

## Town of Darien Office of the **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

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### VOTING IN DARIEN

#### Who Can Be A Voter (General and Primary Elections)?

Any person who is a U.S. citizen, has reached the age of 18 years, and is a *bona fide* resident of Darien may register to vote in Darien. A *bona fide* resident of Darien is someone whose home is in this town and, if temporarily absent, to which he/she intends to return.

A 17-year old who will be 18 before the next general election and fulfills the other requirements may apply to register to vote. The registration becomes effective on his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. NOTE that a 17-year old may vote in a primary if he/she will be 18 by the general election.

#### When Does A Person Register to Vote?

Registering to vote is becoming much easier. Mail-In voter applications are now available from the Department of Motor Vehicles and other state agencies and the Public Library, as well as from the Registrars' Office. Applications may also be downloaded from the internet (<http://www.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3179&q=489908>). A person *temporarily* living in another state may register to vote in Darien by filling out a CT voter registration application and mailing it to the Darien Registrars.

People may also register to vote in person. The Registrars of Voters' Office in the Town Hall is open every weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. When the Registrars' Office is closed, citizens may go the Town Clerk's Office until 4:30 p.m.

A special registration session is held on a particular Saturday before any general election, primary or referendum.

A registration session is held yearly at Darien High School in the Spring.

A prospective voter, when registering to vote in person must bring a driver's license or some other form of identification (passport, birth certificate, current utility bill, etc.).

Primary registration deadline is 5 days prior to the election for mail-in registrations; in person registrations may be made until noon on the day before a primary election.

Referendum enrollment deadline is 12 noon the day preceding. Taxpayers who are not registered voters may vote as a special privilege that is granted by State Statute.

A prospective voter may register to vote on election day, starting in November 2013. Such prospective voter must come to the Registrar's office in Town Hall to register and vote on election day.



### When & Where Do We Vote

Regular elections are held every year on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. Voting hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There are 6 polling places in Darien which are used for regular elections, primaries and referendums. New voters are informed of their polling places when they register to vote. This information is also listed under Registrar of Voters on the Town of Darien website.

### How Do People Vote When They Are Away From Darien On Election Day?

Voters can vote in an election even if they cannot be present at the polls on Election Day. They may vote by *absentee ballot*. There are several reasons for which a person may use an absentee ballot to vote and are granted *only* for these reasons:

- 1) Absent from town during voting hours
- 2) Illness
- 3) Disability
- 4) Active service in the armed forces
- 5) Religious beliefs that conflict with the election, primary, or referendum
- 6) Service as an election official in another polling place

Absentee ballot applications are available from the Town Clerk's office. Ballots will be forwarded after applications are received.

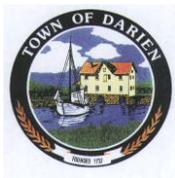
**Note: Students – don't forget to get an absentee ballot application before going off to college!!**

### How Does A Person Join A political Party?

A person may join a political party at the time he/she registers to vote or remain unaffiliated. Unaffiliated voters may choose to enroll in a political party at any time. A person who is a member of one political party may leave that party and join *another* political party at any time. Membership in the *new* party becomes effective 3 months from the date they apply to join it. In the interim, they are categorized as unaffiliated voters.

### Why Join A Political Party?

According to Connecticut Law, only enrolled members of a political party may participate in the caucuses, conventions, and primaries of that political party. With rare exceptions, elective and appointed office holders are members of political parties. A member of a party is free to vote for whomever he/she chooses in a general election.



### How Can A Person Lose The Right To Vote?

A Person can lose the right to become a voter upon conviction of a felony (a serious crime). A person may be instated as a voter after serving a sentence, completing parole, and/or paying a fine.

**For Further questions: Call 203-656-7316 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**