

Questions & Answers About Absentee Ballots

Q. Why is there no in-person voting this year?

- A.** Due to the public health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued Executive Order 202.26, which requires all school district elections to take place remotely, by absentee ballot only. As a result, there will be no in-person voting for this year's election.

Q. Will the vote be for both the budget and candidates for the board?

- A.** Yes, the vote will encompass the 2020-2021 School District budget, the Croton-Free Library Budget, Transportation BAN vote and the election of candidates to the Board of Education.

Q. How will the ballot look when it comes in the mail?

- A.** There will be a large outer envelope addressed to you, which contains a letter with directions, the official ballot, an envelope with writing on both sides (the oath envelope) and a postage paid return envelope.

The official absentee ballot will have separate boxes, which describe each proposition to be voted on. Each proposition box will also have a separate box next to the words "Yes" and "No". There will also be a separate box that lists the names of the School Board candidates running for the Board's election, with a box appearing below each name. Please note that there are only three (3) vacant seats available at this year's election and you may only vote for a maximum of three (3) candidates. You may also write in the name of an unlisted candidate in the "WRITE-IN" row below the names of candidates. If voting for a write-in candidate, you must also mark the box next to his or her name. The absentee ballot will include instructions on how to fill out that section.

Q. Why is there writing on the outside of the oath envelopes? Why does the writing on the oath envelope state "that I will be unable to appear personally on the day of said school district election . . . because of the reason stated on my application"?

- A.** The inner envelopes of absentee ballots are regulated by Education Law § 2018-a. This law requires there to be certain verbiage printed on the front and back of the envelope. Because absentee ballots were sent to every qualified voter, no absentee ballot applications are necessary for this year's election. In addition, the Executive Order states that "the prevalence and community spread of COVID-19, and the potential contraction of the COVID-19 virus" shall constitute temporary illness. Thus, pursuant to the Executive Order, all qualified voters are deemed "unable to appear personally" at the election as provided in the envelope's affirmation.

Q. How do I fill out the ballot?

- A.** Candidates will be listed adjacent to one another, and there will be a small box for each candidate. To vote for a candidate, use a pen or pencil and fill in the box of the candidate you wish to vote for.

Propositions, including whether or not you wish to approve the School Budget (Prop 1), Library Budget (Prop 2) and the Transportation BAN (Prop 3), are listed separately from the list of candidates, and will have boxes next to the words "Yes" and "No". Use a pen or pencil to fill in the box next to one of the words, depending on whether you want to vote in favor of the propositions or against them. Please do not make any other mark or writing on the ballot. In addition, do not over-vote. You should only cast a single vote for each vacancy or proposition that you wish to vote on.

Q. What do I enter on the line where it states "School Election District"?

- A.** You can leave that line empty. School Election District is the District where personal registration takes place.

Croton-Harmon Union Free School District is not divided into "Election Districts". Voters are **NOT** required to fill in the blank next to "School Election District". If you did so, it will **NOT** invalidate your ballot. Once again, if you filled it in or not, your ballot **WILL BE** valid.

Q. The instructions say that I have to sign the outside of the inner envelope? Why?

- A.** You are required to sign the outside of the inner envelope that has the paragraph written on it. This affirms that you are a qualified voter, in accordance with Education Law § 2018-a(5)(b).

Q. When do I have to return the absentee ballot?

- A.** Absentee ballots must be returned, *delivered* and *received* by the District Clerk or to the District Office **NO LATER than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020**. The District Office Building is located at 10 Gerstein Street; Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. There is a mailbox outside the left entrance door ([click here for photo](#)).

Q. How do I return the absentee ballot? Do I have to put a stamp on it?

- A.** The District has mailed you a postage paid return envelope with the absentee ballot. You do not have to place a stamp on this envelope to return the absentee ballot. Ballots may be physically returned or mailed. However, based on the compressed voting timeline, you may wish to physically return your ballot. If so, there is a locked box affixed to the wall at the entrance of the District Office Building located at 10 Gerstein Street; Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. The locked box can be used to submit ballots but **ALL MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM on June 9th**. (Please **DO NOT** attempt to slip ballots under the door at any time.)

Q. Will people know how I voted?

- A.** No, the election will be conducted in a manner to ensure that your vote will remain confidential.

Q. If I live with another voter, can we put both ballots in the same oath envelope?

- A.** No. Each ballot should be placed in its separate oath envelope, and mailed back separately in each postage paid return envelope. Education Law § 2034(3)(a) requires a ballot to be declared void if a voter does any act extrinsic to the ballot, such as enclosing any paper or other article in the folded ballot.

Q. Who is a qualified voter? What if I did not receive a ballot but believe I am a qualified voter?

- A.** A qualified voter is defined as someone who is a United States citizen, at least eighteen (18) years of age, a resident within the district for at least thirty (30) days preceding the election, and who is not otherwise disqualified to vote pursuant to Election Law § 5-106. If you did not receive a ballot but you believe you are a qualified voter, you should contact the District Clerk via email, at Tracey.Borges@chufsd.org.

Q. If I'm not registered to vote, how can I do so?

- A.** You may register to vote by mail with the County Board of Elections, or by filing an online application with the Department of Motor Vehicles at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>.

Q. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

- A.** If you have any additional questions, you may contact the us at Budget.Questions@chufsd.org. Additional information about the School District's budget is available on the District's website at www.CHUFSD.org.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS
Croton-Harmon Budget & Board of Education Vote

NO ON-SITE VOTING ★ VOTE BY MAIL

Absentee ballots must be received
by June 9 at 5:00 pm