

Absentee Ballot Request: Legislative Counsel Opinion Changes Process

Requests must be made per "election event:" One primary and one election

In the past, voters could request an absentee ballot for "all elections" for an entire year. **A voter can only request an absentee ballot for one "election event," meaning a single primary and/or election. For example, a "snowbird" can apply for absentee ballots for a) the spring election and b) the primary that precedes that (one event). Voters may no longer write "all" on the Application for Absentee Ballot form (EB-121). If the voter would like to request absentee ballots for more than one "election event" at a time, he/she must now fill out a separate form for each "event," requesting ballots for the spring elections and the fall elections on different forms.**

The request for an absentee ballot no longer has to take place in the same year. If a voter submits an absentee ballot request in November of one year for an election taking place in April of the next year, that is a valid request because the request is only for one "election event". **To vote again in September and/or November, another request is needed.** This new procedure **does not apply** to voters in the military, indefinitely confined, or overseas.

Further explanation is provided in the instructions of the new EB-121 to be released at the end of 2005.

Always Request the Driver License Number First

The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires a voter to use her/his **driver license number (or state ID card number)** to vote unless she/he doesn't have one. If the voter has such a number and refuses to give it, the voter registration form cannot be accepted.

A secondary option - the last four (4) digits of the Social Security number of the registrant - is acceptable *only* if a driver license or state ID has never been issued. A final option - a box to be checked which confirms that the voter has no number at all - is the last resort.