter and have been unaffiliated for at least three months before you become a member of a party, you will be able to vote in the June 2 primary.