

Multipartisan Assistance Team (MAT)

Providing help with mail-in absentee voting at facilities

Some voters require assistance when voting their mail-in absentee ballot because they are unable to find witnesses, vote their ballot, or mail in their ballot under their own power. The first preference, according to the law, is for the voter to receive assistance from a near relative or guardian. But some voters, such as those who live in facilities (such as a nursing home), may not have a near relative or guardian available to provide that assistance. Employees of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes or rest homes are prohibited *by law* from providing assistance with absentee voting. Such voters may face challenges in casting a mail-in absentee ballot. But here's the good news: In every county, an impartial team called a "Multipartisan Assistance Team" (MAT) is available to visit facilities in order to provide assistance with mail-in absentee voting.



What is a "Multipartisan Assistance Team"?

A Multipartisan Assistance Team, or "MAT," is a group of persons who has been appointed by the local County Board of Elections office to provide assistance with mail-in absentee voting to voters living at facilities such as nursing homes. The makeup of the Team includes, at minimum, persons whose voter registration is affiliated with two different political parties (or, in the alternative, persons who were unanimously appointed by a bipartisan County Board of Elections). So, if you request help from a MAT, you should receive impartial, professional assistance. Their job is to help you vote, but your voting choices will remain confidential.

What does a Multipartisan Assistance Team do?

MATs can assist in requesting or casting a mail-in absentee ballot.

- **Requesting a mail-in absentee ballot:** To receive an absentee ballot by mail, a request must be made on the official Absentee Ballot Request Form. MATs can provide this form and help you fill it out if necessary. The form is then delivered back to the County Board of Elections office, and the ballot will be mailed to you in the following days.
- **Casting a mail-in absentee ballot:** If you've requested a mail-in absentee ballot, it will arrive in the mail, along with a special return envelope. On the back of the return envelope, you must enter some information and sign your name. It is also required that two witnesses (or a Notary Public) are present while you mark your absentee ballot, and those witnesses sign on the return envelope as well. MATs can help with marking the ballot, completing the required information on the return envelope, and serving as witnesses to the act of voting.

How do I become a MAT Team member?

If you are interesting in serving as a MAT Team member, please contact our office. The Board of Elections will provide each MAT Team member with the necessary training and materials to cover the aspects of visiting a facility and providing assistance to voters. This is an unpaid position assisting the voters of Alexander County in requesting and casting a mail-in absentee ballot.