

Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Clerk
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Voting in Arlington

Voters in Arlington have three options for voting. Below we describe the voting methods and the steps involved. Visit Arlington's [Elections & Voting](#) page before each election. The Arlington Town Election is held every year in early April. Elections for state and federal offices are held every two years.

Voting in person at your precinct's polling location on Election Day

1. Check-in to confirm your name is on the voter list.
2. Fill out your ballot and place it in the tabulator to be scanned and counted.

You must vote at the precinct where you are currently registered.

Vote Early at Town Hall

1. Check-in to confirm your name is on the voter list.
2. Fill out your ballot and place in a ballot envelope.
3. Sign the envelope.
4. Place sealed envelope in the ballot box.

In-person early voting happens at a central location during specific hours.

Vote by Mail

1. Apply before the deadline.
 2. Confirm the address where the ballot will be mailed.
 3. Sign the application.
 4. When the ballot arrives in the mail, fill out the ballot and place in a ballot envelope.
 5. Sign the envelope.
 6. Return the envelope to the Town Clerk before the deadline.
- You do not need a reason to vote by mail.
 - You must apply to vote by mail for each election or for all elections in a year – it is not automatic.
 - Registered voters will be mailed a postcard application several weeks before the election.
 - You can apply for a ballot in the mail at the Town Clerk's Office, however ballots must be mailed. You cannot pick up a ballot to take home.
 - Absentee voting is the same process. Use the Absentee application if you are living overseas, serving in the military, or an eligible voter currently in prison.

For each election, voters are encouraged confirm the dates and deadlines and to make a plan to vote.

[Verify you are registered in Arlington](#) [Look up your precinct number and location](#)

Frequently Asked Questions About Voting

Q. If I'm voting in person, do I need to show ID?

A. ID is not required in Massachusetts, generally speaking. However, some new voters may need to show ID. ID can be a driver's license, or a statement or bill showing your name and address.

Q. Why did election workers ask for my driver's license when I voted?

A. The electronic check-in device can scan the barcode on the back of a driver's license to speed up the check-in process. It's optional and the election workers will not need to see the license.

Q. When are the ballots sealed in the ballot envelopes counted?

A. Ballot envelopes are opened on election day at the precincts by election officials.

Q. What if my ballot can't be scanned by the tabulator?

A. If a ballot is damaged or smudged it will be placed in a section of the ballot box to be hand counted by election officials after the polls close. All ballots at the precinct will be counted on election day.

Q. How can I apply to vote by mail if I don't have a printer and I didn't get the postcard?

A. A handwritten note on any piece of paper is fine. It should be clear which election you want a ballot for and where the ballot should be mailed. All notes and applications must be signed. For a primary election, you must specify which party ballot you want if you are registered as an unenrolled voter.

A. You can [apply online](#) with no form or signature needed.

A. Notes and applications can be placed in a ballot drop box, dropped off in person in the Town Clerk's Office, mailed, or you can email a scan or photo of the application to townclerk@town.arlington.ma.us.

VoteinMA.com has forms, links and details to help you vote.

Q. I applied to vote by mail, but my ballot never arrived.

A. If there is still time, you can make a written request (or email request) for a replacement ballot. Or you can vote during early voting hours or on election day at your precinct.

Q. If I apply to vote by mail and decide not to return my mailed ballot, can I vote in person?

A. Yes. Once we receive a ballot back we consider that you have voted. However, until we get the ballot you can vote in person.

Q. I have my mail forwarded automatically to an address outside of Arlington for part of the year. Will my ballot be sent to my away address?

A. No. You must provide an address every time you apply to vote by mail unless you are using the address where you are registered. Ballots will not be forwarded by the post office.

Q. I have a student away at college. Can they vote by mail?

A. Yes. The postcard application will come to their Arlington address. You can send the postcard to your student for them to sign. Or you as a parent or guardian can complete a Vote by Mail application and fill out the section for assisting a voter. Sign your name on the signature line.

A. You can choose to have the ballot mailed to the student at home and you can send it to the student by a faster method yourself. It's important to plan enough time for the ballot to be returned on or before election day.

A. A student living or studying abroad may be eligible to vote online as an overseas voter.