

HOW TO VOTE GUIDE 2022

Clinton County, Iowa

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th, 2022

Make a plan to vote – and plan to vote the entire ballot. See specifics on candidates and the ballot measure at the end of this guide. There are three ways to vote in Iowa. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

Choice 1: VOTE EARLY, IN PERSON

VOTE EARLY AT YOUR COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Starts October 19 and ends Nov. 7th - the day before the election.

Location:

Clinton County Administration Building

1900 N. 3rd St.
Clinton, IA 52732

phone: (563) 244-0568

Hours:

October 19th through November 7th:

Monday through Friday / 8:00 am -4:30 pm

Saturday, October 29th:

8:00 am-1:00 pm

Saturday, November 5th

8:00 am-5:00 pm

VOTE EARLY AT THE SATELLITE LOCATION IN DEWITT

Address:

226 11th Street
DeWitt, IA 52742

Hours:

Saturday October 22 | 8:00 am -1:00 pm

Wednesday October 26 | noon to 6:00 pm

Saturday October 29 | 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU FOR EARLY VOTING - VALID FORMS OF ID

What are valid forms of ID to show when voting absentee in-person (otherwise known as early voting)?

- Iowa Driver's License
- Iowa Non-Operator ID
- Voter Identification Card (with PIN number and signature line)
- U.S. Military ID or Veteran ID
- U.S. Passport
- Tribal ID Card/Document

If you do not have any of the forms of ID listed above

If you do not have any of the forms of ID listed above you can ask your county Auditor's office for a voter identification card with a PIN number and a signature line that can be used at the polls.

The Clinton County Auditor's office phone number is (563) 244-0568

Note that if you have an Iowa driver's license or non operator ID, you should use that to prove your identity. To find county Auditor's office, select your county from the drop down menu: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>

If your form of ID does not show your current address

If your ID does not show your current address (and you do not have a pre-registration on file with your correct address), you will be asked for proof of where you live. Plan to bring proof of your current address. The proof must have your name, your address, and be valid within 45 days. The proof can be in electronic form, such as a cell phone bill on your phone. The following are valid forms of proof of address.

- Residential lease
- Utility bill, including a cell phone bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document
- Property tax statement

If you cannot prove who you are or where you live with the documents on the official list, a registered voter from your precinct may attest for you. That person will have to show valid ID.

EARLY VOTING IF YOU ARE DISABLED OR NEED ASSISTANCE

At the County Auditor's office there is curbside handicapped and non-handicapped parking. Pull into one of those spaces and someone in the auditor's office can come out and help you vote. They will need to be called ahead of time or from your car to know to come out and assist you. The Auditor's office phone number is (563) 244-0568.

EARLY VOTING IF YOU ARE A COLLEGE STUDENT - PROVING YOUR ADDRESS

Federal law permits college students to choose where they register and vote. You may register to vote using your college address, and vote in the precinct where your dorm or apartment is located. It's important to remember that you choose either your college address or your home address, and remember to vote in only one of those locations for the November 8th election.

Because you are away from home, your ID might not have your current address listed. In that case, be prepared to prove your current residence. Most poll workers will accept a dorm contract, but bring another proof of address just in case, if you have one.

The proof must have your name, your address, and be valid within 45 days. The proof can be in electronic form, such as a cell phone bill on your phone. The following are valid forms of proof of address.

- Residential lease
- Utility bill, including a cell phone bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document
- Property tax statement
- *Dorm contract

*Note: Most poll workers will accept a dorm contract, but bring another proof of address just in case, if you have one.

If you cannot prove who you are or where you live with the documents on the official list, a registered voter from your precinct may attest for you. That person will have to show valid ID.

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED IF I AM NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Iowa has same day registration on election day, and voter registration is also available during early voting at your county Auditor's office. Therefore, even though you can register to vote in advance, it is not necessary to do so.

Choice 2: VOTE BY REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT THROUGH THE MAIL

DEADLINES FOR MAKING A REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

You must request an absentee ballot for every election. The form is available here <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf> Copies of this form can be requested from the Auditor's office.

Return it yourself in person -deadline 8pm November 8th

It is safest to drop off your ballot at Iowa County Auditor's office. All ballots must be returned by 8pm on election day, November 8th, or they can't be counted. Note that this is a new restriction on voting – even if postmarked prior to the election, if it has not physically arrived by 8pm on election day it can't be counted.

The Auditor's office phone number is (563) 244-0568

There is a new rule that you have to "show your ID" on the absentee ballot request form.

You need to write down your Iowa driver's license number or the number from your non-operators ID. If you don't have one of those, you need to provide the four digit Voter PIN located on your Iowa Voter ID Card. If you don't have an Iowa ID, or your PIN, contact the Auditor's office at (563) 244-0568. The Auditor's office can ask you some questions to establish your identity and provide you with your PIN. Note that if you vote at a satellite voting location, or vote in person on election day, a broader range of documents are allowed for establishing your ID.

Deadline for Requesting the Absentee Ballot

For the November 8th election, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is October 24th, 5pm. Ballots will be mailed out on October 19th for those people who have submitted their absentee ballot request forms. After that date, ballots are mailed as absentee ballot requests are received from voters. Note that since the time window is so short many voters are better off voting early in person. If that is not an option for whatever reason, just submit the absentee ballot request form as soon as possible.

If you need another person to take your absentee ballot request form to the Auditor's office, that person should turn in the request within 72 hours, or before the deadline of October 24th, 5pm, whichever is sooner. Note that dropping off a voted ballot is a very different thing, and restrictive rules apply. See below.

HOW TO TRACK YOUR REQUEST AND YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

It's a very good idea to keep track of whether your absentee ballot request was received, and to find out when your ballot was mailed. When you return your ballot, you can also check at this site to see if the ballot was received.

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/absentee/search>

TIPS FOR FILLING OUT YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT AND ITS ENVELOPE

These tips will make sure your ballot is counted!

- Mark clearly inside the ovals, and try not to mark outside the ovals.
- Make your mark dark - blue or black pen preferred
- Do not sign your name, or even place initials anywhere on your ballot.
- If you “spoil” your ballot, such as accidentally voting for two candidates for an office where you need to vote for only one candidate, contact the Auditor’s office and get another ballot.
- Follow the instructions for putting your ballot in the security envelope, and then putting that in the affidavit envelope. Carefully seal the affidavit envelope.
- Do NOT re-open your envelope for any reason. If you think you need to re-open your envelope, contact your county Auditor’s Office.
- Look at the outside of the affidavit envelope – aha! It needs to be signed.
- Every voter needs to submit their ballot separately. No putting two ballots together in one envelope.

If you run into trouble, and the day of the election is near, you may take your ballot, pristine or spoiled, to your polling place on November 8th, and ask for a regular ballot. See the section on voting in person on election day. If you lost your ballot, go to your polling place on election day and tell the poll workers what happened. If they can confirm that your lost ballot was not voted, they will let you vote a regular ballot. Otherwise, you will have to vote a provisional ballot.

RETURNING YOUR BALLOT

Return it by mail no later than October 26

You can mail your ballot, but that is not recommended any later than October 26th, due to possible slowness with the mail. The postage is prepaid.

Return it yourself in person - deadline 8pm November 8th

It is safest to drop off your ballot at the ballot drop-box which is located near your county Auditor’s office, or bring the ballot into the lobby of the Auditor’s office and hand it in at the desk. All ballots must be returned by 8pm on election day, November 8th, or they can’t be counted. Note that this is a new restriction on voting – even if postmarked prior to the election, if it has not physically arrived by 8pm on election day it can’t be counted.

What to do if you need help returning your ballot

The rules on this have become very restrictive. Your options are:

- Ask a relative to return your ballot
- Ask a member of your household to return your ballot
- If you are in residential nursing care or assisted living, you can ask a caregiver or another person to return your ballot. Your county Auditor’s office may bring a bi-partisan team to your facility to help people vote, so look for that opportunity.
- If none of the above applies, and you are blind or disabled, you can ask another person to return your ballot, but they have to have your written permission, leave a receipt with you, and approach the Auditor’s office in person and swear an oath. Follow the instructions that came with your ballot. One person may only return two ballots in this manner.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Download a voter registration form, fill it out, and submit it together with your absentee ballot request form. You can also register at your county Auditor’s office, or pick up a form there. Deadline is October 24th, 5pm.

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/voteapp.pdf>

If you have an Iowa ID, you can register to vote online, which is easier. Do that before you submit your absentee ballot request. <https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration>

Choice 3: VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

DATE AND TIME:

Tuesday, November 8th, 2022 / 7am - 8pm

Hours are 7am-8pm ***Note the earlier close! Your employer is obligated to allow up to two hours time off with no cut in pay for you to get to your polling place to vote.

WHERE TO VOTE:

You must vote at the polling place that is located in the precinct where you live. Some precinct boundaries and polling places have changed. On election day, November 8th, early voting at the Auditor's office will be closed.

Here is a way to find out which precinct you live in, and where your polling place is:

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/pollingplace/search.aspx>

WHAT ARE THE VALID FORMS OF ID TO SHOW ON ELECTION DAY?:

A valid ID is required to vote in person. Check out the list of Iowa ID requirements for voting below:

- Iowa Driver's License
- Iowa Non-Operator ID
- Voter Identification Card (with PIN number and signature line)
- U.S. Military ID or Veteran ID
- U.S. Passport
- Tribal ID Card/Document

Note that if you don't have an Iowa driver's license or ID, you can ask your county Auditor's office for a voter identification card that has a PIN and a signature line. They are allowed to issue you a voter identification card through the mail. Only bother with this option if you don't have an Iowa driver's license or non operator ID. This option is available until the pre-registration deadline closes, through October 24th. If that deadline has passed, talk to the Auditor's office about finding a valid form of ID.

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phone: (563) 244-0568

If your ID does not show your current address, (and you do not have a pre-registration on file with your correct current address), you will be asked for proof of where you live. The proof must have your name, your address, and be valid within 45 days. The proof can be in electronic form, such as a cell phone bill on your phone. The following are valid forms of proof of address:

- Residential lease
 - Utility bill, including a cell phone bill
 - Bank statement
 - Paycheck
 - Government check
 - Other government document
 - Property tax statement
-

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED IF I AM NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Iowa has same day voter registration on election day. You have to go to the correct polling place for the address where you currently live, and ask to register and vote. You will have to prove that you live at your current address.

On election day, you can only register at your polling place, and not at the Auditor's office.

To find your polling place, go to this site:

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/pollingplace/search.aspx>

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

I AM A FORMER FELON AND PLAN TO VOTE - WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Most former felons have had their voting rights restored in Iowa. You have to have completed your sentence and parole.

This page has information on registering and voting. <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/restorerights.html>

One practical suggestion is to bring a registered voter with you when registering to vote. Iowa uses an electronic database to determine who has had their voting rights restored, and like any automated system it can make mistakes. Moral support is important here.

MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

Federal law provides for different rules for military and certain categories of overseas voters. Such voters can make an absentee ballot request by email, and even receive their ballot by email, but most people still have to print and physically mail their overseas ballots back to their county Auditor's office. Only people in the military or in places the State Department classifies as "Imminent Danger Areas" can return a ballot by email. There is assistance and information available at this website: <https://www.fvap.gov/info/about-absentee-voting>

Ballots mailed from overseas or from military bases must be postmarked by the day before the election (November 7th), and can arrive up until noon, the Monday after the election. Here's the catch - be sure that your ballot gets a postmark with a date on it. In some cases you can ask that the envelope be "hand canceled," to prove when the envelope was mailed.

I AM DISABLED AND/OR NEED ASSISTANCE VOTING - WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR VOTING

Your options include the following - this might not be a complete list:

- Use the early voting option run by the Auditor's office. People there can assist you. Bring the phone number of your county Auditor's office (or call ahead) and ask to have a bi-partisan team come out to your car and help you vote. Review the information on what identification to bring.
- If you are in a care center or assisted living, call your county Auditor's office about what help might be available applying for and voting an absentee ballot.
- Vote absentee from home, but observe the cautions above concerning how tight the timelines are, and get your request for an absentee ballot in early. The deadline to apply for a ballot is October 24th.
- Drive up to the curb nearest your polling place on election day. Look for posted instructions on how to request that a bi-partisan team come out and help you vote. If you don't see any instructions, call your county Auditor's office, which will ask a team to come out to your car.

- If you are at any polling place, there should be a touch screen system available as an alternative for marking your ballot. It prints out a ballot that is put in the ballot box with the other ballots. You may also request that someone help you mark your ballot. If you ask the poll workers to help you, they will have a bi-partisan team help you mark your ballot.
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Get to Know our Democratic Candidates

Did you know that one of our candidates for Congress in 2020 only lost by six votes? Thousands of people voted in that district, but didn't vote in the Congressional race. We want to encourage voters to vote the entire ballot. Here is some information on our candidates.

If you want to know what your new Iowa House and Iowa Senate districts are, go to this site and type in your address. <https://iowa-legis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=d32118cf09ed47beacd12742c1cf3fb3>

County Auditor's offices are supposed to provide sample ballots ahead of the election, so that you can review the ballot and plan your voting.

- Governor & Lt. Governor – Deidre DeJear & Eric Van Lancker
 - Sec. of State – Joel Miller
 - Attorney General – Tom Miller
 - State Auditor – Rob Sand
 - State Treasurer – Mike Fitzgerald
 - Sec. of Agriculture – John Norwood
 - U.S. Senate – Michael Franken
 - U.S. House First Congressional District – Christina Bohannon
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Get Information on the "Strict Scrutiny" Constitutional Amendment on Guns

Moms Demand Action recommends voting "no" on the constitutional amendment, because it will block any chance for gun safety legislation. More information is here: <https://bit.ly/VOTENOIA>