



#VoteYourValues

*A campaign to enhance the voices
of Iowa women for
social and political change*

REGISTER TO VOTE & MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

There are multiple options for voting but whatever option you choose, it all begins with voter registration- ***before you vote you must register to vote or update your registration if you changed your address or name.*** *****Info below does not apply to survivors enrolled in Safe at Home (SAH) Program, i.e. SAH participants must vote by mail and have specific forms.***

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Whether you plan to vote by mail, vote early, or vote at your polling place, you must be registered to vote. If you are not sure of your voter registration status check [here](#).

If registering for the first time or need to update your registration because you changed your address or name- just fill out voter registration form and mail or drop off at county auditor office. Print voter registration form [here](#). Then submit your signed and completed form to your county auditor by October 24, 2020. County auditor info [here](#). If you miss that deadline, you can still register and vote at your polling place Nov. 3. Bring ID & proof of residence. More info [here](#).

After registering or updating voter registration, voters **without** an Iowa driver's license or non-operator's ID will receive a voter confirmation card in the mail from their county auditor that includes a barcode and 4-digit personal identification number (PIN). **Keep this card- this is your voter ID and you will need the 4-digit PIN on the card to vote by mail** or if voting early in person or on Election Day you will need to show this card. (Voters with Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID registering/updating registration also receive a voter card but it does not include the bar code or 4-digit PIN, i.e. no need to use/bring card if have driver's license.)

Voter eligibility: you must be a U.S. citizen, Iowa resident, and 18 years old on or before Election Day. Most Iowans who have a felony conviction are now eligible to vote if they discharged their sentences, including probation, parole, supervised release, and special sentence. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.

MAKE A PLAN - CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO VOTE

Vote by mail: register to vote or update your voter registration, request a ballot, and cast your vote by mail without having to go out.

Vote early in person at your county auditor's office: Two options: 1) **Oct 5 – Nov 2** vote at your county auditor's [office](#), i.e. show up and vote right there (cannot take the ballot with you); or, 2) request a ballot be mailed to you, fill it out, then drop off signed and sealed ballot envelope at your county auditor's [office](#) before polls close on Election Day.

Vote at your polling place on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2020: the pandemic may reduce the number of polling sites this year, but polling places will be open from 7am – 9pm on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Iowa requires registered [voters to show ID](#) and allows for [same-day voter registration](#) with proof of ID and residency. Find your polling place [here](#).

HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3 – there are multiple options for voting, but you can vote by mail without having to go out. ***see specific info below re Safe at Home (SAH) Program.*

REGISTER TO VOTE: You must be registered to vote before you can vote by mail and if you changed your address or name you must update your registration. Click [here](#) to see if you are registered or call your county auditor [here](#). If already registered- skip to next section.

If registering for the first time or updating your registration just fill out a voter registration form and mail it to your county auditor. Click [here](#) to print a voter registration form. Then mail your signed and completed form to your county auditor, contact info [here](#). If you have an Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID your voter registration form can be mailed with your absentee ballot request form (see next section).

REQUEST A BALLOT: Registered voters must fill out an 'absentee ballot request' form and mail it to your county auditor. If you received one from Secretary of State Pate or your county auditor just fill that out and send it back (most are postage-paid). But if you can't find it, just download form [here](#). Mail *signed and completed* ballot request form to your county auditor, contact information [here](#). The ballot request form will ask for an ID number. If you do not have an Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID you must use the 4-digit voter PIN from your voter identification card. If you no longer have the card you can contact your county auditor to request one. County auditors *must receive absentee ballot requests by October 24* – but don't wait- mail your ballot request today! Click [here](#) to see when county auditor received your ballot request.

Tip: With Iowa driver's license, you can register or update voter registration AND request an absentee ballot at the same time. Just fill out/sign both forms and send to your [county auditor](#).

VOTE BY MAIL: When you receive your ballot, fill it out and send it back to your county auditor.

Starting October 5, county auditors will mail ballots to registered voters who submitted an absentee ballot request form, i.e. they will mail you a ballot, including instructions on how to mark your ballot and how to return it. You can mail ballot back or drop sealed ballot off at your county auditor's office. Follow instructions carefully. Click [here](#) for frequently asked questions and [here](#) to see when they received your completed ballot.

****Safe at Home Program- Voter Registration/Voting by Mail***

Iowa's [Safe At Home](#) (SAH) Address Confidentiality Program offers confidential voter registration and voting for survivors so voting by mail is the only option for participants. *SAH voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are unique and must be returned to the Iowa Secretary of State's office...NOT their county auditor.* If a survivor would like to vote confidentially but is not enrolled in SAH they can print off the [SAH application](#), a [SAH voter registration form](#), and a [SAH absentee ballot request form](#) and mail to the Iowa Secretary of State's office all at once. This process takes extra time - recommend mailing forms ASAP.

HOW TO VOTE EARLY – IN PERSON

Election Day is November 3 – but if you want to limit contact with people, avoid long lines or inclement weather, there are two options for voting early, in person, at your county auditor’s office. ****Options below not available for survivors enrolled in Safe at Home (SAH) Program.**

Vote Early at County Auditor office: Oct 5 – Nov 2, 2020

October 5 - November 2, voters can go to their county auditor’s office and vote- referred to as ‘absentee voting in person.’ Ballots must be voted in the office, i.e. you cannot pick up a ballot and take it with you. In-person voting at your county auditor office is NOT available on Election Day. Click [here](#) for county auditor contact info and call ahead to confirm hours or specific instructions. Many will open Saturday Oct 24 & Saturday Oct 31 to accommodate voter needs.

Generally, you just walk into the office and say that you would like to vote. Registered voters will be asked to [provide ID](#): Iowa driver’s license or non-operator ID; US passport; US military ID or veteran’s ID; tribal ID/document; or Iowa voter ID card. But if you need to register to vote for the first time or need to update your registration, if you have an Iowa driver’s license or non-operator ID, you can do this during the same visit, i.e. before requesting a ballot, but you must provide photo ID & proof of residence, more info [here](#). However, without a an Iowa driver’s license or non-operator ID you need to register/update voter registration and get your Voter ID card with 4-digit PIN number in the mail before you can request an absentee ballot.

Request ballot by mail; Return to County Auditor office

If you just want to deliver your voted ballot to your county auditor in person, follow the instructions for voting by mail and instead of mailing back your completed ballot- drop it off at your county auditor’s office before the polls close Nov. 3. Click [here](#) for county auditor address.

You must be registered to vote before you can request an absentee ballot and if you changed your address or name you must update your registration. Click [here](#) to see if you are registered. If registering for the first time or updating your registration just fill out a voter registration [form](#) and mail your signed and completed form to your [county auditor](#). If have Iowa driver’s license or non-operator ID - voter registration form can be mailed with absentee ballot request form.

Request ballot: Registered voters must fill out an ‘absentee’ ballot request form and mail it to your county auditor. If you received one already just fill it out and send it back. If not, download form [here](#). Mail *signed and completed* ballot request form to your [county auditor](#). The ballot request form will ask for an ID number. If you do not have Iowa driver’s license or non-operator ID you must use the 4-digit voter PIN from your [voter ID card](#).



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Return ballot: Starting October 5, county auditors will mail ballots to registered voters who submitted an absentee ballot request form, i.e. they will mail your ballot, including instructions on how to mark it. You can mail ballot back or drop it off in person at your county auditor's office. Click [here](#) for frequently asked questions and [here](#) to track your ballot.

HOW TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

November 3, 2020; Polls open 7am – 9 pm

Iowa voting sites ('polling places') will be open from 7am to 9pm on Election Day. To vote on election day go to your polling place during those hours, present ID, and cast your ballot. COVID-19 presents unique challenges for in-person voting this election so there may be fewer polling sites and your polling site may be different than before. ***Safe at Home (SAH) participants cannot vote in-person on Election Day.*

Who is eligible to vote? You must be a U.S. citizen, an Iowa resident, and 18 years old on or before Election Day. Most Iowans who have a felony conviction are now eligible to vote if they discharged their sentences, including probation, parole, supervised release, and special sentence. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.

Do I have to register to vote? Yes- you must be registered to vote before you can vote and if you changed your address or name you must update your registration. Click [here](#) to see if you are registered. October 24, 2020 is the deadline for registering or updating your registration but if you miss that deadline, you can register and vote at your polling place on Election Day. Bring ID and proof of residence. More info [here](#).

Where do I vote? The location for your polling place is determined by your residential address (where you live). Click [here](#) to find your polling place but we urge you to check back in case of COVID-19 related changes to voting sites.

What forms of ID do I need to bring? Registered voters are [required](#) to show one of the following forms of ID: Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID, US passport, US military ID or veteran's ID, tribal ID/document, or Iowa voter ID card. Proof of residency is not required if voter registration is updated with your current address, i.e. a precinct official will ask you to verbally verify your address just to make sure you are at the right voting site. For example, if you moved and updated your voter registration but haven't been able to change address on your driver's license- that's ok- your driver's license satisfies the voter ID requirement.

If I need assistance voting due to physical or language challenges, can someone help me? Yes. If you need help marking your ballot you can choose any person to help you except your employer. You can also ask precinct officials to assist you. Curbside voting is available at each precinct if you are unable to enter the building where your polling place is located, i.e. election officials will enable you to vote from your car.

Can I vote if I have a felony conviction? Most Iowans who have a felony conviction are now eligible to vote if they discharged their sentences, including probation, parole, supervised release, and special sentence. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.



What Nonprofit Staff Can Say About the Election

Talking to their clients, constituents, and the public

Staff working for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations should be nonpartisan when representing their nonprofit on site, at events or doing voter engagement activities. You cannot suggest which candidate to vote for or political party to support.

What is ok to talk about on a nonpartisan basis?

It's fine to provide information about the voting process like dates and deadlines, early voting hours, getting a mail ballot, or help registering to vote. You can let people know about a candidate forum or debate.

What if someone asks me who I support or who they should vote for?

Remind them that as a health center employee, you must be nonpartisan. Your options are:

- Encourage the person to talk to a friend or family member they trust and share values with.
- Direct the person to a sample ballot or nonpartisan voter guide if available.
- Closer to the election, you can link them to online tools that let voters know what's on their ballot. Google "What's on (my state) ballot? Or use Nonprofit VOTE's [Voting In Your State: 50 State Guide](#).

Can I say anything about specific candidates?

You can only answer simple facts like what party they are in, if they're an incumbent or challenger or where they live. Don't state your preferences.

What do I say when asked about the difference between Republicans and Democrats?

There is no good answer or any accurate source that doesn't have a bias outside of the party websites. You

could mention the names of the current nominees for president and their party, but go no further. Do the same as you would do with candidates and tell them to ask a friend or go to the political party official websites.

What if I'm asked about a ballot measure?

Ballot measures are about laws not candidates. You may discuss the pros and cons of a ballot measure unless it is health center policy not to. You can also tell them that the health center doesn't have an official position on ballot questions.

Can I support candidates in my personal time?

Yes. You may support candidates when not "on the clock" working for your nonprofit

Can I use social media to post or share information about the candidates?

Not if you're using the nonprofit account. It's ok to say what you want on your personal accounts. (Nonprofit CEOs/EDs who personify their nonprofit may wish to be more careful.)

What about talking to other staff about the elections?

It's normal and acceptable to exchange views on candidates and the election with other staff around the "water cooler" or on breaks. But don't conduct political activities during work hours with staff like handing out literature or signing up other staff to support a candidate.

Resources

Engaging Your Staff in Elections, www.nonprofitvote.org/engaging-your-staff-2/

Why Iowa Women Vote

"I vote to protect the LGBTQ community and gender equality."

— Molly (Sioux City, Iowa)

"I vote for my daughter's right to choose."

— Jo (Creston, Iowa)

"I vote to enact policy and protections for survivors of domestic violence."

— Linda (Maquoketa, Iowa)

"I vote to protect the rights my ancestors fought for."

— Michelle (Lake Mills, Iowa)

"I vote because it is AWESOME!"

— Bree (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

"I will vote because I want to lend my voice for social and political change."

— Ella (Urbandale, Iowa)

"I vote because I want a say in our legislative process."

— Ruby (Waverly, Iowa)

"I vote because my granddaughter needs me to stand up for her."

— Laurie (Des Moines, Iowa)

"I vote to protect ALL victims of violent crimes."

— Sonya (Nevada, Iowa)

"I vote to ensure policies and legislation are in place to protect our state's ag community."

— Joan (Alden, Iowa)

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