

How to vote by absentee?

You do not need to have a reason or be unable to vote at the polls on Election Day in order to receive an absentee ballot. Applications are available in the following ways:

Online:

You may obtain or complete an application for an absentee ballot through the Secretary of State's website. Go to <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> and you will find several options. Option 1 is an online form that allows you to enter your information **and submit it electronically** – simply select “Falmouth” from the drop-down list. Option 2 allows you to complete a request form online, which you would then print, sign and mail or fax to the Town Clerk. Option 3 is simply a blank request form which you can print, complete, sign, and mail or fax to the Town Clerk.

Applications for absentee ballots are also available on the Town of Falmouth's website at http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/Pages/FalmouthME_Clerk/election_by_dates/index. Once there, select the election from the list. Each election will have a different absentee ballot application. Once you find the correct application, print, complete, sign and mail or fax the completed application to the Town Clerk.

Telephone:

A voter may make a telephone application for the voter's own ballot. The clerk shall verify that it is the voter who is requesting the ballot and then mail the ballot to the address specified by the voter. Please call 781-5253 to make application by telephone.

In Person:

A person who wishes to vote by absentee ballot may, without completing an application, vote by absentee ballot in the presence of the Clerk. Absentee ballots are typically available 30 days prior to any election.

Important information about voting absentee:

- Applications for absentee ballots can NOT be submitted by email. See the online instructions above for how to submit an application electronically.
- An immediate family member may complete an application or submit a written request for an absentee ballot for another family member. The signature of the immediate family member and family relationship is required. The applicant must designate the address to which the ballot is sent. Immediate family members include: spouse, (step)parents, (step)grandparents, (step)child, (step)grandchild, (step)siblings, in-laws, guardian, former guardian, and domestic partners.

- A voter may make application or written request to issue their absentee ballot by mail or in person to an immediate family member or a 3rd person so designated in the written application or request made by the voter, except that the Clerk may not issue a ballot to any candidate or a member of a candidate's immediate family. The Clerk may not issue more than 5 absentee ballots to any 3rd person at any time. The designated 3rd person shall return the absentee ballot to the Clerk's office within 2 business days of the date that the ballot was provided or by the close of the polls on Election Day, whichever is earlier. The return envelope must contain the signatures of two witnesses or the signature of a notary public, municipal clerk, or clerk of courts.
- If an immediate family member of a voter returns an absentee ballot, that family member shall sign the application or written request to indicate the family member returned the ballot.
- When a ballot is delivered by a 3rd person or returned by a 3rd person, the voter must mark the ballot in the presence of a notary, Clerk, or two witnesses. The voter must then seal the ballot in its return envelope and complete the affidavit on the envelope in the presence of the witness(es), who shall then sign the witness certification.
- A voter who needs assistance may request another person, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union, to assist the voter in reading or marking the ballot. The voter or aide must mark the ballot in the presence of a notary, Clerk, or another individual. The voter, or the aide at the voter's request, shall complete and sign the affidavit in the presence of the witness, who shall then sign the witness certification. The aide must complete and sign the certification for aides on the outside of the envelope.
- Ballots cannot be sent by mail to any address outside the municipality for any request received the day before or on Election Day.

Falmouth Town Clerk
271 Falmouth Rd.
Falmouth, ME 04105
Tel: 781-5253
Fax: 781-3640