



HOW TO VOTE IN IOWA

A Quick Guide for People with Disabilities Voting in the 2022 General Election on or Before November 8, 2022.



REGISTERING TO VOTE

- **How can I register to vote?** You can register:
 - If you have already registered, you can check if you are registered to vote at vote411.org.
 - Online at Iowa's [Online Voter Registration Website](#).
 - By downloading and mailing the Iowa [mail in registration form](#).
- **When do I need to register?** Be sure to register to vote on or before October 24, 2022, or register in person on Election Day.
- **Do I need identification (ID) to register?** You will need to have an Iowa address and Iowa state ID card or driver's license. You can use your social security number if you don't have a state ID.
- **Can I vote if I have a disability?** Yes! People with disabilities who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. Your vote matters and is protected by laws to make sure voting is accessible, independent, and private. If you have a guardian, you can still vote, unless a judge said you cannot vote. For help understanding or getting back your right to vote, contact your local [Protection and Advocacy Agency \(P&A\)](#).
- **Can I vote if I have gone to jail or prison?** If you have gone to jail or prison, you should check to see if you are allowed to vote. Learn about

voting rights for people who have [gone to jail or prison](#). You can also [contact your local P&A](#).



LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES

- **What is a ballot?** A ballot is a list of who and what you can vote for. Your ballot will list candidates who are running for different offices, such as Senator or Representative. You vote by marking your choice on the ballot.
- **What is a ballot measure?** Sometimes, your ballot will have ballot measures. A ballot measure is a law, issue, or question that you can vote on. Voters get to decide if they agree or disagree with the ballot measure by voting yes to agree or no to disagree. You can learn about ballot measures on the Iowa [election website](#).
- **Can I look at my ballot before I go to vote?** Enter your home address in [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup](#). This tool will give you a "sample ballot," which will show you what will be on your ballot when you vote.



VOTING IN PERSON

- **Where do I need to go to vote?** The place where you go to vote in person is called a polling place. You can find your local polling place through the Iowa election website. [Find your polling place](#).
- **Can I vote before Election Day?** Iowa allows any voter to vote in person at the county auditor's office before Election Day. Iowa calls this period the "In-Person Absentee Voting Period." The in-person absentee voting period is set by the county auditor's office, but it generally starts on October 19, 2022. Contact your county auditor's office for more information. [What is In-Person Absentee Voting?](#)
- **Can I vote outside if the polling place is inaccessible?** Yes, Iowa allows voters to vote outside the polling place if it is inaccessible. This is called curbside voting.

- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You may choose someone to help you vote. Your helper cannot be a candidate or your boss. If you are part of a labor union at work, the person who helps you vote cannot be a representative of that labor union. [What is a labor union?](#) You may also ask for help from poll workers at the polling place.
- **Do I need an ID?** Iowa requires voters to show ID to vote in person. [Learn about voter ID.](#)



VOTING BY MAIL

- **Can I vote by mail?** Any voter in Iowa can vote by mail. This is called absentee voting. [What is absentee voting?](#)
- **How do I request a mail ballot?** You must request your ballot by sending a signed absentee ballot application to your county auditor. [Request your ballot.](#)
- **Can I get an electronic absentee ballot?** Iowa does not have an electronic absentee ballot available for voters with disabilities, so you must vote on a paper ballot.
- **When do I need to request my ballot?** The last day to request a ballot is October 24, 2022. Request your ballot as soon as possible to make sure that you receive your ballot on time.
- **Do I need to sign my ballot?** Be sure to sign your ballot or envelope when asked, since Iowa requires the signature to match one of your past signatures. Some voters may use a personal stamp or have someone help them write their signature. Contact your elections office for more information if you need help with signing your ballot.
- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You should be allowed to choose someone, except for your boss, a union representative if you are part of a labor union, or a candidate, to help you with filling out your ballot. Someone helping you may need to complete a statement called an affidavit to be returned with the ballot. [What is an affidavit?](#)

- **How do I return my ballot?** You can return your ballot by mail or deliver it to the County Auditor's Office. Your ballot must be received by election officials before the polls close on November 8, 2022.
- **Can someone return my ballot for me?** If you have a disability, you may have someone return your ballot for you. There are special instructions on the ballot envelope that you must follow.
- **Do I need an ID to vote by mail?** In Iowa, voters need to include a copy of valid ID when applying for an absentee ballot. You do not need to include a copy of ID when you return your absentee ballot.
- **Can I track my ballot?** Yes, you can track your ballot online to see if the elections office has received it. You can do this on the Iowa election website. [Track your ballot.](#)



MORE VOTING HELP

- **Where can I find more info on how to vote?** Check out the Iowa [state election website](#). Learn about [voting assistance for voters with disabilities](#).
- **What if I am having trouble voting or registering to vote?** If you have any trouble voting, [contact your local P&A](#). The hotline number for voters with disabilities is 800-779-2502
- **What if I have more questions?** Check out these resources:
 - Iowa Secretary of State's Office: 888-767-8683
 - [Guardianship and Voting Laws](#)
 - [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
 - [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
 - [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
 - [ASL Hotline](#): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
 - [Election Protection Hotline](#): 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)



The 2022 State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters are made by the REV UP Voting Campaign at the American Association of People with Disabilities. This project was led by Sarah Blahovec with plain language support from Liz Weintraub at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and input from REV UP organizers.