



SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
30 TRINITY STREET  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

January 22, 2018

TO ALL TOWN CLERKS:

Re: Official Blank Absentee Ballot for Town Committee Primaries  
and August 14, 2018 Primaries (ED-81Pr)

Active and Inactive Enrollment List:

If you receive an application for an absentee ballot from a serviceman, spouse or dependent, or Federal employee, and such person is on the inactive enrollment list, we advise that you ask the registrars of voters to immediately restore the name of such person to the active enrollment list as a clerical error under Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 9-40a and 9-42(a) and that they keep a record that they did so.

If you receive an application for an absentee ballot from an unknown category of electors residing outside the United States and such person is on the inactive enrollment list, we advise that you (1) fill out an ED-12 Direction by Registrar form for such person, (2) send the blank ballot at the earliest allowable time, and (3) separately mail (a) an Application for Voter Registration to restore the elector to the official check list, (b) an ED-22 Envelope, and (c) a note that unless the Application for Registration is returned separately in the ED-22 Envelope by primary day (and the blank ballot is separately returned by 8:00 p.m. of primary day), the absentee ballot will not be counted. If you received an original signed FPCA requesting a full ballot, you may treat it as a restoration form.

Official Blank Ballot for Primaries:

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 9-153e, we will send to you for your use at the Town Committee primaries, if any, and the August 14, 2018 primary for offices, if any, five Official Blank Absentee Ballots for Primary for Office or Town Committee (ED-81Pr). These forms are printed on Super Safety II paper. If they are photocopied, the word 'VOID' appears on the copy.

Under Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 9-153f, any electors temporarily living (or expecting to be traveling) outside the territorial limits of the United States, and any member of the armed forces or the spouse or dependent living where such member is stationed, whether living within or outside the United States, may request that a blank absentee ballot and complete list of candidates be issued to him as soon as such list is available (approximately 45 days before a primary). As soon as possible after the January 31, 2018 primary petition deadline when you know all candidates in a town committee primary, you must issue these blank ballots, together with a complete list of candidates, to such persons eligible to vote in the primary.

The list of candidates should state: "This is not a ballot. To be counted, all votes must be written in on the Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Primary for Office or Town Committee) (ED-81Pr)", and must list the positions of "Town Committee", if any, to be voted upon, the number of individuals for which each elector may vote, and the name of each candidate as it will appear on the ballot. In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 9-437(a), under Town Committee, names of party-endorsed candidates for town committee are listed first in alphabetical order, marked with an asterisk. In the case of no party endorsement for town committee, the designation "no party endorsement" is placed immediately beneath the designation of the position. In the case of town committee primaries, after the names of party-endorsed candidates, list the names of primary petition candidates in the following order: where all names appeared in one petition, list them alphabetically; where more than one petition has been filed, group alphabetically those names appearing in each petition and group the petitions in the order specified in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 9-437(e) and our previous letter to you regarding town committee ballot order. We are enclosing for your information a suggested form of list to accompany blank ballots for Town Committee primary (ED-10TC) showing an example of a listing of candidates.

The Application for Absentee Ballot (ED-3) has a box clearly indicating this request for an early blank ballot. If the Federal Post Card Application is used, we advise you to send all electors temporarily living outside the United States and all servicemen and their spouses and dependents a blank ballot (and a complete list of candidates) as soon as the list is available, because of the provisions of Section 103(f) of the Federal "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act". Moreover, in the case of persons who have filed a Federal Post Card Application during the past year, as soon as the complete list of candidates is available, we urge you to use Form ED-12 to direct an Official Blank Absentee Ballot and a complete list of candidates to a qualified elector or applicant for admission as an elector who (1) is living outside the U.S. or (2) is a member of the armed forces or the spouse or dependent living where the member is stationed. If the application for absentee ballot is received on or after February 13, 2018, then you should send the regular absentee ballot for Town Committee primary (ED-2PrTC).

#### SUMMARY OF CONNECTICUT BLANK BALLOT LAW FOR March 6, 2018 PRIMARIES

In summary, a blank absentee ballot set should be sent beginning as soon after January 31, 2018 as you have a complete list of candidates. It should be sent to the following persons: (1) all servicemen, spouses and dependents who request an early ballot or who submit the Federal Post Card Application more than 21 days before the primary and (2) all electors temporarily living (or expecting to be traveling) outside the territorial limits of the United States who request an early ballot or who submit the Federal Post Card Application more than 21 days before the primary. The set will consist of the following forms:

ED-9	Inner Envelope
ED-11	Serially-Numbered Envelope (postage-free)
ED-14	Clerk to Voter Envelope (postage-free)
ED-15	Instructions
ED-81Pr	Blank Ballot
ED-10TC	List of Candidates (this statement includes the list of positions, the number to vote for, a list of candidates and a statement that it is not a ballot)

After the March 6, 2018 primaries, you must include on the disposition form the number of ED-81Pr received, issued and remaining in your office. Consequently, please check carefully to see how many blank ballots you have received. Any unused ED-81Pr forms are to be kept for use at the August 14, 2018 primaries, if any, and to be included on the disposition form after the August 14, 2018 primaries. If you expect to need more blank ballots, please call us to order them.

The absentee ballot envelopes (ED-8, ED-9, ED-11, ED-13, ED-14) and the application (ED-3) which

you have left over from 2017 may continue to be used for the March 6, 2018 primaries.

For your convenience, we are enclosing a Chart of the Types of Absentee Ballots (ED-645s).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call us at (860) 509-6100.

Sincerely,

DENISE MERRILL  
Secretary of the State

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Theodore E. Bromley  
Staff Attorney

Enclosures (ED-10TC, ED-645s)

cc: Registrars of Voters (letter only)

Republican and Democratic State Central Committees (letter only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Town Committee Primary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Political Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town

\_\_\_\_\_  
Political Subdiv.(if applicable)

LIST OF POSITIONS AND CANDIDATES

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT.

To be counted, all votes must be written in on the Official Blank Absentee Ballot (Primary for Office or Town Committee) (ED-81Pr).

<u>Number of Candidates to Vote For</u>	<u>Office or Position</u>	<u>Names of Candidates</u>
4	Town Committee	John Adams* Grover Cleveland* Calvin Coolidge* Thomas Jefferson*  James Buchanan Abraham Lincoln James Madison George Washington

\*Denotes party-endorsed candidates