

Voting at the Polls – Identification Required

Please note: A temporary court injunction dated July 24, 2018 reversed certain provisions of the new voting law discussed in the documents below. The injunction was appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court, which rendered a decision on August 10, 2018.

The Court **AFFIRMED** the injunction for the following items:

- Auditors shall not reject absentee ballots or ballot requests based on signature matching.
- Auditors shall not refuse absentee ballot requests that lack the voter's identification number.
- Voters need not produce identification at the polls, even if asked, until that law fully takes effect on January 1, 2019. **Voters choosing not to produce identification at the polls will be required to sign an oath of identification.**

The Court **REVERSED** the injunction regarding the absentee ballot timeframe. The first day to mail absentee ballots or to vote absentee ballots in person will remain at 29 days before the election.

The order takes effect on August 15, 2018. The Iowa Supreme Court remanded the case to the district court. The changes are reflected in the amendments indicated below.

If you have an Iowa driver's license or Iowa nonoperator's identification card, that is now your identification for voting purposes. Each active registered voter who **does not have** an Iowa driver's license or nonoperator's ID will receive through the mail a voter identification card with a confidential voter verification number. **The voter identification card must be signed by the voter prior to going to the polls.**

Voter identification cards will not be sent to voters listed by the Iowa Department of Transportation as having an Iowa driver's license or an Iowa nonoperator's identification card. The identification card for voting purposes for such voters is their driver's license or nonoperator's ID.

Beginning January 1, 2019, to vote a regular (non-provisional) ballot at the polls, voters properly registered in the precincts where they reside must present as identification one of the following (Until January 1, 2019, a registered voter shall be permitted to cast a regular ballot upon signing a prescribed oath attesting to the voter's identity.):

- 1) Iowa driver's license
- 2) Iowa nonoperator's identification card
- 3) U.S. passport
- 4) U.S. military or veterans identification card
- 5) Tribal identification card
- 6) Voter identification card issued under this new law **(Voter registration cards previously provided by county auditors will not be valid for purposes of voting.)**

- 7) If the voter can provide none of these, the voter may establish identity as described under “Election Day Registration,” or with an attester (see below).

Precinct election officials shall use the information on the proper identification card, **including the signature**, to determine whether the person offering to vote is the person whose name is on the identification card.

Attesters. Persons registered to vote but unable to present any of the above identification will be allowed to vote if their **identity and residence** within the precinct is **attested to** by a voter who is properly registered in the precinct (either preregistered or registered at the polls on election day). The attester must sign a prescribed oath and show proper ID, and may not attest for more than **two voters** in that election (except that such an attester may also attest for one person wishing to **register to vote** on election day).

~~Until January 1, 2019, a registered voter who fails to establish identity as described above shall be permitted to cast a regular ballot upon **signing a prescribed oath** attesting to the voter’s identity.~~

A voter unable to establish identity as described above shall be permitted to cast a **provisional ballot**. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter must provide the necessary identification to the Absentee and Special Voters Precinct Board before the deadline for receiving absentee ballots before the election canvass. This is usually noon on the Monday following the election. (It is earlier for school elections and for cities that potentially have runoff elections.)

For questions, contact the Election Office at 319-833-3007 or election@co.black-hawk.ia.us.