Absentee Voting By Mail

If a registered voter is unable to vote in person either at the Election Commission during early voting or at his/her polling precinct on election day, he/she may vote by mail. The voter must apply for an absentee ballot and must cite a valid legal reason for doing so.

Who is eligible to vote by mail?
In order to obtain an absentee ballot by mail, you must be a registered voter and must be one of the following:

- Over 60 years of age;
- Outside of the county during early voting and on election day;
- A student outside of the county;
- Disabled;
- A caretaker; or
- A commercial driver or spouse of a commercial driver and will be outside the county during early voting and election day (Copy of CDL must be attached)
- A riverboat worker and will be outside the county during early voting and election day (Copy of Transportation Worker Identification Credentials must be attached)

If you are serving in the military and will be outside of the county during the election, or if you are a citizen residing overseas, you are also eligible to vote by mail. Please see Military and Overseas Voting for more information.

How Do I Apply To Vote By Mail?
You must submit a request to vote by mail to the Bedford County Election Commission in writing. You may mail, fax or email the completed form to the office. If emailing the document, it must be completed, signed, then scanned and attached to an email. A simple email requesting a ballot is not sufficient to serve as the application. You may write out your request on any piece of paper, or you may print out a pre-formatted Absentee by-mail Request.
You must include the following information in your request:

- Name (as registered)
- Residence Address in Bedford County
- Mailing Address
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Election and Election Date
- Reason for Voting Absentee (If you are a commercial driver, please attach a copy of your CDL. If you are a riverboat worker, please attach a copy of your TWIC)
- For primary elections, include a party preference
- Voter Signature

You must apply to vote by mail in this way separately for each election that you will need to vote absentee.

** If you will need to vote by mail in every election due to medical reasons, you may be eligible to become a Permanent Absentee Voter.

** When Should I Apply To Vote By Mail?

The Election Commission will accept your request to vote by mail as early as ninety (90) days and as late as close of Business seven (7) days before any election. [Click here for 2014 Election dates and deadlines.]

Please keep in mind that voting by mail takes some time. The Election office must mail your ballot, you must complete and return your ballot by mail, and the Election office must receive your completed ballot on or before the Polls close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day for your vote to count (an Election-Day postmark is not sufficient). Please plan the timing of your request accordingly.