

Voter Information Frequently Asked Questions

(From the website of Nebraska Secretary of State: John A. Gale)

Early Voting in Nebraska (Formerly Absentee Voting)

Who may apply for an Early Voting ballot?

- Anyone may apply for an Early Voting ballot, such as:
 - Persons not able to go to the polls due to their work or vacation schedule, or
 - Persons not able to go to the polls due to a medical condition or hospitalization, or
 - Persons temporarily out of the county, state or country
 - Persons not wishing to travel to the polls
 - Persons not wishing to leave their homes

Do I need to give the reason why I am voting early when applying for Early Voting ballots?

- No, since 1999 Nebraska law has not required a person disclose a reason for their request on the Early Voting application.

How do I apply for and vote an Early Voting ballot?

You can apply for an early voting ballot by contacting your County Clerk or Election Commissioner in person at the election office, by personal agent, by mail or by fax.

How do I apply by mail?

- Print the on-line early voting application request form. Complete the form; then mail or fax it to your County Clerk or Election Commissioner. Addresses and available fax numbers provided by clicking [here](#).
- Write to your County Clerk or Election Commissioner, including:
 - Your name and residence address,
 - Your voting precinct, if known,
 - Your phone number,
 - The mailing address you want the ballots sent to, and
 - Your signature.

Is there a process to assist military and overseas citizens in obtaining Early Voting ballots?

Yes, Nebraska participates in the Federal Voting Assistance Program for our military personnel and overseas citizens.

When may I apply for an Early Voting ballot?

- All county election offices will accept Early Voting applications up to 120 days prior to a statewide Primary or General election.
- The last day to request an Early Voting ballot to be mailed is the Wednesday prior to Election Day at 4 p.m.
- 30 days before Election Day is the first day Early Voting ballots are available to vote at the county office. Contact your County Clerk or Election Commissioner for information on office hours.
- 35 days before the Election is also the first day ballots are sent to non-military stateside applicants.

- Should your ballots not arrive, contact your County Clerk or Election Commissioner to confirm the date and address the ballots were mailed out.
- Make arrangements with the county election official to receive a replacement ballot if it is determined your ballots were lost, destroyed, spoiled or never received.
- The Monday before Election Day is the last day to cast an early voting ballot at the County Election Office.

What are the procedures when casting an Early Voting Ballot by mail?

- Ballots received via the postal service will be accompanied by instructions on how to cast a vote and a return envelope.
- If assistance is needed marking the ballot a friend or voter-designated person may provide assistance.
- The voted ballot must be placed in the return envelope. The envelope must be sealed and signed (or their mark made) by the voter and if assistance was provided by the person providing assistance.
- The return envelope containing the ballots may be mailed back to the County Election Office, returned by personal delivery, an agent, or courier service.

When must the Early Voting ballot be returned to the Election Office?

All Early Voting ballots, whether personally delivered, delivered by agent, delivered by mail or other carriers must arrive by the closing of the polls on Election Day. (8:00 p.m. Central Time / 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time.)

Election Day

Where do I vote?

Each voter must cast his/her ballot at his/her assigned polling place. If you do not know the location of your polling place, contact your county clerk/election commissioner, or go to this link <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>.

Whenever you register or re-register to vote, your county clerk/election commissioner will inform you of your polling place location. Your voting card informs you not only of your polling place, but also your voting districts.

What time will the polls open?

The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Central Time Zone and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Mountain Time Zone.

Do I need a voting card or my ID in order to vote?

No, the card is for information only and does not need to be presented to election officials in order to vote.

The only time voters are asked for their ID is if they were a first time Nebraska registrant who mailed in their registration application and didn't provide ID at that time.

Am I able to vote if I did not re-register?

Registered voters who moved from one residence to another in the same county, or who changed their name and remained in the same county will be allowed to vote at the polling place designated for their new residence.

These voters may be asked to cast a Provisional Ballot upon completing a certification and new registration form.

Persons casting Provisional Ballots may check to see if their ballot was counted starting the second Wednesday after the election by visiting <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/> or calling toll free 1-888-727-0007. Provisional Ballots are counted only if the information the voter provided on their certification forms was verified.

Persons moving from one county in Nebraska to another county in Nebraska must re-register in their new county in order to be eligible to vote.

How does a person vote?

Registered voters go to their assigned polling place where there will be three or more poll workers at a table checking voters in. Voters will be asked for their name and the residence address where they are living. In primary elections, voters will also be asked to name their party. Upon verifying the information, the election workers will provide the voter with ballots assigned to persons living in their district and instructions on how to cast a ballot.

In Nebraska all counties use optical scan ballots; so voters are instructed to darken the oval completely, not to erase or cross out and return to the table if they have spoiled their ballot and need a new one. Ballots are tabulated at the precinct level using M100's in 1/3 of our counties and centrally counted in larger counties using a M850 that can count over 300 ballots a minute.

Can voters receive assistance in voting?

Voters who cannot read, are blind or have a physical disability may request assistance in marking their ballots. The voter may have a friend or relative assist them or the voter may request the assistance of two election board workers one each of a different party.

In addition, an AutoMARK, a ballot marking device, available to assist voters at every polling place allows the voter to have all contests and candidates read to them. Or the voter can choose to enlarge the print making it easier to view. In addition it provides a touch screen voters may use if desired which will then electronically darken the ovals left of the choices the voter has designated on the paper ballot that was issued to them by the Receiving Board.

Can I campaign at my polling place?

No one may campaign or hand out political literature within 200 feet of a polling place. Wearing political badges or any political insignia into the polling place on Election Day is against the law.