

Barbara L. Suriner, Town Clerk, 462 Main Street, Town Hall – 413-684-6111, Ext. 14 or 15, Fax 413-684-6129
Office hours are Monday – Wednesday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Thursday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM, closed on Fridays.

Listed below are the most frequently asked and important questions regarding voting in the upcoming November 6, 2012 election:

Q. When and where is the Presidential Election (also referred to as the State Election)?

A. *Tuesday, November 6, 2012, from 7 AM to 8 PM. Both precincts vote at the Dalton Community House located at 400 Main Street where there is a handicapped ramp at the rear of the building leading directly into the polling place. Central Berkshire Regional School District School Committee will also be on the ballot along with three local Proposition 2 1/2 Questions (Questions #4, #5 & #6).*

Q. When is the last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote at the November 6th, Election?

A. *The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, October 17th. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 8 PM. You may register to vote as long as you will turn eighteen (18) years of age on or prior to November 6th.*

Q. How do I register to vote?

A. *You may register to vote in person at the Town Clerk's office which is located in Town Hall at 462 Main Street, or you may download a voter registration form at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2012-Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf> and mail in or drop it off to the Town Clerk's office. You may not register on-line but you may download the form from the link above. If you pick up a registration form at any another location (including another Town Clerk's office), it may be mailed or dropped off your local Town Clerk's office.*

Q. Do I need identification to register to vote?

A. *You do not need to show identification to register to vote. However, the voter is required to provide identification information on the form; either the last four digits of your social security number or your driver's license number. If you do not have that information when you register to vote, you will be asked to show identification at the polls the first time that you vote in that location. The identification required at the polls must include the address at which you registered.*

Q. I registered to vote recently, how do I know if I can vote in the Presidential Election?

A. *If you registered recently you will receive a confirmation notice from the Town Clerk's office confirming your registration and indicating your polling location. If you are not sure if you received a confirmation notice and would like to confirm your registration, call the Town Clerk's office. Everyone registering to vote on or before October 17, 2012, 8:00 PM is eligible to vote in the Presidential Election.*

Q. I registered to vote at the Registry of Motor Vehicles but did not receive a confirmation notice from the Town, what should I do?

A. *If you registered to vote at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, you should receive a confirmation letter. These registrations are sent to us electronically through a Statewide system. We urge you to call the Town Clerk's office to confirm your registration if you have not received a confirmation letter. There may be a lag time before the forms from the Registry of Motor Vehicles are received in the Town Clerk's office. **Confirming your voter registration will facilitate voting on November 6th.***

Q. If I move and changed my address at the Post Office, does my voter registration transfer to my new Community, or to my new address within Dalton?

A. *No, if you have moved out of Town, you must re-register to vote in your new community. If you have moved within Dalton, you must complete a change of address form at the Town Clerk's office.*

Q. What hours are the polls are open?

A. *The polls will open promptly at 7:00 in the morning and close promptly at 8:00 in the evening. Anyone in line when the polls close will be allowed to vote.*

Q. What candidates and ballot questions are on the ballot for this election?

A. *Sample ballots are posted on the town's website, www.dalton-ma.gov and sample/specimen ballots are posted at Town Hall.*

Q. Are there any ballot questions this year?

A. *There are three binding Statewide questions, three binding Proposition 2 ½ local questions relative to Dalton only and two non-binding questions on Dalton's November 6 ballot. A copy of Dalton's ballot is posted on the Town website at www.dalton-ma.gov and at Town Hall. Information on the three binding Statewide ballot questions is available at the following website:*

http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele12/ballot_questions_12/message12.htm

Q. What happens if I have "Inactive" Voter status?

A. *A voter may become inactive when he/she, or the head of household does not return the Annual Town Census, also known as the Street Listing, mailed in January every year, and fails to return the double stamped "Confirmation Card" sent to each non-respondent voter. An "inactive" voter must show recent identification that proves Dalton residency and also must sign an "Affirmation of continuous residency". Voting within 2 years of receiving inactive status restores the person to the active voting list. All inactive voters who subsequently fail to vote at two major elections must be deleted from all voter lists and needs to re-register to vote in any future elections. Census forms are available at the following link:*

http://dalton-ma.gov/Town_Hall/Town_Clerk/Town_Census/Census_Form.

Q. Who can vote absentee?

A. *In Massachusetts, according to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, voters may vote by absentee ballot "if they will be absent from the Town on election day, and/or have a physical disability which prevents them from voting at their polling location, and/or cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs".*

Q. How can I get an absentee ballot?

A. *You may get an application for an absentee ballot in the Town Clerk's office or you may download the application at the following link: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howabs.htm>
The application must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office no later than 12 PM (Noon) on Monday, November 5, 2012. All absentee ballots must be completed following the instructions which are included in the same envelope. You may also complete an absentee ballot application and vote in the Town Clerk's office during business hours if you find that you will not be able to vote on Election Day for any of the reasons that entitle you to vote absentee. A completed absentee ballot, appropriately signed and sealed, may be mailed or dropped off at the Town Clerk's office but may **NOT** be delivered directly to the polling location. Completed absentee ballots legally must be received by 8 PM (the time the polls close) on November 6th; however, realistically, as absentee ballots cannot be delivered to the polling place, ballots must be delivered to the Clerk's office prior to closing at 4:00 pm.*

Q. May I request an absentee ballot for my child, spouse or parent?

A. *Yes, you may fill out the form entitled "Absentee ballot application by a family member". It is available at the Town Clerk's office or at the following link http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absente_ballot_fam.pdf
You may request an absentee ballot be mailed to a family member but you may not take it with you to give to them. The absentee ballot, when it is returned must be sealed following the instructions which are provided to the voter. This ballot may be mailed or dropped off at the Town Clerk's office.*

Q. I am a US citizen but live outside the continental United States, how can I vote?

A. *The link below has very detailed information regarding voting for citizens who live either permanently or temporarily outside of the country and for voting for members of the military and their families.*

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elemil/milidx.htm>