

NEW VOTING LAWS – HIGH POINTS

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.

Effective January 1, 2018 2019, voters are required to present specified identification in order to vote. If you are on record with the Iowa DOT as having a driver's license or a nonoperator's ID, you will need to present that card at the polls.

If you do not have a DOT-provided ID, the County Auditor will send you an **Iowa Voter Identification Card** for voting purposes. This is a new form, and the voter ID cards provided in the past by counties will not be accepted. It is only provided to voters who do not have an Iowa driver's license or nonoperator's ID.

Other acceptable forms of identification are a U.S. passport, a tribal identification card, or a U.S. military or veterans ID.

If the voter has none of these, the voter may present multiple forms of identification to establish identity and residence. The law is specific about these forms. For further information, contact the Black Hawk County Election Office (319-833-3007, election@co.black-hawk.ia.us) or visit our website (co.black-hawk.ia.us).

If the voter has no eligible forms of ID, another voter of the same precinct may attest to the identity and residence of the voter by signing a prescribed oath and showing proper ID. A voter may only attest for

two voters for any given election, but such an attester may also attest for one other person who needs to register to vote on election day.

One more exception: Until January 1, 2019, a registered voter with no acceptable ID shall be permitted to vote by signing a prescribed oath attesting to the voter's identity.

Beginning January 1, 2019, a voter unable to establish identity as described above shall be permitted to cast a **provisional ballot**. In order for a provisional ballot to be counted, the voter must provide the necessary identification to the Election Office 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 cities that potentially have runoff elections.)

Absentee Voting

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the County Auditor's Office or at a satellite voting location is changed from 40 days before the election to 29 days before the election.

Applications for absentee ballots delivered to the County Auditor's Office must be received 10 days before general elections and 11 days before all other elections. The previous deadline was four days before the election.

~~Applications for absentee ballots must contain a voter verification number, which is the voter's driver's license number, nonoperator ID number, or Iowa Voter Identification Card pin number.~~

Other Changes in the Law

Straight party voting is eliminated, effective immediately. All candidate choices must be individually marked on a ballot to receive votes.

If a registered voter **declines jury duty** giving non-citizenship or non-residency as justification, the voter's registration will be cancelled.

Effective January 1, 2019, 17-year-olds may register to vote, but they may not vote until age 18. However, if a voter will turn 18 on or before the general election, the voter may vote in the primary election while still 17.

These are not all of the changes in the law. For more information, contact the Election Office at 319-833-3007 or election@co.black-hawk.ia.us or visit our website (co.black-hawk.ia.us) and look under Elections for NEW VOTING LAWS.