



Returning Absentee Ballots

November 4, 2008 General Election

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

Returning absentee ballots

A common question from voters is:

“How should I return my absentee ballot after I am done voting?”



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Returning absentee ballots

Under Iowa law there are three ways for the voter to return a voted absentee ballot. The voter can:

- mail it back (the county pays return postage),
- personally take it to the County Auditor's office,
- or give it to someone the voter trusts to return it.



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Returning absentee ballots

If the voter chooses to give the voter's absentee ballot for the November 4, 2008 General Election to someone else to return it, the voter can ask for a receipt.

Iowa law requires the person to deliver the voter's absentee ballot to the County Auditor's office within three days, or no later than 9:00 p.m. on Election Day, whichever comes first.



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Returning absentee ballots

Another question from voters is:

“How can I be sure my absentee ballot gets counted for the 2008 General Election?”



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Returning absentee ballots

To ensure the ballot is counted, the voter should confirm the voter is properly registered; then carefully follow instructions in the absentee packet, including:

- put the voted ballot in the Secrecy Envelope,
- put the Secrecy Envelope in the Affidavit Envelope,
- write the voter’s address on the Affidavit Envelope,
- sign and seal the Affidavit Envelope,
- and return the voted absentee ballot to the County Auditor by the deadline.

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Returning absentee ballots

Another question from voters is:

“What is the deadline to return my voted absentee ballot?”



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Returning absentee ballots

To be counted for the November 4, 2008 General Election, a voter’s absentee ballot must be:

- physically received in the County Auditor’s office by 9:00 p.m. on Election Day, or
- postmarked no later than Monday, November 3rd and received by noon on Monday, November 10th.

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Another question from voters is:

“Can I just drop my voted absentee ballot at one of the polling places on Election Day?”



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Returning absentee ballots

Under Iowa law, an absentee ballot *cannot* be delivered to a polling place to be counted. The voter can:

- take the voted absentee ballot to the County Auditor’s office by 9:00 p.m. on Election Night,
- or surrender the absentee ballot to the precinct election officials and vote a regular ballot at the polling place.



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Returning absentee ballots

“I encourage voters who have requested absentee ballots by mail to follow the voting instructions carefully and to return the voted absentee ballots to the County Auditor as soon as possible.

By doing so, voters will better ensure that their votes in the November 4, 2008 General Election are counted.”

Michael A. Mauro, Iowa Secretary of State

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Returning absentee ballots

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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