

VOTER ID

DO I HAVE TO SHOW ID?

Yes. In Iowa, you must show ID to vote. That ID must prove both identity (who you are) and residence (where you live).

WHAT ARE THE ACCEPTED FORMS OF ID?

- An Iowa Voter ID card. Any registered voter can get an Iowa Voter ID card for free from their county auditor.
- Any of the following, as long as the ID contains your photo and a valid expiration date (not expired):
 - Driver's license or non-operator ID card from Iowa or another state
 - U.S. passport
 - U.S. military or veteran's identification card
 - A signed tribal ID card or other tribal enrollment document issued by a federally recognized tribe or nation
 - ID card issued by an employer

If your photo ID doesn't have your current address, you must also show one of the following documents to prove residency:

- Residential lease or property tax statement
- Utility bill or bank statement
- Paycheck or government check
- Other government document

The residency document must show your name and current address, be dated, and show that you lived there within the last 45 days. For example, a utility bill from two months ago (60 days) won't count but a utility bill from last month would.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE ABOVE ID?

- Another registered voter in your precinct may vouch for your identity and residency by signing a sworn statement. The signer must show an ID. You can then cast a regular ballot.
- Another option is casting a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a ballot given to a voter whose eligibility to vote is not immediately established.

You will be given a form that tells you the reason why you are casting a provisional ballot. If the reason is that you registered on Election Day and did not have the proper identification, you will be provided a list of acceptable identification that you may either bring to your polling place before the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, or bring to your county auditor's office by the deadline listed on the form given to you.

WILL MY PROVISIONAL BALLOT BE COUNTED?

- Yes, as long as you follow the instructions on the form provided to you when you cast your provisional ballot.
- If the issue is identification, and you have time and have an ID at home or work, it's usually better to get your ID and return to the polls to cast a regular ballot.
- If you have more questions, contact your county auditor's office or go to the Iowa Secretary of State website at sos.iowa.gov.

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

WHAT IF I'M NOT ON THE LIST OF VOTERS PROVIDED TO POLL WORKERS?

- First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place for your address.
- If you're at the right polling place, but your name isn't on the voter list, you may either register to vote or ask for a provisional ballot.

WHAT IF I GO TO THE WRONG POLLING PLACE?

- Ask a poll worker to help you find the right polling place. Or call your county auditor's office, or look up your polling place online at sos.iowa.gov.
- You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place.

WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE ON MY BALLOT OR THE VOTING MACHINE MALFUNCTIONS?

- Tell a poll worker before you turn in your ballot. Do not try to erase any marks on your ballot. You will be given a new ballot. You have the right to up to two replacement ballots as long as you catch your mistake before you cast your ballot.
- If your voting machine malfunctions, request a different machine or a paper ballot.

HAVE QUESTIONS? NEED HELP?

YOUR COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

County auditors of the county in which you live are the local officials responsible for elections. You can call or email them. Or contact any other county auditor with questions. As needed, they can direct you to the right county auditor's office for you.

IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

888-SOS-VOTE (767-8683) or sos.iowa.gov

The Iowa Secretary of State's office is the statewide office responsible for elections in our state. It staffs this number to answer people's questions about voting.

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

If you feel your vote has been wrongly denied, contact the ACLU of Iowa at legal.program@aclu-ia.org.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party.



LET ME VOTE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IOWA

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV. 4, 2025
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M.

QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status before Election Day.
- If it's more convenient, vote before Election Day using absentee voting by mail or early in person.
- If you plan to vote at the polls, locate your polling place before the election. Call your county auditor or go to sos.iowa.gov.
- Bring some form of ID, if you have it. (See "Voter ID").
- Remember that in most cases, if there is a problem with your casting a regular ballot, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot.

WHO CAN VOTE?

CAN I VOTE IN IOWA?

- Before you actually vote, you must register to vote. You can register and vote in Iowa if you meet all of the following qualifications:
 - You are a U.S. citizen.
 - You are an Iowa resident.
 - You are at least age 17 when you register and are age 18 by Election Day.
 - If you have been convicted of a felony and have discharged your sentence, you can now probably vote in Iowa. See "What If I've Been Convicted of a Felony?"
 - You haven't been declared by a court to be mentally incompetent to vote (unless the court certifies you are no longer incompetent).

WHAT IF I'M A STUDENT?

Register to vote at your permanent home address or your school address, but not both. You must meet the same requirements to vote as any other eligible voter. If you have questions, contact your county auditor.

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT
[WWW.ACLU-IA.ORG/VOTE](https://www.aclu-ia.org/vote)

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO STAY OR I'M HOMELESS?

You can still register to vote and vote. Simply describe your place of residence on the voter registration form (for example, a park, a shelter, a friend's or family member's house, or any other place where you usually stay or sleep).

WHAT IF I'VE BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY?

- Most lowans who have a felony conviction are eligible to vote once they have discharged their sentences, including probation, parole, supervised release, and special sentence.
- You are eligible to vote in Iowa IF:
 - » You have discharged your sentence, meaning you're not incarcerated, not on probation, parole, supervised release, or are subject to a special sentence.
 - » You were not convicted of any felony under Iowa Code Chapter 707. Some examples of those felonies are: murder, voluntary manslaughter, felony involuntary manslaughter, and homicide, or serious injury by a vehicle. A complete list can be found online in Iowa Code Chapter 707.
- You do not have to have paid in full or be on a payment plan to pay off fines, fees, or restitution. Your obligation to pay those hasn't gone away; those debts simply are no longer tied to your ability to vote.
- If you were convicted under Chapter 707, you can still apply to the Governor's office to have your voting rights restored.
- If you were convicted of any misdemeanor, you can vote. If you're in jail, you can vote by absentee ballot.

REGISTRATION

WHAT IS VOTER REGISTRATION?

Before you vote, you must register to vote. After registering for the first time, you may or may not need to register again. See details below.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M REGISTERED?

Check at sos.iowa.gov or contact your county auditor.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- **In person** by filling out a voter registration form at your county auditor's office
- **By mail** by filling out a voter registration form and mailing it to your county auditor's office. Get a mail-in voter registration form online at sos.iowa.gov or from your county auditor office, libraries, colleges, and high schools, or by calling the Secretary of State's office. Fill out the form and return it to your county auditor's office by mail or in person.
- **When you apply for services** at the Motor Vehicle Driver's License Stations, state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) or services to people with disabilities. You also may be able to register at many other state and federal offices and agencies
- **On Election Day** at your polling place
- **Online** if you have a current Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID. Go to: mymvd.iowadot.gov/voterregistration and follow the directions.

WHAT'S THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

Mailed registration forms must arrive at your county auditor's office by Monday, Oct. 21 at 5:00 p.m. If you miss that deadline, you can instead register to vote in person at your county auditor's office. Or you can register to vote right at your polling place on Election Day.

WHAT IF I MISS THE DEADLINE?

You can still vote by registering at your polling place on Election Day. Bring proof of your identity and residence (or another registered voter to vouch for you). See "Voter ID."

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY NAME OR MOVE?

- You have to **submit a written notice** to your county auditor every time you change your name.
- You have to **update your existing registration** every time you move within Iowa or if you move from a different state to Iowa.
- If you moved and didn't re-register, you can still vote. Go to your new polling place on Election Day and register at the polls. Bring documents to prove your identity and residence (or another voter to vouch for you). See "Voter ID."

VOTING EARLY

CAN I VOTE BEFORE ELECTION DAY?

Yes. Any registered voter can vote during the 20-day period before Election Day by casting an "absentee ballot." You can mail it in or deliver it to your county auditor's office.

HOW DO I VOTE WITH AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- 1) First, you have to ask for a ballot. This must be done by completing a request form. You can get a request form by calling or emailing your county auditor or downloading the request form by going to sos.iowa.gov.
The request form must arrive at your local county auditor's office by Monday, Oct. 21 at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) The county auditor will then mail you an actual ballot. Follow the instructions exactly.
- 3) After you have completed the ballot, you need to get it to your county auditor's office. Some options:
 - » Mail it as instructed. Mail it in plenty of time—we strongly recommend at least one week before Election Day. Your ballot must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day or it won't count.
 - » Or drop your absentee ballot off at your county auditor's office any time before 8 p.m. on Election Day. A number of county auditors have drop boxes available 24/7. Most absentee ballots must be returned either by the voter, someone living in the voter's household, or an immediate family member. However, there are exceptions for people with certain disabilities. Contact your county auditor for details. Note: If you change your mind and would rather vote in-person on Election Day, you can go to your polling place, surrender your absentee ballot, and then vote in person.
 - » Want to make sure your ballot was received? Call or email your county auditor or track it online at sos.iowa.gov.

WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE ON MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- Do not try to erase or scratch out your answers. Instead, request a replacement ballot.
- Put the absentee ballot in the return envelope with a note that you made an error and would like a new ballot. Write "spoiled ballot" on the envelope and mail it to your county auditor as directed.
- If you're concerned about any voting deadlines, call or email your county auditor
- You can also take your ballot to the polls on Election Day and turn it in to the poll workers and tell them what the problem is. They'll then take the problem ballot so it is not counted and you can vote in a voting booth instead.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

CAN I GET TIME OFF FROM WORK TO VOTE?

Maybe. If your work schedule doesn't give you two consecutive hours off while the polls are open, you have the right to take time off from work to vote. However, you must give your employer written notice before Election Day. Your employer may not penalize you or deduct from your regular wages or salary on account of the absence.

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- You must vote at the polling place to which you're assigned.
- If you recently registered or re-registered, your assigned polling place will be listed on the voter registration acknowledgment card that you should receive in the mail.
- You can call your county auditor's office to find out where to vote.
- You can also look up your polling place online at sos.iowa.gov.

WHAT IF MY POLLING PLACE IS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO ME OR I NEED HELP VOTING?

- Under Iowa law, polling places must be accessible to persons with disabilities.
- If you find out before you go to vote that your polling place is not accessible to you, contact your county auditor or the Secretary of State right away and ask for an accommodation.
- If you find out when you go to vote that you cannot enter the polling place because of a disability, you can send someone into the polling place on your behalf to request curbside voting. Poll workers will bring a paper ballot outside to your vehicle so you can vote.
- You also have the right to have anyone you choose assist you, including poll workers, at the polls. You may bring this person into the voting booth with you. The only exceptions are that you may not be assisted by your employer, an agent or representative of your employer, or an agent or representative of your labor union.