

COUNTY AUDITOR  
AND COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

**GRANT VEEDER**

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VOTER ID LAW

FAQ

**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.

**When do voters have to start showing ID at the polls? Beginning January 1, 2018 2019, ID will be required at the polls.** Anyone who does not ~~have~~ produce their ID prior to January 1, 2019, will be asked to sign an oath verifying their identity and will be allowed to cast a regular ballot. **Beginning January 1, 2019**, voters without an 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 will be issued a Voter ID Card for free, automatically, in the mail. 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 61<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 you Iowa voter registration. **As a reminder, Voter ID cards will only be sent to those voters who do not have a valid Iowa Driver's license or non-operator ID.**

**Is an ID number required for absentee ballots?** ~~No.~~ YES. Beginning January 1, 2018, voters requesting absentee ballots will be required to include their Iowa driver's license/non-driver's ID numbers on their request form. Voters receiving the Voter ID Card will be required to include their card's PIN number on the absentee ballot request form.

**I want to cast an absentee ballot by mail. What do I need to do?** ~~When requesting an absentee ballot, voters will need to include their Iowa DOT issued identification card number or PIN number from their Voter ID Card on the request form.~~ Absentee ballot requests must be received by our office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25, for the June 5 primary election and Saturday, October 27, for the November 6 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](http://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?** Under the temporary injunction, auditors may not reject absentee ballots or ballot requests based on signature matching. This new law enables county auditors to return an absentee ballot request or to reject an absentee ballot if they believe the signature on the request form or the voter affidavit is not the voter's signature. A registered voter may then submit a new application in writing, or may request a replacement ballot in person, in writing, or over the phone.

**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](mailto:election@co.black-hawk.ia.us)