



PRESS RELEASE

The **State/Presidential Election** will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm. Helpful reminders for voters appearing to vote on Election Day at the polls:

- **Wear a Face Covering - If a voter arrives to the polling location not wearing a face covering, they will be directed to wait to cast their ballot until the building is clear of all other voters. After they exit, areas in which the voter was in contact will be immediately sanitized.**
- **Bring a Blue or Black Pen - VOTERS MUST USE BLUE OR BLACK INK PENS OR #2 PENCILS).** The following marking devices will **not** work with the tabulators: **highlighters, crayons, or the color red.** A container of ballot marking pens will be available on the outside of the plexiglass barriers at the check-in table for voters who do not bring their own pens or bring the wrong type of marking device for tabulators to read. The container will be labeled “Sanitized Pens.” A container will also be situated at the check-out table for voters to return the used pens. This container will be labeled “Used Pens -To Be Sanitized” for election officers to periodically wipe down and sanitize throughout the day. Post-election all pens will be sanitized for use at the next election.
- **First-time Voters Required to Show Identification** – when a voter is required to show identification at check-in table the voter will be asked to present identification through the plexiglass barrier.
- **Inactive Voters to Complete Affirmation of Continuous Residency Forms** – A clipboard will be set up at the check-in table on the outside of the plexiglass barrier for inactive voters to complete. The election officer will acknowledge proof of identification and affirmation form through the plexiglass barrier.
- **Maintain Social Distancing** – keep 6’ away from anyone not from your household

Keep your ballot dry and free from hand sanitizers - Do not use hand sanitizer while handling your ballot and be sure your voting booth is dry as it will cause issues with tabulator breakdowns

Our commitment to keep voters safe:

- Voting Booths will be cleaned throughout the day
 - Unused / sanitized pens will be provided to those who need one
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- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the exit
- All elections officers will be required to utilize their Personal Protective Equipment while present at the polling location. PPE will be provided to all election officers.
- Election officers will wash their hands as often as possible during the day.
- Election officers will maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times.
- Voting booths will be spaced at least six feet apart.

Design layouts will take into account and provide for, as best as possible, the following:

- One-way traffic flow– in and out of the building
- Design areas for lines that avoid crossing other lines and minimize face-to-face encounters.
 - One-way traffic – 6 feet wide
 - Two-way traffic – 10 feet wide
- Promote social distancing with markings to distinguish every 6 feet where needed
- Spacing voting booths to allow voters using them to maintain a 6 feet from each other
- Election officers and voters should maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times
- Election officers will be seated at respective tables at least 6 feet apart
- Plexiglass shields will be utilized at the check-in tables to avoid face-to-face contact

Hand Sanitizer: A hand sanitizer station will be provided for voters for use when exiting the polling location.

Restrooms: Public restrooms will be available for voters and election officers at each polling location. Signage about how to prevent the spread of the virus and proper handwashing techniques will be posted conspicuously.

Vote by Mail 2020 Applications

On July 6, 2020 the Governor signed off on House Bill No. 4820 An Act Relative to Voting Options in Response to COVID-19. The new law passed allows all registered voters in Massachusetts to vote by mail in any 2020 election, with no excuse needed.

As required by the new law, a Vote by Mail application was mailed to every person who was registered to vote by July 1, 2020 and who had not already requested an absentee ballot for the State Primary or for all elections this year. A second mailing was sent out in September to all voters who had not already applied for a Vote by Mail ballot for the November election. The applications were pre-addressed to the Town Clerk's Office and no postage will be required.

Vote by Mail applications must be delivered to the Town Clerk's Office no later than **4 (four) business days** before the election. For a **State/Presidential Election** ballot, your application must be received by the Town Clerk's Office no later than **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 by 5:00 pm.**

Please be sure to include your name and address, the election(s) for which you are requesting a ballot, and your signature. If you need the ballot mailed somewhere other than your home, be sure to provide that address.

Absentee Voting

In order to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in Massachusetts, a voter must be prevented from voting at their polling place on Election Day, due to:

- Absence from the voter's city or town on Election Day
- Physical disability
- Religious belief

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing by either the voter or the voter's family member. Absentee ballot applications may be downloaded <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf> however, any written communication is acceptable provided a written signature is included. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, you may submit an application or a signed letter in person or by mail to the Town Clerk's Office located at 20 Centre Street, Annex Building, 1st Floor, Middleborough MA 02346; by facsimile to (508) 946-2308, or by e-mail vote@middleborough.com. If you are e-mailing your application, you may either scan or take a photo of your signed application and e-mail it to vote@middleborough.com, or you may sign your application using a mouse, finger, or stylus and email the completed and signed attachment. Typed signatures are not acceptable.

You may request an absentee ballot for a specific election or for all elections within a calendar year. Please note that absentee ballot applications expire at the end of each calendar year. If you are a voter with a permanent physical disability, you may file a note from your doctor to that effect with the Town Clerk's Office. Voters with permanent physical disabilities are sent

completed applications at the beginning of each year, to be signed and returned to the Town Clerk's Office.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail will be **5:00 PM on the 4th business day before an election**. The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application for a mailed ballot for the **State/Presidential Election** is **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 by 5:00 pm**.

Absentee vs. Early Voting

Massachusetts has absentee voting for all elections and early voting for some elections. The two systems overlap in several ways, but the most important difference is that absentee voters must have an excuse, while there is no excuse needed in order to vote early.

In general, most voters who do not vote on Election Day in 2020 will cast an early ballot, either by mail or in person, but there are certain circumstances when it would be appropriate to apply for an absentee ballot instead of an early ballot.

You should complete an absentee ballot application if you are:

- A military voter on active duty;
- A Massachusetts citizen residing outside of the United States;
- A voter who has been admitted to the hospital within 1 week of the election;
- A voter who has been quarantined within 1 week of the election;
- A voter who is incarcerated.

APPLY EARLY - to allow ample time for processing your application and for the postal service to deliver your ballot to you. Completed absentee and early ballot applications must be submitted Town Clerk's Office, 20 Centre Street, Middleborough, MA 02346. Applications may be 1) mailed; 2) hand delivered to the Annex Building at the Town Clerk's Office, 20 Centre Street, 1st Floor, in the drop box at the Annex Building or the drop box located at the Town Hall, 10 Nickerson Avenue (Town Hall parking lot drop box – same silver box as Treasurer/Collector payments are received); 3) faxed to (508) 946-2308; or 4) e-mailed to **vote@middleborough.com**. If you are e-mailing your application, you must be able to send an image of the application as an attachment, either by scanning it or by taking a picture of it. A handwritten signature must be visible.

WHERE IS MY BALLOT?



Application Received
(Shown as "Pending")



Date Ballot Mailed



Date Ballot Received



Accepted

Voters who have requested an Absentee or Early Voting by mail ballot now have the ability to track their ballot through the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website at

www.trackmyballotma.com

Mailed ballots include a postage pre-paid return ballot envelope that is addressed to the Middleborough Town Clerk's Office. You may return your ballot 1) **by mail** (please see deadlines below); or 2) **hand deliver** your ballot to the Annex Building at the Town Clerk's Office, 20 Centre Street, 1st Floor, in the drop box at the Annex Building or the drop box located at the Town Hall, 10 Nickerson Avenue (Town Hall parking lot drop box - same silver box as Treasurer/Collector payments are received). Ballots may **NOT** be returned to the polling location on Election Day or to the Early Voting In Person Site - they **must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office** for processing before they are delivered by Town Clerk's staff to the polls to be cast on Election Day. Voters who receive a vote by mail ballot but do not return it prior to Election Day may appear to vote in person to cast a ballot on Election Day. Any voter that has **returned a vote by mail ballot** (or voted early in person) is **not permitted to appear to vote in person** on Election Day.

DEADLINES FOR BALLOTS TO BE RETURNED AND COUNTED:

State Election - All ballots must be received by Town Clerk's Office, Annex Building, 20 Centre Street, 1st Floor, Middleborough MA 02346 by November 6, 2020 postmarked by November 3, 2020 - ballots received by 8 pm on November 3, 2020 do not require a postmark.

If I applied for a vote by mail ballot may I appear to vote in person at an early voting site or at the polls on Election Day?

If your vote by mail **ballot has not been returned or received** by the Town Clerk's Office – **YES**, you may still appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day. Should your mail in ballot be received after you voted early in person or at the polls on Election Day that ballot will be rejected and will not be counted.

If a vote by mail **ballot has already been returned and received** by the Town Clerk's Office – **NO**. A returned vote by mail ballot is considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, early in person or in person at the polls on Election Day.

If I vote early in person may I appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day?

NO - If you appeared to vote early in person your ballot will be considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, or in person at the polls on Election Day. Voting in Person at the Polls after submitting an early ballot is prohibited as outlined in 950 CMR 4 7.19.

Please note we have received a large volume of applications and we are working with election officer staffing each day to process the requests. The ballots were not received from the State until the week of 10/5 and will be mailed out daily. Inquiries should be sent to vote@middleborough.com

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2020 EARLY VOTING IN PERSON
OCTOBER 17, 2020 THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 2020
LOCATION - TOWN HALL, 10 NICKERSON AVENUE
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM**

Day	Date	Hours
Saturday	10/17	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Sunday	10/18	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday	10/19	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/20	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday	10/21	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday	10/22	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday	10/23	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday	10/24	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sunday	10/25	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday	10/26	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday	10/27	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday	10/28	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday	10/29	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday	10/30	8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

VOTER REGISTRATION:

In Person

You may visit the **Town Clerk's Office** to register to vote:

Annex Building,
20 Centre Street
1st Floor
Middleborough, MA 02346

Mail-In Voter Registration

Mail-in voter registration forms are available at the:

- Council on Aging
- Gas and Electric Department
- High School
- Middleborough Town Clerk's Office
- Public Library
- Town Hall

Mail-in voter registration forms may also be obtained by calling the State Elections Division at 800-462-VOTE (or 800-462-8683). In addition, the state registries of motor vehicles, social service agencies and military recruitment offices provide voter registration services.

Online Voter Registration

You may register to vote or change your party enrollment online at: www.registertovotema.com. To submit an online application, you must have a valid driver's license, learner's permit, or non-driver ID issued by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). You must also have a signature on file with the RMV. If you do not have an RMV ID, you may still use the online system to create an application. Print and sign the completed form, and then mail or bring it to your local election official. The online system will allow you to:

- Apply to register to vote in Massachusetts
- Change your name or address for voter registration purposes
- Enroll in a political party, change your party enrollment, or unenroll from a party

The deadline to register to vote or change your party affiliation for the **State/Presidential Election** is **Saturday, October 24th**. In person registration shall be offered from 2 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm on the last day to register at the Town Clerk's Office, Annex Building, 20 Centre Street, 1st Floor, Middleborough, MA. To check to see if you are registered to vote you may visit the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Town Clerk's Office** at **(508) 946-2415** during normal business hours **Monday through Friday 8:45 am to 5:00 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison J. Ferreira
Town Clerk