
VOTING IN 2020

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

UConn Public Interest Research Group

NEW VOTERS PROJECT
HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS CAMPAIGN
Hunger & Homelessness Campaign

Our communities, both on campus and in the immediate area, are vulnerable to the impacts of inadequate food and housing, both of which are currently exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The staggering disparity between the national poverty rate, 12.3%, and the neighboring community of Willimantic, 29.9%, illustrates an epicenter of demonstrated need. At UConn, we tackle food and home insecurity through working with the undergraduate student government on Husky Market, providing educational and relief resources, organizing awareness events, and advocating for legislative reform at the state level. As college students, and especially as members of a global society, we have an obligation to continue thoughtful advocacy through service and education.

New Voters Project

The New Voters Project is America’s oldest and largest non-partisan youth mobilization program. In the past 25 years, we’ve registered over 2 million students to vote across the country. The New Voters Project does not endorse, either explicitly or implicitly, a political candidate or political party for elected office. Our goal is to engage as many students as possible in each and every election cycle to demand that our generation is represented in the political process and our democracy, regardless of ideology or political affiliation. During a health crisis and global pandemic, we know that the voting process will be much more difficult, and we are here to hopefully help make that process easier for everyone. Our goal is to not only register people to vote, but to educate and help them make a plan to vote in the safest way possible.

The mission of UConnPIRG is to empower, activate, inspire, and serve all UConn students and neighboring communities. We are a student-directed, student-funded advocacy group that has a 40-year track record of organizing to tackle profound issues that matter to students. Our chapter has an extensive history training students to tackle complex social issues, including climate change, food insecurity and homelessness, college affordability, and voting rights. To learn more, visit pirlg.uconn.edu
YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

THE FACTS

• Persons experiencing homelessness can register and vote in all 50 states.
• Most states have some duration of residency requirements for voter registration.
• All eligible voters can vote by absentee ballot due to COVID-19.

YOU CAN VOTE IF...

• You are 18 years or older (by election day).

• You have been convicted of a felony and have completed confinement and parole and, if applicable, paid all fines in connection with your conviction.

• You are a United States citizen and a resident of a town in Connecticut.
  • An individual is a resident of a town if they have some nexus to that particular town, and there is an intention to return to that town when absent from it.
  • Could be a resident of some town that you have spent time in, slept in, and intend to go back to even if you are not presently there.
1) REGISTER TO VOTE

MAILING ADDRESS
You do not need a permanent address, but you do need a mailing address. Homeless registrants can list a shelter or soup kitchen as their mailing address.

- EX: Call Covenant Soup Kitchen and ask to use their location as your mailing address:
  220 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226
  860-423-1643

ONLINE WITH DRIVER’S LICENSE
PAPER REGISTRATION CARD
Return to your local Registrars of Voters.

- EX: The Windham Registrars of Voters Office is located in the Windham Town Hall at 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226.

2) ID AT THE POLLS
You can vote without photo ID!
If you are a first-time voter in an election with federal candidates, you need:

- A copy of a current and valid photo ID that shows your name and address
OR
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows your name and address
OR
- Cast a provisional ballot

If you are NOT a first-time voter in an election with federal candidates, you need:

- Your social security number
OR
- Any pre-printed form of ID that shows your name and address OR name and signature OR name and photograph
OR
- Sign a statement under penalty of false statement on Form ED-681 entitled, "Signatures of Electors Who Did Not Present ID," provided by the Secretary of the State that the elector whose name appears on the official checklist is the same person who is signing the form

2) ID FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS
It is not my first time voting in CT:

- You do not need to provide ID to vote by mail

It is my first time voting in CT, and I did not provide ID when I registered to vote:

- You need to provide one of the following:
  - A copy of a current photo ID
  - A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address
2. Confirm your registration and mailing address: Go to allintovote.org to check your registration status, confirm your mailing address, and use more resources to help make sure you have everything you need to be a prepared voter!

1. Register to vote: In person or online. Election Day Registration: If you miss the deadline to register, you may register on the date of the Election at a designated Election Day Registration office beginning at 6am and ending at 8pm. Contact your Local Election Office if you have any questions.

3. Find your polling location and head to the polls on November 3rd: To find your polling location and to see what will be on your ballot, go to vote111.org! On Election Day, remember to keep yourself safe and protected by wearing a mask, gloves, etc. and staying 6ft apart from others. Pollworkers and town clerks will also have Personal Protective Equipment.
VOTING BY MAIL

STEP-BY-STEP

1. **Register to vote:** In person or online. 
   - **Election Day Registration:** If you miss the deadline to register, you may register on the date of the Election at a designated Election Day Registration office beginning at 6am and ending at 8pm. Contact your Local Election Office if you have any questions.

2. **Confirm your registration:** Go to allintovote.org to check your registration status, confirm your mailing address, and use more resources to help make sure you have everything you need to be a prepared voter!

3. **Apply for an absentee ballot:** (All voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in the general election held on November 3, 2020, due to COVID-19, pursuant to Public Act 20-03 July Spec. Sess. Just check the COVID-19 box on the application.)

4. **Return your application:** Absentee ballot applications are returned to the office of the Town Clerk in the voter’s town (probably in town hall). The Town Clerk processes the returned application, ensures that the voter is eligible to receive an absentee ballot, and enters the voter’s information into the Central Voter Registration System. At that point, a unique serial number is created for each ballot to ensure only the voter who requested it can vote with that ballot.

5. **Return your ballot:** Once the voter fills out their ballot, carefully following all of the included directions, they can return the ballot via the United States Postal Service (must be postmarked by Oct. 27), in person in the Town Clerk’s office (by 8pm Nov. 3), or via the secure drop box that the Office of the Secretary of the State has provided to each town (must be postmarked by Oct. 27). The secure drop box will likely be located outside of the town hall.
LOGISTICS OF VOTING
WINDHAM/MANSFIELD

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M REGISTERED TO VOTE IN CT?
HOW DO I FIND MY POLLING PLACE?

To do both, visit Voter Registration Lookup CT.gov


HOW DO I RECEIVE AND RETURN MY APPLICATION IN MANSFIELD?

To request an application, use the Mansfield website (QR code), call 860-429-3302 ext. 4, email TownClerk@mansfieldct.org, or search the CT.gov website.

Return your completed application to the Town's general drop box or the official ballot drop box (both located outside the Town Hall door closest to the offices of the Tax Collector and Town Clerk, RT 275 side of the building)
OR mail it to Town Clerk's Office, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268.

HOW DO I RECEIVE AND RETURN MY APPLICATION IN WINDHAM?

To request an application, use the Windham website (QR code), contact the Registrars of Voters Office (860-465-3016), search the CT.gov website, or go to the Town Clerk's Office. The general drop box is located outside the Town Hall (979 Main Street).
VOTING FLOWCHART

I WANT TO VOTE!

From Windham’s 2020 Election Information on WindhamCT.com

Voters with Disabilities: Your Right to Accessibility

Sample 2020 Ballots by Town

Nonpartisan Federal & CT Candidates
https://www.ballotready.org/v
Throughout history, people in power suppressed American citizens’ rights to vote. From the very beginning, with only property-owning white males being able to vote, to now, where there are still many Jim Crow-esque rules in place throughout the south, and other restrictions in the north.
VOTER CHECKLIST

VOTING BY MAIL

___ I filled out my ballot on a flat, dry surface and prevented tearing of the ballot/envelope.
___ I followed the instructions thoroughly and carefully.
___ I used the appropriate color ink pen (not red!).
___ I did not leave stray marks, and I did not fill in multiple choices for the same office.
___ I signed the outside of the return envelope containing my mail-in ballot, which confirms my identity and eligibility.
___ All of my signatures match the one that CT has on file.
___ I looked at the "What You Need to Vote" section of this toolkit and provided any required documentation.
___ I am mailing my ballot as early as possible to make sure it is counted, or I have dropped off my ballot in my town’s secure dropbox! In CT, ballots must be received by 8:00pm on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

VOTING IN PERSON

___ Before going to the polls, I have confirmed that I am registered to vote.
___ I have double-checked the location of my polling place.
___ I have a mask to protect myself and others from the spread of COVID-19.
___ I have looked at the "What You Need to Vote" section of this toolkit and have the documentation I need to be identified at the polls.
___ I have a plan to get to the polls.
___ The CT 75-Foot Rule prohibits anyone from "soliciting support for or opposition to a candidate or a ballot question within a 75-foot radius of the outside entrance to a polling place." This means that political pamphlets, buttons, shirts, hats, and anything tied to one political candidate could be problematic. To prevent harrassment or being asked to step out of line, I have checked to make sure I do not have political apparel or items on my person.