

VOTER ID

DO I HAVE TO SHOW ID?

Yes. With changes in voter laws, you must show an ID to vote in Iowa. 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 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 in the precinct, 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 in the precinct, 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 an attestation. 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 9:00 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?

- Your ballot won't be counted unless 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 the Iowa Secretary of State website.

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 www.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

Call or email them. Contact information is listed online.

IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

888-SOS-VOTE (767-8683)

<https://sos.iowa.gov>

Staffed to help answer people's questions about voting. And, also used it as a hotline to report alleged voter fraud.

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, non-profit, 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.

In August 2018, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed a temporary block of some portions of Iowa's voter ID and early voting laws, saying those laws hurt Iowan's ability to vote. This document reflects that decision. Go to www.aclu-ia.org for the most current information.



Current as of 6-24-2019

LET ME VOTE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IOWA

**GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 9:00 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 in person.
- If you plan to vote at the polls, locate your polling place before the election. Call your county auditor or go to www.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;
 - You've given up your right to vote in any other place;
 - You haven't been convicted of a felony (or you were convicted of a felony, but your right to vote was restored); and
 - 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 potential voter. If you have questions, contact your county auditor.

**THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT
WWW.ACLU-IA.ORG/VOTE OR IN SPANISH AT
WWW.ACLU-IA.ORG/VOTAR.**

WHAT IF 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 CRIME?

- If you were convicted of a **misdemeanor** (simple, serious, or aggravated), you can vote. However, you may need to vote by absentee ballot if you're still in jail.
- If you were convicted of a **felony**, you may or may not be able to vote.
- You can vote if you've completed your sentence (including any incarceration, on probation, parole, and/or supervised release) and have had your rights restored
- You can vote if you completed your felony sentence **before July 4, 2005**.
- If you completed your felony sentence **after July 4, 2005** but **before January 14, 2011**, your right to vote was probably automatically restored. But if you never received notice in the mail after you completed your sentence, check with the Office of the Governor at 515-281-5211. The Governor's Office maintains a list of people whose right to vote was restored.
- If you completed your felony sentence **after January 14, 2011**, you cannot vote until the Governor restores your right to vote.
- If you have been convicted of a felony and are unsure if you can vote OR want your right to vote restored, the ACLU has a complete guide. Go to www.aclu-ia.org; call 515-243-3988; or email legal.program@aclu-ia.org.

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 www.sos.iowa.gov or call 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 mail-in voter registration form and mailing it to your county auditor's office. Get a mail-in voter registration form online at www.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; or
- **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?

To register by mail or at your county auditor's office, the deadline for your registration to be received is 5 p.m. 10 days before general elections and 11 days before all other elections. Mailed forms should be post-marked 15 days before Election Day.

WHAT IF I MISS THE DEADLINE?

You can still vote by registering at the polls on Election Day. Bring proof of your identity and residence (or another 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 the same county. You have to fill out a new registration form every time you move to a new county in 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 29-day period before Election Day by casting an "absentee ballot" by mail or in person at your county auditor's office.

HOW DO I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- 1) Submit an application requesting that an absentee ballot be mailed to you. Get the application at your county auditor's office, by calling the Secretary of State's Office at 515-281-5204, or download one from www.sos.iowa.gov.
- 2) The completed application request for an absentee ballot must be received by your county auditor no later than 10 days before Election Day.
- 3) You will then be mailed a ballot to fill out and return by mail or hand delivery.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR RETURNING MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

- To be counted, your absentee ballot must be postmarked no later than the Monday before Election Day and received in the county auditor's office no later than noon one week after Election Day. (You can call your county auditor to make sure it was received or check online at www.sos.iowa.gov). You may hand-deliver your voted absentee ballot to the county auditor's office anytime before the polls close at 9:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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 clearly stating that you want a *new* ballot.
- Write "spoiled ballot" on the envelope
- Return the envelope to your county auditor's office.
- If you are concerned about meeting a voting deadline, call your county auditor's office.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

CAN I GET TIME OFF FROM WORK TO VOTE?

Maybe. If your work schedule doesn't give you three consecutive hours off while the polls are open, you have the right to take time off from work in order to vote. However, you have to give your employer written notice before Election Day, and your employer has the right to specify which hours you may take. 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.
- Your assigned polling place will be listed on the voter registration acknowledgment card that you should receive in the mail shortly after you register. Or 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.

CAN I GET A BALLOT IN MY NATIVE LANGUAGE?

Election materials in Iowa are generally available in English only. But you have the right to bring an interpreter to the polls or to get assistance in your language from anyone you choose, including poll-workers, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent or representative of your employer, or an agent or representative of your labor union.