

# PRESS RELEASE

(To be released week of March 28th)

From: Franklin County Election Board

Subject: **VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT**

## **Who May Vote by Absentee Ballot?**

A voter may apply for and receive an absentee ballot for the upcoming 2016 Presidential Primary if they are registered to vote and fall into one of the following criteria:

- Person is absent from their municipality the entire time the polls are open (Example: College students, vacationers, truck drivers, etc.)
- Those who cannot attend the polls because of illness or disability
- Person who will not go to the polls because of observing a religious holiday
- A member of the armed forces, their spouses and dependents
- A citizen in federal service attached to the armed forces

## **How To Apply for an Absentee Ballot?**

A voter who desires to vote by absentee ballot must complete an absentee ballot application and submit it to his/her county board of elections.

- Persons may apply in person at the Voter Registration Office, Franklin County Courthouse, Memorial Square, Chambersburg. (Hours: Mon. - Fri.; 8:30 - 4:30)
- Persons may request an absentee ballot application by calling (717) 261-3886 or (717) 261-3810.
- Another option, now allowable, is to request an absentee ballot by a letter which includes the following information: Name, residence address, birth date, reason for requesting an absentee ballot, address to which absentee ballot should be mailed and their signature. This letter can be mailed to Voter Registration Office, 157 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or faxed to (717) 261-3131.
- An absentee ballot application may be downloaded and printed from the Department of State's website at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) (Voting & Election; Types of Voting; Absentee Ballot) or from the County's website at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov) (General Government; Voter & Election Info.).

## **What is the Deadline to Apply for an Absentee Ballot?**

For the 2016 Presidential Primary, an absentee ballot application must be completed, signed by the elector, and received by the Franklin County Voter Registration Office **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016**. There are provisions made for individuals that need an emergency absentee ballot after the Tuesday before the election. Contact the Franklin County Voter Registration Office at (717) 261-3886 for additional details.

**What is the Deadline to Return the Voted Absentee Ballot?**

**Voted absentee ballots must be received by the Franklin County Voter Registration Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.**

Unless a voter is disabled and needs assistance to deliver an absentee ballot to the Voter Registration Office, it is illegal under Pennsylvania law for anyone other than the voter to hand-deliver an absentee ballot to the County. Delivery of absentee ballots cast by voters who are not disabled may be delivered only by U.S. mail or by the voter in person.

Any questions concerning absentee ballots should be directed to the Voter Registration Office at (717) 261-3886 or the Franklin County Election Board at (717) 261-3810. You can also find additional election information on the County's website at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov).