



Town of Reading
 16 Lowell Street
 Reading MA 01867

Town Clerk
 781-942-9050

fax: 781-942-9070
 website: www.readingma.gov

2016 - Early Voting - FAQs

What is early voting?

Early voting is a process by which a registered voter can vote prior to a scheduled biennial state election. Voters can vote early by mail or in-person and the ballot will be cast on Election Day.

When will the early voting period begin and end?

Early voting period for the November 8th State Election will begin on Monday, October 24th and end on Friday, November 4th.

Who is eligible to vote early?

All residents who are registered voters on or before October 19th can vote early for the November 8th State Election. Voters registered in the Town of Reading by October 19th may only vote early in Reading. No reason is required.

When is the deadline to register to vote for the State Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8th?

The deadline to register to vote, change party enrollment or change address for the November 8th election is Wednesday, October 19th by 8:00 PM.

Where do I vote early?

All eligible voters may vote in-person at Town Hall – 16 Lowell Street, Reading MA 01867.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 24 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	October 25 7:30 AM – 7:00 PM	October 26 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	October 27 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	October 28 Closed	October 29 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
October 31 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	November 1 7:30 AM – 7:00 PM	November 2 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	November 3 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	November 4 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM	

When are the early voting deadlines?

Early voting in Person ends on Friday, November 4th at 6:00 PM

Last day and hour to submit an application for a mailed early voting ballot is Friday, November 4th before 12:00 PM.

Last day and hour to **deliver** a voted ballot is 8:00 PM on Election Day and it must be delivered by the person voting the ballot. Ballots may be hand-delivered to Town Hall prior to November 8th.

How do I get an early voting ballot?

You can get an early voting ballot by mail or in person. Voters voting by mail must complete an application or provide a request in writing. Submit the application to the Town Clerk's office.

Voters voting in person do not need to complete an application. A voter may request a ballot at Town Hall by providing their Name and Address. Early voting ballots cannot be removed from an early voting polling place.

Early ballots will not be mailed until October 24th.



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How do I return my early voting ballot?

If voting in person, the voter will return the sealed affidavit envelope containing the early voting ballot to the election official.

If voting by mail the voter may return it by mail to the Town Clerk's office in the envelope provided by this office or the voter may deliver the ballot in person to the Town Clerk's office.

Is early voting available for all elections?

Early voting will be available for biennial state elections only. Early voting is not available for primaries, special elections or local town elections.

If I vote early for the November 8th State Election will I automatically receive an early voting ballot for future elections?

No. Voters must request an early voting ballot for every election for which early voting applies.

Can I pick up an early voting ballot for a family member or friend?

No. The voter must come in person to the Town Clerk's office or request to have the ballot mailed to them.

I requested an early voting ballot but did not receive it, what should I do?

If you requested an early voting ballot but did not receive it, please call our office at 781-942-9050. Please note, early voting ballots will not be mailed until October 24th.

If I vote early can I also vote at the polls on Election Day?

No. Your ballot will be considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, in person or at the polls on Election Day.

Is absentee voting still available?

Yes. If you are qualified to vote by absentee ballot you may still do so. To apply for an absentee ballot, you must be:

A registered voter who will be unable to vote at the polls on Election Day due to:

- absence from the Town of Reading during normal polling hours; or
- physical disability preventing you from going to the polling place; or
- religious beliefs

Applications for absentee ballot must be in writing with a signature. The voter or a family member may request and absentee ballot. Absentee Voters may also vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office.

Signed applications may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Town Clerk. The deadline for all absentee applications is 12:00 PM November 7th. However, for mailed ballots there is very little likelihood of mailing success after Friday November 4th. Please allow up to 10 days for mailing of the ballot to the voter and return of the ballot by mail.

All absentee ballots must be received by the close of the polls on November 8th.

For any additional information please contact the Town Clerk's office at 781-942-9050.