



PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS

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ISSUE

Describe the requirements an elector must meet in order to receive and maintain permanent absentee ballot status.

By law, electors with permanent disabilities may apply to the registrars of voters for permanent absentee ballot status, which enables them to automatically receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary, and referendum in the municipality in which they are eligible to vote. To be eligible for the status, an elector must file an application together with a doctor's certificate stating that he or she has a permanent disability and cannot appear in person at his or her polling place.

Once an elector obtains permanent absentee ballot status, the elector retains it until he or she (1) is removed from the municipality's official registry list (see OLR Report [2016-R-0079](#) or (2) requests to have the status removed. Additionally, registrars of voters must send an annual notice in January to determine whether such an elector continues to reside at the address on the application. If a notice is not returned within 30 days or is returned as undeliverable, the registrars must remove the elector from permanent absentee ballot status but not from the voter registry list ([CGS § 9-140e](#)).

According to the Office of the Secretary of the State (SOTS), obtaining a doctor's certificate is generally a one-time requirement; a person with permanent absentee ballot status does not need to have his or her disability recertified each year. The exception is if he or she moves to a different municipality. According to SOTS, the permanent absentee status does not transfer to the new municipality; the elector would have to reapply for it and provide a doctor's certificate to the new municipality.

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