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AND COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

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VOTER ID LAW

FAQ

When do voters have to start showing ID at the polls? Beginning January 1, 2019, ID will be required at the polls. Voters without ID will have to cast a provisional ballot or have another registered voter from the same precinct attest to their identification. Provisional ballots will not be counted without proper ID verification following the election.

Acceptable forms of ID include, Iowa driver's license, Iowa non-operator's ID, passport, military ID, veterans ID, tribal ID, or a Voter ID Card. **Student ID's and employee ID's will be accepted with valid expiration dates.**

What about voters who don't have an ID? Any registered voter who does not have an ID issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) will be issued a Voter ID Card for free, automatically, in the mail. (Voter ID Cards will also be issued to voters in the IDOT database upon request to their county auditor.) This also applies to anyone who registers to vote in the future. Upon receipt of the Voter ID Card in the mail, it should be immediately signed and placed in the voter's purse or wallet, and taken with them to vote. Obtaining the Voter ID Card does not require any further documentation or action by the voter. Voters simply need to be registered, and take their new Voter ID Card to the polls when they vote.

What about voters who have an expired ID?

There is a 60 day grace period on all state issued ID's. Registered voters who have an expired Iowa driver's license or a non-operator's ID will be issued a Voter ID card on the 61st day for free, automatically. Voter ID cards **MUST** be signed before going to the polls. Voter ID cards began being mailed in December of 2017. If you feel you should have received the Voter ID pin card, please call the Black Hawk County Elections Office.

What if I've recently moved or did not receive a Voter ID Card by mail?

Make sure you are registered at your current address. If you have moved, update your voter registration. You can do so at sos.iowa.gov. A Voter ID Card will then be sent to you from our office. If you no longer live in Iowa, but have received an Iowa Voter ID Card by mail, please contact our office to cancel your Iowa voter registration. **As a reminder, Voter ID cards will be automatically sent to voters who do not have a valid Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID, or if requested from your County Auditor.**

Is an ID number required for absentee ballots? YES, WITH A HOWEVER. The ID number (Iowa driver's license/non-driver's ID number, or Voter ID Card PIN), is among the required items for requesting absentee ballots. However, if any required information, including the voter verification number, is omitted from an absentee ballot request, the county auditor shall, by the best means available, obtain the additional necessary information.

I want to cast an absentee ballot by mail. What do I need to do? Absentee ballot requests must be received by our office by 5:00 p.m. on the 11th day before a primary election and on the 10th day before a general election. For all other elections, the deadline is 11 days before Election Day.

Election Day Registration or Change of Address? If you are registering to vote on Election Day or updating your address on Election Day you will be required to show both proof of current address and photo ID. Acceptable proofs of residence include, residential lease, property tax statement, utility bill (including a cell phone bill), bank statement, paycheck, or other government document. All documents must have your name, current address and be dated within the last 45 days. **Electronic documents ARE NOW ACCEPTED!** A lease would need to include Election Day. Students can no longer use student directories to prove current residence. If you think you may not have one of the acceptable residency documents it is important for you to REGISTER NOW. **You can register online at sos.iowa.gov.**

How will signature verification work? This new law enables precinct election officials to challenge a voter if they believe the voter is not the person depicted on the identification card; a signature that does not match the signature on the ID is one component of that review. Poll workers will be instructed to NOT reject a ballot based solely on signatures not matching, and to take into account all of the information presented to them.

How does the signature verification provision work on absentee ballots? Per a district court decision filed on September 30, 2019, auditors may not reject absentee ballots or ballot requests based on signature matching.

What are provisional ballots and how do they work? Provisional ballots provide a way for voters to cast their ballots on Election Day if there is a question about their eligibility to vote. Voters will be offered a provisional ballot if the voter had been sent an absentee ballot, if the voter does not provide ID when required, or if the voter is challenged by another registered voter. Provisional ballots are sealed in a secure envelope after the voter has marked the ballot. Provisional voters receive a notice on Election Day with information about the reason for the challenge and whether they need to provide additional documentation regarding their eligibility. Provisional ballots are considered after Election Day by the Absentee and Special Voters Precinct Board, who will determine whether the ballot is counted or not based on evidence supplied by the voter and/or by precinct officials.

For more information call or email the Black Hawk County Election Office:
319-833-3007 or election@co.black-hawk.ia.us