

## VOTING ABSENTEE IN MARCH PRIMARY AND APRIL GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

This past November, in the General Election, an unprecedented number of St. Louisans voted by absentee ballot, the great majority of whom marked the reason that allowed voters who were in an “at-risk category for contracting or transmitting” COVID-19 to request an absentee ballot. For example, if the voter was over 65 years of age the voter was considered “at risk” and could apply. This “at risk” reason for voting absentee was created by the State Legislature last May; however, the bill in which it was contained also contained a provision that caused it to expire December 31, 2020. Therefore the “at-risk” reason is no longer a viable reason for requesting an absentee ballot. Similarly, many voters voted a “vote by mail ballot” last November which, unlike absentee voting, did not require a reason. However, this “vote by mail” option also expired on December 31, 2020.

St. Louis voters still can request an absentee ballot for the March and April Municipal Elections. To request an absentee ballot you must expect to be prevented from going to the polls on Election Day due to one of the 6 reasons listed below:

1. Absence from the City of St. Louis on Election Day.
2. Incapacity or confinement due to illness or disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability.
3. Religious belief or practice.
4. Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or as a member of an election authority at a location other than your polling place on Election Day. [Note: This exception does not apply to a campaign worker.]
5. Incarceration provided all qualifications for voting are retained.
6. Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under §§ 0589.660 through 589.681, RSMo., because of safety concerns.

If one of the above reasons describes why you expect to be prevented from going to your polling place on Election Day, for March or April, or for both, please complete the Absentee Ballot Application(s). The application for March can be found here <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/documents/upload/March-Primary-Application.pdf>; the application for April can be found here <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/documents/upload/April-General-Application.pdf>. Fill out the application, check the reason that applies to you, then submit the form to the Election Board by mail or hand delivery to 300 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101; fax to 314-622-3378; or email to [stlcityabsentee@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:stlcityabsentee@stlouis-mo.gov) by Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., for the March Municipal Election. The deadline for applying for the April 6<sup>th</sup>, General Election is March 17, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. If you are applying for both March and April, the requests can be submitted to the Elections Board at the same time.

**NOTE: IF THE ELECTION BOARD RECEIVES YOUR REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AFTER 5:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 17, 2021, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE MARCH PRIMARY!**