

## **HOW DO I ABSENTEE VOTE?**

You do not need to have a specific reason or be unable to vote at the polls on Election Day to receive an absentee ballot.

An absentee may be requested in one of the following ways:

- Contact the clerk's office by **telephone** to request a ballot (829-5559). You will be asked to provide your date of birth, property address, mailing address, and contact number.
- Submit an electronic **e-mail** request. The Town Clerk may accept an electronic email request made only through the Secretary of State's website.  
To find this electronic ballot form go to:  
<http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>
- Submit a signed **written application** by completing an absentee ballot application found at either the:
  - (i) Town of **Cumberland website**:  
[http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/clerk/elec/2009\\_abs\\_ball\\_app.pdf](http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/clerk/elec/2009_abs_ball_app.pdf)  
Print, complete, and sign an absentee ballot application form and fax (829-2224) or mail it to the Town Clerk, 290 Tuttle Road, Cumberland, ME, 04021.
  - (ii) **Secretary of State's website**:  
<http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>  
Complete the fillable request form, print and sign the completed form, and fax or mail it to the Town Clerk.
- Vote **In Person** at Town Hall. When voting in person in the presence of the clerk, you do not need to complete an absentee ballot application. Ballots are available September 22, 2009.

Cumberland will offer "**Early Voting**" beginning **Saturday, October 24, 2009**. Unlike in-person absentee votes cast between September 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>, ballots cast during "Early Voting" will be placed directly into the voting machine. In-person absentee ballots cast between 9/22 and 10/23 will be sealed in envelopes and stored for processing on Election Day.

Voters may obtain an absentee ballot for an **immediate family member** by completing an absentee ballot application. The signature of the immediate family member and family relationship is required. Immediate family members include: spouse, (step)parents, (step)grandparents, (step)child, (step)grandchild, (step)siblings, in-laws, guardian, former guardian, and domestic partners. The applicant must designate the address to mail the ballot.

A voter may make a written request or complete an absentee ballot application requesting someone other than the voter or the voter's immediate family member (a "**third person**") to receive and return the absentee ballot by hand-delivery. The voter must specify on the application the third person who will handle and deliver the ballot. Only the designated third person may handle the

absentee ballot. Either a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or two other witnesses must witness the ballot envelope.