

ABSENTEE BALLOT UPDATES FOR VOTING IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Absentee ballots for the general election in November have arrived! The ballots for existing requests have been mailed and should be arriving in your mailbox shortly. If you're interested in voting absentee and have not yet submitted your request form, please continue reading to find out how to proceed.

Requesting, completing and returning your absentee ballot is relatively straightforward. Below is important information about each part of the process.

Requesting an Absentee Ballot:

Registered voters must complete an absentee ballot request form in order to receive an absentee ballot. The form can be found [here](#). A few things to keep in mind:

- We do not have *wards* in Grantham, so please leave that blank.
- Enter your correct mailing address.
- Sign the form.

You may submit your completed request form via email attachment, fax, USPS mail, or in-person using the drop box located on the wall to the right of the main entrance at the town offices (please note: the sign below the drop box speaks to the law PROHIBITING voters from leaving COMPLETED BALLOTS in the drop box; leaving the absentee ballot REQUEST FORMS is fine).

Completing your Absentee Ballot:

The envelope in which we send your absentee ballot includes three other items: 1) an instruction sheet; 2) an affidavit envelope; and 3) a return envelope. Please read the instructions, as they are explicit regarding how to complete the ballot and place it inside the affidavit envelope, and how to sign and seal the affidavit envelope and place it inside the return envelope. A few things to keep in mind:

- Please read both statements on the affidavit envelope and choose the statement that most accurately reflects your situation. If you are voting absentee due to concerns about COVID-19, please sign the statement on the *right-hand side* of the envelope.
- If your return envelope did not come with a printed label in the return address area, please write in your full name (not just a last name) and *physical* address. Do not use your own pre-printed return address label or leave this blank. This information is used to help us track returned ballots and update the state system.

Returning your Absentee Ballot

Once your absentee ballot has been completed, sealed inside the affidavit envelope, and the affidavit envelope sealed inside the return envelope, you have two options for returning it to the town clerk's office: 1) mailing it via USPS mail; or 2) bringing it in-person to the town clerk's office. If you are mailing your ballot, a regular first class stamp is all that is required for postage. Please keep in mind state law requires that it arrive here at the town clerk's office **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM** on Election Day, **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. Please allow plenty of time for delivery so that your vote can be counted.

While the Grantham Post Office designated a mail slot inside the building for returned ballots prior to the State Primary, our postmaster has informed us that USPS has decided not to allow local post offices to offer this option for the general election. So, completed absentee ballots should be mailed like all other mail; again, a single regular first class stamp is all the postage that is required.

If you bring it in-person to town hall, please note that you **CANNOT** leave completed ballots in the drop box. This is prohibited by state law. Instead, please arrive during office hours and either call **863-5608** when you arrive at town hall or press either of the "Town Clerk" buttons on the door jamb to the right of the entrance. The town clerk or deputy town clerk will either meet you on the front portico to accept your ballot or allow you into the lobby to hand your ballot to one of us. Our hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, and Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

The other option for in-person return of absentee ballots is the series of upcoming Supervisors of the Checklist sessions occurring every Wednesday night from now through Tuesday, October 27 (with the final session occurring that Tuesday evening), all 6:30-7:30 PM in the downstairs room at town hall. A ballot box will be available during these sessions for returning absentee ballots.

To track the status of your absentee ballot request, please click on the following link and provide the requested information: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx>

As always, feel free to call us at 863-5608 if you have any questions or require further information.

Kenneth Story

Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Town of Grantham
PO Box 135
300 Route 10 South
Grantham, NH 03753
V: 603-863-5608
F: 603-863-4499
TCTC@GRANTHAMNH.NET