

Absentee Voting

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.

Absentee ballots may be **requested** no more than 120 days before an election. (Ballot requests already on file will be honored.) Applications for absentee ballots received prior to 120 days before Election Day will be returned to the voter with a notification of the date when the applications will be accepted.

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the Auditor's Office or at a satellite voting location, and the first day for the Auditor to mail ballots to voters who have applied for them, is the 29th day before the election.

Applications for absentee ballots **delivered to the County Auditor's Office** must be received by the close of pre-election voter registration. This is 10 days before general elections and 11 days before all other elections.

When voting absentee in person **following the pre-election voter registration deadline** (see above), one must provide proof of identity and residency. See **Election Day Registration** for details.

~~Applications for absentee ballots must include, along with information previously required, the voter's **Voter verification number**, unless the voter is a resident or patient in a health care facility, hospital, or dementia-specific assisted living program. The voter verification number is the voter's Iowa driver's license number or nonoperator's ID number, or Iowa Voter Identification Card pin number.~~

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