

STUDENT VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION

The Deer Park UFSD Board of Education believes that ~~encouraging~~ getting young people ~~to participate~~ involved in the election process ~~allows them to develop the habit of voting and contributing to civic life early on.~~ helps to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged voters who have formed the habit of voting and contributing to civic life early.

In accordance with the law, and in an effort to ~~facilitate~~ promote proper student voter registration, the Board of Education directs the Deer Park High School Principal, or his/her designee, ~~shall provide all 16 and 17 year old students with the opportunity to pre-register to vote.~~ Following verification of the student's qualifications and address, the pre-registered student will automatically be registered to vote upon reaching the age of eligibility. ~~The Deer Park High School Principal or his/her designee shall also provide all 18 year old students with the opportunity to register to vote.~~ Students must be otherwise qualified to register to vote. to offer all students who are at least 16 years old (but will not be 18 years old by the next election) opportunities to pre-register to vote. Students who are or will be at least 18 years old by the next election will also be offered opportunities to register to vote. These students must be otherwise qualified to register to vote. Students pre-registering to vote will be automatically registered upon reaching the age of eligibility following verification of the person's qualifications and address.

~~The Deer Park High School Principal or his/her designee shall will provide students with the opportunity to pre-register/register by making pre-registration/registration materials available in Social Studies classes, as well as by posting notices on the District website.~~

The district will provide students with access to voter registration and pre-registration applications during the school year, and assistance with filing such applications. The district will inform students of the state requirements for voter registration and pre-registration. The district will meet these obligations by offering registration and pre-registration materials in homeroom and/or social studies classes and by displaying voter registration and pre-registration posters and applications in the school office; hosting voter registration and pre-registration events throughout the year.

The District may collaborate with the Suffolk County Board of Elections to conduct voter pre-registration/registration in its high schools.

~~Completion and submission of voter pre-registration/registration forms shall not be a course requirement nor treated as a graded assignment for students.~~

Students who do not wish to register or pre-register to vote do not have to do so. There will be no penalty (including participation grades or credits) for choosing not to register or pre-register.

Ref: Election Law §5-507

First Reading: January 7, 2020

Adoption Date: January 21, 2020

First Reading: March 26, 2024

VOTING PROCEDURESEligibility to Vote

A person shall be entitled to vote in any school district election and in all matters placed upon the official ballot, if such person is:

1. a citizen of the United States;
2. at least 18 years of age;
3. a resident within the school district for a period of 30 days next preceding the election at which such person desires to vote;
4. qualified to register or is registered to vote in accord with section 5-106 of the Election Law which excludes:
 - a) those convicted felons who have not been pardoned or had their rights of citizenship restored, those whose maximum sentence of imprisonment has not expired; and/or those who have not been discharged from parole;
 - b) persons adjudged mentally incompetent by a court

Challenges to voters believed unqualified to vote may be undertaken pursuant to Education Law provisions. Each annual or special election or meeting shall have a presiding chairman appointed by the Board. Such chairman shall have the responsibility of properly handling any challenges to the qualification of any voter.

Voting

Voting machines shall be used for recording the votes on all elections, budget votes, and votes on special propositions. The only exception to the use of voting machines shall be a situation where the machines are unavailable due to mechanical failure. If this should arise, paper ballots will be used.

Each voting machine shall have at least two election inspectors appointed by the Board in attendance during all voting hours. It shall be the duty of the District Clerk and assistant clerk or clerks to keep a poll list containing the name and legal residence of each person before such person is permitted to vote.

Election inspectors shall not advise or induce such voter to vote on any proposition or candidate, and if the election inspector were to learn how the individual voted, the election inspector shall never reveal the vote(s) recorded to any other person at any time.

Write-in ballot slots are required. Ballots containing the names of nominated candidates will be provided by the Board. There will be as many write-in slots as there are vacancies at the time of election.

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The writing in of a name in the blank space so provided, will sufficiently indicate a vote. The district cannot require a voter to place any other mark beside the name of a write-in candidate.

Absentee Ballots

~~The Board provides for the use of absentee ballots for voting. Such ballots shall be available for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the school district budget, and on questions and propositions submitted to the voters of the district. The application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the election, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or the application must be received by the day before the election, if the ballot is to be personally delivered. The application must be completed and returned, and the individual must verify therein that he/she meets all voting requirements, and explain the reason for his/her inability to appear in person to vote.~~

~~———— In particular, the individual must explain that he/she will be unable to appear to vote in person on the day of the school district election because:~~

- ~~1. — he/she will be a patient in a hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place on such day because of illness or physical disability;~~
- ~~2. — his/her duties, occupation, business, or studies will require him/her to be outside of the county or city of his/her residence on such day;~~
- ~~3. — he/she will be on vacation outside the county or city of his/her residence on such day; or~~
- ~~4. — he/she will be detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury; awaiting trial; or is confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.~~

~~———— The district shall request registration lists from the Board of Elections for those voters whose registration record has been marked “permanently disabled” and shall automatically mail absentee ballots to such voters in advance of each district vote or election.~~

The Board provides for the use of absentee ballots for voting pursuant to Education Law §2018-a(2). Absentee ballots are available for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the school district budget, and on questions and propositions submitted to the voters of the district.

The absentee ballot application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days prior to the election, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the application must be received by the day before the election if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the voter. The absentee ballot application must be completed and returned, and the individual must verify therein that he/she meets all voting requirements and explain the reason for his/her inability to appear in person to vote.

Absentee ballot applications must be on a form prescribed by the New York State board of elections and submitted to the District Clerk in accordance with the Education Law. Copies of the form can be found on the State Education Department’s Office of Counsel webpage:

<https://www.counsel.nysed.gov/sites/counsel/files/absentee-ballot-application-and-instructions-english.pdf> and
<https://www.counsel.nysed.gov/sites/counsel/files/absentee-ballot-application-and-instructions-spanish.pdf>.

Early Mail Ballots

The Board provides for the use of early mail ballots for voting. Early mail ballots are available for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the school district budget, and on questions and propositions submitted to the voters of the district.

An early mail ballot application must be on a form prescribed by the New York State board of elections and submitted to the District Clerk in accordance with the Education Law. Copies of the form can be found on the State Education Department's Office of Counsel webpage:

<https://www.counsel.nysed.gov/sites/counsel/files/24-04-school-application-with-form.pdf>.

An early mail ballot application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than the 30th day before the election. If the application requests that the early mail ballot be mailed, such application must be received not later than seven days before the election. If the applicant or his or her agent delivers the application to the District Clerk in person, the application must be received not later than the day before the election.

No later than six days before the election for which an application has been received and for which the District Clerk has determined the applicant to be qualified to vote, the District Clerk shall mail, by regular mail, an early mail ballot to each qualified applicant who has requested that such early mail ballot be mailed to him or her at the address set forth in the application. If the applicant or his or her agent delivers the application to the District Clerk in person after the seventh day before the election and not later than the day before the election, the District Clerk shall deliver an early mail ballot to each qualified applicant or the agent named in the application when such applicant or agent appear in the District Clerk's office.

Military ballots

Military ballots are available for the election of members of the Board of Education, the adoption of the school district budget, and on questions and propositions submitted to the voters of the district. To be eligible for a military ballot, the applicant must be a qualified voter who will be absent from the district on the day of the election as a result of actual military service; a qualified voter who has been discharged from actual military service within 30 days of the election in which he or she seeks to vote; or the spouse, parent, child, or dependent of a military voter who is accompanying a military voter and who is qualified to vote in the district as the military voter.

A military voter who is a qualified voter of the district may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration application form, military ballot application or

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military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail. Completed military ballot applications must be personally delivered or mailed to the District Clerk and received no later than the 30th day before the election.

Military ballots must be received by the district no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election if signed and dated by the military voter and one witness thereto with a date which is not later than the day before the election, or not later than the close of the polls if showing a cancellation mark of the United States postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or showing a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States government.

A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration form, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail in the request for such registration, ballot application, or ballot.

Ref: Education Law §§2012; 2014; 2018; 2018-a; 2018-b; 2018-c; 2019; 2019-a; 2020; 2025; 2032(2)(e); 2035; 2037; 2603; 2607; 2610; 2613
Election Law §§3-224; 5-106; 5-612; 5-400; §2018-d; §2018-e
Matter of Rodriguez, 31 EDR 471 (1992)
Matter of Gresty, 31 EDR 90 (1991)
Matter of Ferro, 25 EDR 175 (1985)
Matter of Manno and Maloney, 23 EDR 172 (1983)
Matter of Yost, 21 EDR 140 (1981)
Matter of Alpert and Helmer, 20 EDR 281 (1980)
Matter of Reigler and Barton, 16 EDR 256 (1977)

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