

# CONSTITUENTS FIRST: Safe Voting FAQs

## IOWA

The global pandemic is changing voting behavior, creating opportunities for confusion and misinformation. As a state legislator, you are uniquely positioned to help inform and keep your constituents up-to-date. We hope you find this FAQ for safe elections in Iowa helpful. MAP is continuously adding resources for legislators. For more information, please contact us at [policy@millennialaction.org](mailto:policy@millennialaction.org).

### VOTER FAQs

- **What do I need before voting?**
  - **October 24th, 2020 at 5:00 PM is the deadline day to register to vote for the upcoming election.** Register to vote online [here](#), or contact your local election administrator for other registration options.
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- **Can I vote in person?**
  - Early Voting: Yes, early voting in Iowa is known as "absentee in-person voting". Absentee in-person voting begins October 5th, and ends November 2nd, 2020 and takes place at your County Auditor's office. Find your absentee in-person voting location [here](#).
  - Election Day: Yes, find your polling location and hours [here](#).
  - **What do I need to bring with me?**
    - ID requirements: Iowa voters will be required to show an eligible identification to cast their ballot in-person. Find a complete list of acceptable IDs on the Iowa Secretary of State's website [here](#).
  - **Will polls be staffed?**
    - Legitimate concerns exist around staffing polling places, and consolidating voting locations—as many states did during primaries—only adds confusion to the process and increases crowding at the polls. If you are concerned about your state's ability to staff the polls, here are some solutions that have broad support amongst the public:
      - 76% support recruiting young people to serve as poll workers
      - 71% support encouraging businesses to provide employees with paid time off on Election Day to serve as poll workers
      - 70% support giving state employees time off to serve as poll workers
      - 68% support flexibility in allowing people to serve as poll workers outside of their precinct of residence
- **Can I vote Absentee/Vote-by-mail?**
  - Yes, no excuse is required to vote by mail in Iowa
    - You may request an absentee ballot online [here](#).

- You may also submit a written request to your County Auditor, find the request form [here](#).
  - **ID and witness requirements?**
    - To request an absentee ballot, Iowa voters must provide their Iowa drivers license number, a non-operator ID number, or their voter ID pin. If voters do not have a state issued driver's license or non-operator ID, they may request a voter ID card from their County Auditor. Find more information [here](#).
  - **How do I return my ballot?**
    - Absentee ballots will include pre-paid postage and will stipulate where the ballot must be returned. Postmark your completed ballot as early as possible to avoid potential complications.
    - As of September 16th, 2020, there will not be ballot drop boxes in Iowa. Ballots may be returned directly to your County Auditor's office during working hours. Find your location [here](#).
  - **What deadlines do I need to be aware of?**
    - 5:00 PM, October 24th:
      - Deadline to register to vote for November's election
      - Deadline to request an absentee ballot, either online or through your County Auditor
    - November 2nd:
      - Final day to vote in-person absentee (early voting)
      - Postmark deadline for mail-in absentee ballots
        - Postmarked mail-in absentee ballots will be counted if received by noon 6 days after Election Day.
- **When will we know election results?**
  - Voters should be encouraged to exercise patience awaiting election results come November. Increased use of absentee ballots will undoubtedly slow election tallies in some places.
  - If you are highly concerned about delayed election results, and your state does not allow early early canvassing, election officials can make changes to expand the ballot processing timeframe without compromising security, as [Maryland recently did](#).
- **All information above is current as of 9/23/20.** Check the Iowa Secretary of State's [voter information page](#) for more details.