

VOTER ID

DO I HAVE TO SHOW ID TO VOTE?

Yes. In recent years, Iowa has dramatically increased the amount of documentation voters must show in order to vote.

I'M REGISTERED. WHAT ID DO I NEED TO VOTE?

- Iowa driver's license, not expired for more than 90 days
- Iowa non-operator's ID, not expired for more than 90 days
- U.S. passport, not expired
- U.S. military ID or veteran ID, not expired
- Tribal ID card/document, signed, with photo, not expired
- Voter ID PIN card, signed. This free card is issued automatically to registered voters who do not have a valid Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID, or to any registered voter who requests one from their county auditor.

WHAT ID DO I NEED IF I'M NOT REGISTERED? OR IF MOVED RECENTLY TO A NEW COUNTY?

You can register to vote at the polls, but you will need to provide additional documentation that proves 1) your identity and 2) where you live.

If you've moved to a new precinct within the same county and your ID does not have your new address, you must also bring one of the documents listed below to prove where you live.

Documents to Prove Your Identity

These must be the actual, physical copy. They must have an expiration date, must not be expired, and contain your photograph.

- Driver's license or non-operator ID card from Iowa or another state
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military or veteran 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
- A student ID issued by an Iowa high school or Iowa college. It must have an expiration date.

Documents to Prove Your Residency

These can be actual, physical copies or a mobile/electronic copy.

- Any of the unexpired IDs with photos listed above can also be used to prove your residence, as long as they also contain your current address. Or use one of the documents below that have your current address:
- Current residential lease or property tax statement
- Utility bill, dated within the last 45 days
- Bank statement, dated within the last 45 days
- Paycheck, dated within the last 45 days
- Government check (dated within the last 45 days)
- Other government document (dated within the last 45 days)

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE ID DOCUMENTATION LISTED HERE?

- 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 that you may 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.

TRANSGENDER, NONBINARY VOTERS

- Regardless of whether you are transgender or gender non-conforming, if you are otherwise qualified to vote in Iowa (see "Who Can Vote?"), you can vote. That is true whether or not your gender identity or gender presentation matches the name, photo, or gender marker on your ID. As long as all legal voting requirements have been met, you are entitled to vote.
- If you experience problems or harassment, contact your county auditor's office or the Election Protection Hotline, below.

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.

IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

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

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683) or go to 866ourvote.org

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.



Current as of Sept. 2026

LET ME VOTE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IOWA

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 2026
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status before Election Day.
- If it's more convenient, consider voting 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 (see above). If you have questions, contact your county auditor.

THIS INFORMATION AND MORE IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT
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 Iowans 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, and are not 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's 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 a driver's license station, a state agency that provides 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/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration and follow the directions.

WHAT'S THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

Mailed registration forms must arrive at your county auditor's office by Monday, Oct. 19 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. 19 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 with 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 instead.
 - » 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 you should 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.