FALL 2024 ELECTIONS – VOTER OPTION GUIDE

This guide outlines the multiple options voters have to participate in the fall 2024 elections.

Vote by Mail, Vote Early In Person or Vote on Election Day

ELECTION TYPE	DATE OF ELECTION	ELECTION DAY LOCATION	ELECTION DAY HOURS	DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE	VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATION DEADLINE
State Primary Election	September 3, 2024	OAHS	7 AM - 8 PM	August 24, 2024	August 26th - 5PM
State Election	November 5, 2024	OAHS	7 AM - 8 PM	October 26, 2024	October 29th - 5PM

SELECTION OF BALLOT TYPES - (PRIMARY ELECTIONS ONLY)

- In a primary election, a voter who is NOT registered in a political party must choose a party ballot type on the application to vote by mail or in person voting (early or on election day).
- We are unable to process applications for Unenrolled (commonly known as Independent) voters who do not select a party ballot type on their application.
- Unenrolled voters who select a party ballot type do not become registered in that party they remain Unenrolled / Independent voters.
- Voters who are registered in one of the 3 political parties (Democratic, Republican, Libertarian) MUST take that party ballot and are not given a choice of party ballot type.

Helpful links:

- Verify your party enrollment
- <u>Change your party enrollment</u> (prior to the deadline to register to vote & before applying for a mail in ballot)

View sample ballots at www.easton.ma.us/sampleballots

(available approximately 45 days prior to the upcoming election)

REPRECINCTING

What's My Precinct?

www.easton.ma.us/WhatsMyPrecinct.pdf

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 54 §6, the Town of Easton has changed its voting precincts as a result of population changes from the 2020 Federal Census. These changes include the addition of a 7th precinct and a precinct with split representative districts -4A & 4B.

For most voters, but not all, precinct numbers have changed. The Town has a total of 9,901 Voting Addresses, 5,329 of those addresses have precinct #'s that have changed.

Helpful Links:

- Town of Easton New Precinct & Districts
- Precinct Street Listing <u>www.easton.ma.us/whatsmyprecinct.pdf</u>
- List of Streets with Precinct Changes
- GIS Interactive Voter Map

Vote by Mail www.e

All registered voters qualify to vote by mail.

Received a postcard application? The Secretary of the Commonwealth is required to mail ALL voters who have not already applied for a vote by mail ballot, a postcard application – this is usually mailed out 45 days prior to state elections. This postcard application will allow you to apply for a vote by mail ballot for all elections this year or for individual elections this year.

Applications can be returned by mail (postage is pre-paid on the post card application mailed to you) or placed in the silver tax collectors drop box outside of the Town Offices (136 Elm St). A signature is required in order to process your application. Questions can be directed to votebymail@easton.ma.us.

APPLY EARLY to allow ample time for processing your application and for the postal services to deliver your ballot to you. If you are concerned about applying too early - please note that voters can hold on to their ballot and return it the week prior to the election in the secure ballot drop box outside of the Town Offices. Voters who receive a vote by mail ballot and have not returned it may appear to vote in person at an early voting site or on election day to cast a ballot. Any voter that has returned a vote by mail ballot (or voted early in person) cannot vote on Election Day.

TRACK YOUR APPLICATION AND BALLOT

http://www.trackmyballotma.com

Voters who have applied for a vote by mail ballot may use this link to track the status of their application as well as their ballot status (mailed / received back). Please note that we anticipate a large volume of applications (there are over 17,000 voters in Easton) and request you **allow at least 1 week before checking the status of your application and allow a minimum of 10 days to receive your ballot from the status date of mailing**. Please DO NOT contact the Town Clerk's Office to check on your status until the recommended amount of time listed above has passed. Inquiries should be sent to <u>votebymail@easton.ma.us</u>

RETURN OF VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

Once you receive your ballot, please vote promptly, place the ballot in the manila ballot envelope and sign the required affidavit. Place the sealed ballot envelope in the postage paid white return envelope and return by U.S. mail or place it in the secure ballot drop box at the Town Offices at 136 Elm St.

Mailed Ballots include a postage pre-paid return ballot envelope that is addressed to the Town Clerk's Office. You may return your ballot by mail (please see deadlines below) or hand deliver your ballot by placing it in the secure ballot drop box outside of the Town Offices (deadline is close of polls on Election Day).

Ballots can NOT be returned to the polling location on Election Day - they must be returned to the secure ballot drop box located at the Town Offices (136 Elm St). Your returned ballot on Election Day will be processed and brought to the polls to be cast by the Town Clerk's staff.

Deadlines for ballots to be returned and counted

- Primary Election All ballots must be received at Town Hall by 8PM on September 3rd
- November Election -
 - Ballots returned in the drop box must be received by 8PM on November 5th.
 - Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by November 5th AND received by the Town Clerk by 5PM on November 8th.

Please note that US Postal delivery services are not consistent and can range from 3 to 11 days. We recommend voters return their ballots in the drop box outside of the town offices by 8PM on Election Day to ensure it is counted.

Vote by Mail continued

Please click the links below to view:

- Ballot Return Checklist
- <u>Easton's Secure Ballot Drop Box</u>
- Track Your Ballot Visual

REQUESTED A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT – OTHER VOTING OPTIONS

Voters who receive a vote by mail ballot but have not returned it prior to Election Day may appear to vote in person and cast a ballot on Election Day. Any voter that has returned a vote by mail ballot (or voted early in person) is not permitted to appear to vote in person on Election Day.

Vote Early in Person

www.easton.ma.us/earlyvoting

Early Voting in person will be available for the fall 2024 elections. An application is not required to vote early in person...**just show up and vote!**

State Primary Election Early Voting in Person

Period:	August 24 th – August 30 th
Location:	Town Offices - 136 Elm Street – Colleen Corona Room

Date	Hours
8/24	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
8/26	8:30 AM - 7:30 PM
8/27	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
8/28	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
8/29	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
8/30	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
	8/24 8/26 8/27 8/28 8/29

Presidential Election Early Voting in Person

Period:October 19th – November 1stLocation:Town Offices– 136 Elm Street – Colleen Corona Room

Day	Date	Hours
Saturday	10/19	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday	10/21	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tuesday	10/22	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Wednesday	10/23	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday	10/24	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Friday	10/25	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Saturday	10/26	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday	10/28	8:30 AM - 7:30 PM
Tuesday	10/29	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday	10/30	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday	10/31	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday	11/1	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO VOTE

Educated voters will reduce time in the voting booths, reduce lines & crowding at the voting site.

Unenrolled (commonly known as Independent) voters will need to choose which primary ballot type they want to vote on). Voters who are registered in a particular party (Democratic, Republican, Libertarian) MUST take that party ballot type - <u>verify your party enrollment</u> or <u>change your party enrollment</u>

View sample ballots at <u>www.easton.ma.us/sampleballots</u>

(available approximately 45 days prior to the upcoming election)

What to Bring or Know when voting early in person:

- Am I a registered voter?
 Check your <u>voter status</u>, Register to vote: <u>www.registertovotema.com</u>
- Is my voter status "active"? Check your voter status
 - What is my voting precinct?
 Check your precinct: www.easton.ma.us/whatsmyprecinct.pdf
- What will I be voting on? View <u>sample ballots</u> (available approximately 45 days prior to election)
- Bring an ID in some cases voters will be required to show an ID
- Keep your ballot dry and free from hand sanitizers to avoid tabulator issues

Electioneering During Early Voting in Person

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The Select Board adopted policy #92 with the following regulation for the period designated for inperson absentee voting and the State's Early Voting Period:

No poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or circular intended to influence the action of the voter, other than those expressly authorized by G.L. c. 54, § 65, shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed in the Town Clerk's office, in the building where the Town Clerk's office is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises on which the Town Offices at 136 Elm Street stand within one hundred and fifty feet (150') of the building entrance door to said Town Offices.

EARLY VOTING (by mail or in person) FAQ:

If I applied for a vote by mail ballot can I appear to vote in person at an early voting site or at the polls on Election Day?

- YES If your vote by mail <u>ballot has not been received back</u> to the Town Clerk's Office, you may still appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day or at an early voting site. These voters will be required to complete additional paperwork and will need to show an ID. Should your mail in ballot be received after you voted early in person or at the polls on Election Day that ballot will be rejected and will not be counted.
- NO If your vote by mail <u>ballot has already been received back</u> by the Town Clerk's Office. A returned vote by mail ballot is considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail, early in person or in person at the polls on Election Day.

If I vote early in person can I appear to vote in person at the polls on Election Day?

NO - If you appeared to vote early in person your ballot will be considered cast and you will not be eligible to vote by mail or in person at the polls on Election Day. Voting in Person at the polls after submitting an early ballot is prohibited as outlined in 950 CMR 4 7.19.

When & how is an early voter's ballot (by mail or in person) cast?

All vote by mail and early voting in person ballots will be opened and inserted into a tabulator before election day or fed through the tabulators at the polls on Election Day. These ballots will be kept secured, locked, and unexamined until the polls are closed on Election Day.

Notice of Advance removal and depositing of Early Voted Ballots

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 section 25B as amended by Section 10 of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022, the Town of Easton may be opening and/or depositing early voted ballots at the Town Offices, 136 Elm Street for this upcoming Election. Once available, notice of dates/times can be found on the town's website.

We respectfully ask that observers register in advance (before the end of the business day prior) of all processing of early voted ballots sessions by emailing <u>townclerksoffice@easton.ma.us</u>.

A full record of advance removal and advance depositing will be kept for each session. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 section 25B as amended by Section 10 of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022, no results shall be determined or announced until after the time the polls close on Election Day. At that time, the results from the advance processed ballots will be added to the election day results and posted in a public place.

Vote on Election Day- <u>www.easton.ma.us/knowbeforeyougo</u> What you need to know before you go

All Elections are held at the Oliver Ames High School Gym - 100 Lothrop St, Easton, MA 02356

All voters must enter from the Atrium / Gym Entrance

- Precincts 1, 2, 3, 7 vote in the New Gym
- Precincts 4A, 4B, 5, 6 vote in the Old Gym

What's my Precinct? www.easton.ma.us/whatsmyprecinct.pdf

View the <u>Polling location map</u> (2nd page)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO THE POLLS

Click banner above for information on what you need to know / bring in advance of going to the polls to vote on election day

- Am I a registered voter?
 Is my voter status "active"?
 What is my voting Precinct?
 What will I be voting on?
 Check your voter status Check your voter status
 Check your voter status Check your precinct: www.easton.ma.us/whatsmyprecinct.pdf
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