

The Q & A below contains some of the more frequently asked and important questions regarding voting for the upcoming November 8, 2016 election.

Q. When is the presidential election?

A. *Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The polls are open from 7 AM- 8PM. The election is also referred to as the State Election.*

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

A. *The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, October 19th. 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 at 140 Wood Street or you may download a voter registration form from our website www.townofsomerset.org under Elections and mail it in to the Town Clerk's office or drop it off at our office. You can now register on-line at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eifev/howreg.htm>. If you pick up a registration form at another location (including another Town Clerk's office), or a voter registration drive, it may be mailed or dropped off at the 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. How do I know if I am registered to vote?

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 or would like to confirm your registration, call the Town Clerk's office at (508) 646-2818 and any member of the staff will be able to help you. The Town Clerk's office is open Monday – Friday 8:30 AM-4 PM.*

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 or think that you registered to vote at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, you should receive a confirmation letter as well. These registrations are sent to us electronically through a statewide system. We urge you to call the Town Clerk's office at (508) 646-2818 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 8th.***

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

A. *No. You must re-register to vote in your new community. If you have moved within Somerset, you must still re-register to vote at your new address.*

Q. What hours are the polls are open?

A. *The polls will open at 7 AM in the morning and close at 8 PM in the evening. Anyone in line when the polls close will be able to vote.*

Q. How do I find out where I vote?

A. *This link will allow you to enter your address to determine where you vote.*

<http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx>. You may also call the Town Clerk's office at (508) 646-2818 and any member of the staff will be able to help you.

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

A. *Sample ballots are posted on the town's website when they are available, at*

www.townofsomerset.org and sample/specimen ballots are posted at Town Hall.

Q. Are there any ballot questions this year?

A. *Information on the binding statewide ballot questions is available at the following website:*

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

Q. Do I need to show ID at the polls?

A. *Massachusetts does not have a voter ID law. The only time that you will be asked for identification is if you are a first time voter and did not provide identification information at the time you registered to vote or if you are an inactive voter. A voter may become inactive when they or the head of household does not return the annual Town census also known as the street listing mailed in January every year. An "inactive" voter will be asked for identification that shows that they live at the address at which they are registered and they will be asked to sign an affirmation of continuous residency. If you want to make sure that you are an active voter you may call our office at (508) 646-2818 and any member of the staff will be able to help you. You may change your voter status from inactive to active by re-registering to vote or completing the annual street listing. Census forms are available at the following link:*

http://www.townofsomerset.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Census_Form-BLANK.pdf

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/eieifv/howabs.htm>*

*The application must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office no later than **12 PM (Noon) on Monday, November 7**. All absentee ballots must be completed following the instructions which are included when they are mailed out. You may also vote, after completing an absentee ballot application, 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. Completed absentee ballots must be received by 8 PM (the time the polls close) on November 8. A completed absentee ballot, appropriately signed and sealed, **must be dropped off at the Town Clerk's office but may NOT be delivered directly to the polling location.***

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>*

Please call us at (508) 646-2818 if you have any other questions or need additional information. The Town Clerk’s office is located on the first floor of Town Hall at 140 Wood Street. Our office hours are Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.