

Voting by Absentee Ballot in New Bedford



by
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On November 8th, the residents of New Bedford will decide the next mayor, and the members of the City Council and School Committee. A preview of the election can be found [here](#).

Any time I vote, there are two quotes that come to mind:

“Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption.” – James Garfield

“Should things go wrong at any time, the people will set them to rights by the peaceable exercise of their elective rights.” – Thomas Jefferson



James Garfield's words are spot on and I think Thomas Jefferson was a bit too optimistic. Too few Americans vote at a national level and the vast majority stay home during local elections. While U.S. citizens have the option to set things right, too many choose not to.

On October 4th, 2011 only 28% of those registered to vote in New Bedford showed up to the polls. The numbers are expected to be similar for the final municipal elections held on November 8th. This means roughly 1/4 of registered voters, or 15% of the residents will decide our city's leadership for the next two years.

One of the easiest ways to increase voter turn-out is to get more people to vote by absentee ballot. It's simple, easy and ensures everyone, not just the military, is provided the opportunity to vote. According to the City of New Bedford's website, 12pm on November 7th is the last chance to file for an absentee ballot application. You can download the voting absentee ballot application [here](#). If you need a family member to request a form for you you can use this form. If you have any questions contact the New Bedford Election Commission at (508) 979-1421.

There is no excuse for not voting on November 8th. Show up to the vote, or request an absentee ballot to ensure your voice is heard. Let's not let a minority of our residents decide our future.