



IOWA VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline to Register	Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot	Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot	Early Voting	Election Day Voting
Applications for preregistration before Election Day must be received by 5 p.m. on Oct. 24. In-person voter registration is also available on Election Day.	The request form must be <i>received</i> in the county auditor's office by 5 p.m. on Oct. 24.	Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 2 and received within six days after Election Day.	In-person early voting runs from Oct. 5 to Nov. 2. Check with your county auditor's office for specific locations and times.	Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Visit WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org to easily check your registration status, apply to vote by mail, and get all the information you need to vote safely, securely and on time.

This memo has been prepared by the AFL-CIO for our state, area and local central labor bodies, affiliated unions and constituency groups to use in planning voter registration and mail/absentee ballot programs in 2020. This memo is for informational purposes only and is current as of Sept. 9, 2020. It is essential that you check the links provided throughout this document for any changes and consult with your attorney about any specific questions you have.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Who can register to vote in Iowa?

In order to register to vote in Iowa, a person must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of Iowa and of the city/township in which they register
- Be at least 18 years old on the date of the general election
- Not be judged mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- Not be currently incarcerated for a felony or misdemeanor offense
- Not have been convicted of a felony, unless their voting rights have been restored
- Not claim the right to vote in any other place

Civil rights restoration:

A recent executive order restores the right to vote for Iowans who already have completed their felony sentences and any probation, parole or special sentence. Individuals who were convicted of felony homicide offenses are excluded from the restoration and must continue to individually apply for restoration. More information about voting rights restoration is [available online](#) from the office of the governor.

What options are there to register to vote in Iowa?

Online registration:

Iowans can [register online](#) with a Social Security number and an Iowa driver's license or ID number. Online registration must be completed by Oct. 24 to be processed in time for the election.

You also can use the AFL-CIO's voter registration tool at WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org, which will walk you through the process for your state.



By mail:

Iowans can complete the [voter registration form](#) and submit it by mail to their [county auditor's office](#). Mail-in registration forms must be received by Oct. 24 to be processed in time for the election.

Election Day registration:

Iowans also can register [at their polling place](#) on Election Day. In order to register on Election Day, voters will need to show proof of identification and proof of residence.

- The best way to do this is with a valid Iowa driver's license with your current address printed on it.
- Other acceptable forms of identification are photo IDs that are current, valid and that contain an expiration date (Iowa nondriver ID card, out-of-state driver's license or nondriver ID card, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, ID card issued by employer, student ID issued by Iowa high school or college, or tribal ID).
- If your photo ID does not contain your current address, you may use another acceptable proof of residence, including a lease, utility or cell phone bill, bank statement, paycheck or government document. If you cannot prove who you are and where you live with the documents listed above, a registered voter from your precinct may attest to your identity under sworn oath.

My union is going to conduct a voter registration drive. What else do I need to know?

Iowa does not require training for registration drives, but the secretary of state's website provides guidelines for [soliciting voter registration applications](#).

- The state mail-in voter registration application can be downloaded at the secretary of state's website. Groups also can purchase forms from the secretary of state's office at cost.

Helping a voter complete the form:

- A person assisting another in completing a voter registration form may not complete any portion of the form without the knowledge or consent of the registrant. Do not fill in missing information or make corrections on a registration form without the consent of the person registering to vote. Review the completed form while the registrant still is with you (and be sure they have checked the boxes answering the questions about their citizenship and age) so you can ask them to correct any errors or omissions before you take the form.

Collecting and submitting voter registration forms:

- Do not offer any form of compensation or other incentive to potential registrants for completing a voter registration form.
- Do not pay anyone based on the number of voter registration forms they collect. Paying, offering to pay or receiving compensation based on the number of registration forms completed or based on the number of party affiliations shown on completed forms is illegal.
- Groups that collect forms on behalf of a political party, nonparty political organization, candidate or committee must submit collected registration forms to the appropriate county auditor within seven days of receiving the form, or if they collect a completed voter registration form from an applicant within three days of the voter registration deadline, they must submit the form to the appropriate commissioner within 24 hours of receiving the form.

When do voters need to update their voter registration? How do they update it?

- An Iowa voter must submit a new voter registration if they change their name or party affiliation or move to a different Iowa county.
- > Voters can update their information [online](#), by submitting a new form by mail, or in person on Election Day.
- > If you have moved to a different county and plan to vote by mail, you must update your voter registration before requesting an absentee ballot.
- If a voter has moved within the same county, they should report this change of address on Election Day at the polling place for the address where they live, and they must provide proof of identity and residence.
- > If a voter has moved within the same Iowa county and plan to vote by mail, the address will be updated to the one provided on the voter's absentee ballot request form, so the change does not need to be provided in advance.

VOTING

Who can vote by absentee ballot?

Any registered voter in Iowa may request an absentee ballot through their county auditor. No excuse is required to vote absentee.

How can a voter request an absentee ballot?

A registered Iowa voter seeking to vote via absentee ballot should complete an absentee ballot request form. The state will mail absentee ballot request forms to every voter. But if you do not receive a form or if you need a replacement, you can:

- Print the [absentee ballot request form](#) from the secretary of state's website and submit it in person, or by mail to your [county auditor](#).
- Call your [county auditor](#) to request that a form be mailed to you.
- Send a letter to your [county auditor](#) that requests an absentee ballot and contains the following information about you:
 - > Name
 - > Date of birth
 - > Iowa residential address
 - > Voter verification/ID number
 - Iowa driver's license number or nonoperator ID number *or*
 - Four-digit voter PIN located on the voter's Iowa voter ID card
 - > The name or date of the election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot
 - > Signature
 - > *Phone number and/or email address are not required but encouraged so the county auditor can get in touch to confirm any information in the request letter*

Unions that also are committees under Iowa Code Chapter 68A may solicit and collect applications on behalf of voters, but must follow certain rules that are [available on the secretary of state's website](#).

What is the deadline to submit an absentee ballot request form?

Completed request forms must be submitted to the voter's [county auditor](#) by 5 p.m. on Oct. 24. Voters can [track their absentee ballot request](#) on the secretary of state's website.

What options are available to vote by absentee ballot in person?

Voters can cast an absentee ballot in person at their [county auditor's office](#) beginning about 29 days before the election. Some counties also open [satellite locations](#) for in-person absentee voting.

How can voters return their absentee ballots? What is the deadline for returning absentee ballots?

A voter can return their absentee ballot by mail or in person to their [county auditor's office](#).

- Absentee ballots returned by mail will be counted as long as they are postmarked on or before Nov. 2 *and* arrive at the county auditor's office by noon on Nov. 9. Mail your ballot early to ensure it is received in time.

You also can use the AFL-CIO's absentee ballot request tool at [WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org](https://www.workersfirstvoteunion.org), which will walk you through the process for your state.

Are there any ID requirements for voting by absentee ballot?

When completing their absentee ballot request form, a voter must provide their Iowa driver's license (or nonoperator ID) number or their four-digit voter PIN, which can be found on a voter identification card issued at the time of registration. Any voter may request a new or replacement voter identification card by contacting their county auditor and asking to have a card mailed to them. Voter ID cards must be mailed and cannot be picked up at the auditor's office.

- Hand-delivered absentee ballots must be received by the county auditor’s office by the time polls close at 9 p.m. on Election Day.

A voter who already has requested and received an absentee ballot *cannot* deliver their completed absentee ballot to the polling place on Election Day. Instead, if they have not yet returned their absentee ballot, they can either (1) deliver the completed ballot to their county auditor’s office before the polls close on Election Day, (2) give back the absentee ballot at their polling place and instead vote using a regular ballot, or (3) vote at the polls using a “provisional ballot,” an option only available if you cannot return the absentee ballot provided to you (because you misplaced or lost it). A provisional ballot is reviewed by a board to ensure the voter was eligible to vote and did not already return a completed absentee ballot.

OTHER VOTING INFORMATION

Where can I find more information about voting rules in Iowa?

You can find more information about voting rules in Iowa at sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/index.html. For specific information on these topics:

- **Registration:** sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/voterregistration.html
- **Absentee voting:** sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/absenteeinfo.html
- **Voting on Election Day:** sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/electionday.html
- **Finding your precinct/polling place:** sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/pollingplace/search.aspx

If you need more information or have issues on Election Day, contact the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline, sponsored by a coalition of civil rights groups and unions.

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

Call in English	866-OUR-VOTE or 866-687-8683
Call in Spanish/English	888-VE-Y-VOTA or 888-839-8682
Call in Asian Languages/English	888-API-VOTE or 888-274-8683
Call in Arabic/English	844-YALLA-US or 844-925-5287
Or text	OUR VOTE to 97779

As the coronavirus continues to impact Americans across the country, there has been a staggering decrease in the number of people who are able to work the polls—which could mean closed polling places and long delays during the November election. The AFL-CIO is proud to partner with **Power the Polls**, a first-of-its-kind initiative to recruit poll workers to ensure a safe, fair election for all voters. Will you help us address our nation’s critical poll worker shortage? You can help make sure we have a safe, fair and efficient election for all voters, and potentially get paid to do it. Sign up to Power the Polls today.

powerthepolls.org/aflcio

WorkersFirstVoteUnion.org

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