



Absentee Voting

November 4, 2008 General Election

Developed by the
Iowa State Association of County Auditors
In Cooperation with the
Iowa Secretary of State

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Absentee voting

A common question from voters is:

“How can I vote absentee in the November 4, 2008 General Election?”



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Absentee voting

For most Iowa voters there are two ways to vote by absentee ballot.

- First, a voter may cast an absentee ballot in person at the County Auditor's office as early as Thursday, September 25th.
- Second, a voter may submit a written request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to the voter.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the 2008 General Election is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31st.

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Absentee voting

In addition, some counties will offer satellite absentee voting stations where a voter can vote an absentee ballot. A voter can learn about satellite voting in the voter's county by contacting the County Auditor.

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Absentee voting

Iowa law also authorizes additional voter registration and absentee voting rights in this election for:

- voters in health care facilities such as nursing homes and hospitals,
- and Iowans actively serving in the military or living outside the United States.



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Absentee voting

Another question from voters is:

“How do I get an absentee ballot for the November 4, 2008 General Election?”



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Absentee voting

To receive an absentee ballot, most Iowa voters must complete and sign a written absentee ballot request for each election,

except that Iowans who are actively serving in the military or who are living outside the U.S. may submit a single request effective for all federal elections for the next two to four years.



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State of Iowa
Official Absentee Ballot Request Form Form IA (Rev. 01-08)

If you don't have an Iowa driver's license or motor-operator ID, provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number.

1. Valid IA Driver's License or IA Non-Operator ID Number	OR	Last 4 Digits of SSN #	* Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)	REQUIRED Information
* Name Last Name First Name Middle Name Suffix (Tr., Jr., etc.)				YOUR OFFICE USE ONLY
* Street Address (include apt., PO, etc., if applicable)				
* City				
3. <input type="checkbox"/> I have moved. The new address is in section #2.	Complete section #2.			
4. Mailing Address (include apt., PO, etc., if applicable)				
City				Country (other than USA)
* Date of the Election OR Name of Election				Elections Only
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Other				NOTE: If your voter registration or other political party differs from the one you check above, your registration will be changed to the political party you check on this form.
6. * X Signature of Voter				Date

To get a copy of the official absentee ballot request form, contact the County Auditor or visit the website of the Iowa Secretary of State at www.sos.state.ia.us.

Absentee voting

Another question from voters is:

“Do I have to use the official absentee ballot request form?”



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Absentee voting

Iowa no longer requires an individual voter to use the official form; however the voter must provide all required information on paper at least 3” by 5” in size, including:

- the voter’s name,
- the voter’s birth date,
- the voter’s registration address,
- the voter’s mailing address, if different from above,
- the voter’s signature,
- and the election name (2008 General Election) or the election date (November 4, 2008).

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Another question from voters is:

“What about an absentee ballot request solicited by a political party or candidate?”



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Absentee voting

When a person working for a political party, candidate, or committee personally solicits a voter to request an absentee ballot, Iowa law requires the person to:

- use the official absentee ballot request form,
- give the voter a receipt,
- and deliver the request to the County Auditor within 72 hours or by 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 31st, whichever comes first.

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Absentee voting

Another question from voters is:

“Can I stop by the County Auditor’s office and pick up an absentee ballot?”



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Absentee voting

Except for curbside voting by a voter who cannot enter the building, Iowa law prohibits removal of ballots from a polling place or the County Auditor’s office. A voter may:

- vote at the County Auditor’s office,
- or complete and sign a request form for an absentee ballot to be mailed to the voter.



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Absentee voting

Another question from voters is:

“Can I use a power of attorney to request an absentee ballot on behalf of a relative?”



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Absentee voting

Iowa law specifically prohibits the use of a power of attorney to request an absentee ballot on behalf of another voter.



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Absentee voting

Another question from voters is:

“How can I get an absentee ballot for my son or daughter away at college?”



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Absentee voting

A college student may register to vote at either the student’s “permanent” home address or the college residence, but not both.

The student must also complete and sign an absentee ballot request and submit it to the appropriate County Auditor. Forms are available at the county auditor’s office or the website of the Iowa Secretary of State at www.sos.state.ia.us.

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Absentee voting

For additional information on voter registration and voting in the November 4, 2008 General Election, contact the County Auditor or visit one of the following websites:

www.iowaauditors.org

www.sos.state.ia.us

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