



## CNMI Voter's Information Pamphlet (March 28, 2014)

Dear Voter:

The Commonwealth Election Commission has taken the time to prepare this Voter's Information Pamphlet to provide you with information on Registration and Absentee Voting Procedures for CNMI Elections.

If you need further information, please visit the Commonwealth Election Commission (CEC) office in Susupe or contact us at (670) 664-VOTE (8683). You may also visit our website at <http://votecnmi.gov.mp/> or email us at [executivedirect@votecnmi.gov.mp](mailto:executivedirect@votecnmi.gov.mp). We will be happy to assist you.

### **Registration Procedures**

**Qualification for Registering.** You may register to vote if you meet the following:

- ❖ On the date of the election, is 18 years of age or older
- ❖ Is either a citizen or national of the United States
- ❖ Domiciled in the Commonwealth
- ❖ A resident in the Commonwealth and has resided in the Commonwealth for at least 120 days
- ❖ Is not serving a sentence for a felony
- ❖ Has not been declared by a court to be of unsound mind
- ❖ Is not confined to a mental institution

**When to Register.** You may register anytime during the year, but not later than sixty (60) days prior to an election.

**How and Where to Register.** You may register to vote by completing an Affidavit of Registration at any of the following:

- ❖ The CEC Office
- ❖ With Commissioners on Tinian & Rota
- ❖ Or by mail, if residing outside the Commonwealth (application must be mailed from outside the Commonwealth)

**You must provide:**

- ❖ A copy of U.S. Passport; or
- ❖ A copy of Birth Certificate with a picture identification card; or
- ❖ Certificate of Naturalization with a picture identification card.

**Renewal of Registration.** Once registered, you do not need to register again unless you:

- ❖ Did not vote during the preceding two (2) General Elections; or
- ❖ Are transferring from one election district to another.

Failure to renew your registration in the above instances will prevent you from voting on the day of a scheduled election.

**Transferring to Another Election District/Precinct.** You may transfer your voting district during the time of the registration period at the CEC Office (at least 60 days prior to the **scheduled election**).

**Registration by Mail.** If you are off-island and have met all the prerequisites to vote in the CNMI, you may register by completing and submitting an Affidavit of Registration by mail to the CEC Office. You may download the form from our website. Application must be mailed from outside the CNMI.

**Registration Deadline.** 60 days prior to a scheduled election. Applications must be received by the CEC Office no later than 60 days prior to the

scheduled election, and if by mail, must be postmarked no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled election.

### **Voting Procedures**

**Absentee Voting.** If you are unable to physically vote at your polling place on election day, you may vote by Absentee Ballot or vote during the 11-day Early Voting period.

**Conditions to Vote by Absentee Voting.** Any registered voter of the Commonwealth may vote at any election by absentee ballot if he or she feels it likely he or she will be prevented from personally going to the polls in the senatorial district in which he or she is registered to vote and voting on Election Day because of:

- ❖ The conduct of his or her business;
- ❖ The necessity of travel;
- ❖ Attendance at an institution of learning;
- ❖ Serving in the United States Armed Forces or the Merchant Marine;
- ❖ Employment;
- ❖ Training;
- ❖ Receiving treatment at a medical institution;
- ❖ Government representation; or
- ❖ Accompanying a member of the household who is engaged in an activity listed above.

**How to Apply.** An Absentee Ballot Application Form must be completed and filed by each voter for scheduled election at least 25 days before an election if done by mail or by the business day prior to the scheduled Election Day. Off-island applicants may download the Application for Absentee Voting on our

website and either, mail, fax or email the form to us. This form of submission must be received by the CEC Office at least 25 days prior to the scheduled election. Walk-in applicants may submit their application anytime but not later than the business day prior to the scheduled election.

**Early Voting.** To vote early in a scheduled election, you must complete an application for early voting at the CEC Office at least 7 days prior to the election (45 days for Northern Island residents). You then will cast your early voting ballot at the designated locations for the early voting period. (CEC Office for Saipan, DPS buildings on Tinian and Rota and CEC Office and Northern Islands for Northern Island residents.) Hours for early voting during this period is 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, including weekend and holidays.

**Conditions for Early Voting.** Any registered voter of the Commonwealth may vote early at any election if he or she feels it likely he or she will be prevented from personally going to the polls in the senatorial district in which he or she is registered to vote and voting on Election Day because of:

- ❖ The conduct of his/her business
- ❖ The necessity of travel
- ❖ Serving in the United States Armed Forces or the Merchant Marine
- ❖ Receiving treatment at a medical institution
- ❖ Government representation
- ❖ Accompanying a member of the household who is engaged in an activity listed above.

**Hospitalized Voters.** If you are hospitalized or unable to go to our polling place on Election Day because of illness or disability, you may request for confine voting. A relative or friend must request at your polling place, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Election Day, for you to vote at your present location on Election Day.

**Date of Elections:**

- ❖ First Tuesday after first Monday of November on even numbered years.

### **Offices Up for Elections**

#### **General Elections:**

- ❖ Gubernatorial (Elections)
  - ✓ Governor/Lieutenant Governor
  - ✓ Delegate to the U.S. House of Representative
  - ✓ Attorney General
  - ✓ Members of the Senate (2 Seats per Senatorial District)
  - ✓ Members of the House of Representatives (All)
  - ✓ Mayors
  - ✓ Municipal Councils (All)
  - ✓ Board of Education
  - ✓ Judges-If any (Depending of term of judges)
  - ✓ Initiatives-If any (Constitutional/General Law)
- ❖ Mid-Term (Elections)
  - ✓ Delegate to the U.S. House of Representative
  - ✓ Members of the Senate (1 Seats per Senatorial District)
  - ✓ Members of the House of Representatives (All)

- ✓ Municipal Councils (All)
- ✓ Board of Education
- ✓ Judges-If any (Depending of term of Judges)
- ✓ Initiatives-If any (Constitutional/General Law)

**Election Polling Sites (Tentative)**

Precinct 1A (San Antonio)	Hopwood Junior High School
Precinct 1B (San Vicente)	Dandan Elementary School
Precinct 1C (Koblerville)	Koberville Youth Center
Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe)	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Precinct 3A (Oleai Area)	Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium
Precinct 3B (Garapan Area)	Garapan Elementary School (Northern Entrance)
Precinct 4A (Tanapag)	Tanapag Elementary School
Precinct 4B (San Roque Area)	Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School
Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill Area)	Jesus P. Mafnas Legislative Building
Precinct 5 (Kagman Area)	Kagman Elementary School
Precinct 6 (Tinian)	Tinian Elementary School
Precinct 7 (Rota)	NMC Campus-Rota

Note: Polling sites are based on designation by the Commission and are

therefore tentative until such time that the Commission designates such site.

### **Time Set Aside for Voting**

**Employees Entitled to Leave on Election Day for Voting.** Any voter shall on the day of the election be entitled to be absent from any service or employment in which such voter is then engaged or employed for a period of not more than two hours (excluding any lunch or rest periods) between the time of opening and closing the polls to allow two consecutive hours in which to vote. Such voter shall not because of such absence be liable to any penalty, nor shall there be any rescheduling of normal hours or any deduction made, on account of the absence from any usual salary or wages; provided that the foregoing shall not be applicable to any employee whose hours of employment are such that the employee has a period of two consecutive hours (excluding any lunch or rest periods) between the time of opening and closing the polls when the employee is not working for the employer. If, however, any employee fails to vote after taking time off for that purpose the employer, upon verification of that fact, may make appropriate deductions from the salary or wages of the employee for the period during which the employee is hereunder entitled to be absent from employment.

### **Warning**

Any person, who willfully causes, procures or allows him or herself or any person to be registered as a voter, knowing he/she or that of another person not to be entitled to registration, is guilty of a felony and is punishable by law.