

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTING

THE MATERIALS you will need to cast your absentee vote are enclosed with these instructions. Each item is marked with an identifying letter as follows:

- A - a ballot
- B - an Inner Return Envelope
- C - an Outer Return Envelope

BY LAW, ONLY THIS BALLOT and these envelopes may be used to cast an absentee vote.

### HOW TO USE THE BALLOT AND ENVELOPES

#### A. The Ballot.

Mark the ballot to show how you wish to vote. Follow instructions printed on the ballot.

#### B. The Inner Return Envelope.

1. SIGN THE STATEMENT on the face of the envelope. **This is important.** Your vote will not be counted unless this statement is signed under penalties of false statement in absentee balloting.

If you are unable to write, you may authorize someone to write your name and the date in the spaces provided, followed by the word "by," and the signature of the authorized person.

2. PLACE COMPLETED BALLOT **A** INSIDE INNER RETURN ENVELOPE **B**. SEAL ENVELOPE **B**.

#### C. The Outer Return Envelope.

1. Write your name and address in the space provided at the upper left.

2. Insert Inner Return Envelope **B**, containing your completed ballot, into Outer Return Envelope **C**; seal Envelope **C**. USE ONLY YOUR OWN OUTER RETURN ENVELOPE **C** OR YOUR BALLOT WILL BE INVALIDATED.

3. MAIL EARLY ENOUGH SO THAT IT WILL BE RECEIVED BY MUNICIPAL CLERK NOT LATER THAN 8 PM. ON ELECTION, PRIMARY OR REFERENDUM DAY or bring in person to the municipal clerk (1) by the day before the election or primary or (2) prior to the opening of the polls on the day of a referendum.

MUNICIPAL CLERK, as used in these instructions, usually means the Town Clerk of the applicant's voting residence. However, in certain city or borough elections - under a charter provision or special act - it may mean the City or Borough Clerk. In any case, your Outer Return Envelope **C** will have been pre-addressed by the proper clerk.

## VOTING IN PERSON AFTER MAILING ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you have returned your absentee ballot, but find that you are able to vote in person, the law requires that you do so. You **must** go to the office of the Municipal Clerk no later than 10:00 a.m. on Election, Primary or Referendum Day **before** going to your polling place to vote in person.

### WARNING!

## RETURNING AND POSSESSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

(From Sec. 9-140b, G.S.)

A. The voter must personally mail or personally return the ballot for it to be counted. Exceptions:

1. You may have your dependent relative residing in your household or your spouse, child or parent deliver the ballot to the municipal clerk by the close of the polls. He must present identification and sign the envelope when he delivers it.

2. ALL OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED - If you applied for the ballot because of illness or physical disability you may designate one of the following persons, and no other person, to mail it or return it for you to the municipal clerk by the close of the polls; any person who is caring for you because of your illness or physical disability (including but not limited to a licensed physician or a registered or practical nurse); a member of your family; or, if no such person consents or is available, then a police officer, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality in which you reside. He must present identification and sign the envelope when he delivers it.

3. A STUDENT may have his dependent relative residing in his household or his spouse, child or parent mail his ballot.

4. VOTER IN ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING AND OTHER REFERENDA WITH LESS THAN 3 WEEKS NOTICE - a qualified designee designated on the special application (ED-3R) for an absentee ballot for such a referendum may return the ballot in person to the municipal clerk.

B. NO PERSON SHALL HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION any official absentee ballot or ballot envelope for use at any primary, election or referendum except the applicant to whom it was issued, the secretary of the state or his or her authorized agents, any official printer of absentee ballot forms and his designated carriers, the U.S. Postal Service, any other carrier, courier or messenger service recognized and approved by the secretary of the state, any person authorized by a municipal clerk to receive and process official absentee ballot forms on behalf of the municipal clerk, any authorized primary, election or referendum official or any other person authorized in the general statutes to possess a ballot or ballot envelope. No candidate or agent of a candidate, political party or committee shall knowingly be present when a person votes his absentee ballot, unless authorized by law.

## EXCERPTS FROM CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

### Section 9-150a(i). Marking of ballots.

No absentee ballot shall be rejected as a marked ballot unless, in the opinion of the moderator, it was marked for the purpose of providing a means of identifying the voter who cast it.

### Section 9-359. Absentee ballots.

Any (1) person who executes an absentee ballot for the purpose of informing any other person how he votes, or procures any absentee ballot to be prepared for such purpose, (2) municipal clerk or moderator, elector appointed to count any absentee ballot or other person who willfully attempts to ascertain how any elector marked his absentee ballot or how it was cast, (3) person who unlawfully opens or fills out, except as provided in section 9-140a with respect to a person unable to write, any elector's absentee ballot signed in blank, (4) person designated under section 9-140a who executes an absentee ballot contrary to the elector's wishes, or (5) person who willfully violates any provision of chapter 145, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

### PENALTIES FOR FALSE STATEMENT

A. PERSONS ARE GUILTY OF FALSE STATEMENT IN ABSENTEE BALLOTING when they intentionally make a false written statement on, or sign the name of another person to, the inner envelope accompanying any absentee ballot. (Sec. 9-359a)

B. False statement in absentee balloting is a class D felony. (Sec. 9-359a)

C. A SENTENCE for a class D felony shall be at least one year but may not exceed five years in prison. (Sec. 53a-35a)

D. A FINE for the conviction of a class D felony shall not exceed five thousand dollars. (Sec. 53a-41)

### ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION

If you registered to vote for the first time by mail on or after January 1, 2004 and did not provide identification with your voter registration application and you are voting for the first time by using this absentee ballot, you will need to provide identification with this ballot when you return it to your town. You may provide a photo copy of your current and valid Connecticut driver's license, a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, pay check, government check or other government document that shows your name and address.