

Frequently Asked Questions

North Dakota – General Election 2024

Last Updated: 8/2/2024

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Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

In North Dakota, the voter does not need to register to vote.¹ In order to vote in North Dakota, the voter must be (1) a U.S. citizen, (2) at least 18 years old on the day of an election, (3) a North Dakota resident, and (4) a resident in the precinct for 30 days preceding the election. For the November **general election**, this date is October 6, 2024. Thus, an eligible voter may vote in an election if the voter provides acceptable identification.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?

¹ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/pdfs/Portals/votereg.pdf>.

In North Dakota, congressional and state primary elections are open to all voters regardless of their party affiliation, with some distinctions:

- These rules do not apply to the presidential primaries. Democrats hold a closed primary in which Democrats and Independents only are permitted to participate.
- A person cannot vote for candidates for more than one party in a primary election.²

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

Not applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.³

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

Not applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.⁴

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

Voters in North Dakota do not need to register to vote.

See Question [19](#) for ID requirements to vote in person and Question [51](#) for ID requirements to vote absentee.

6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

Not applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.⁵

7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

Not applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.⁶

8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

North Dakota does not require voter registration. However, since North Dakota voters must provide an ID to vote (see above), the voter must make sure that their ID reflects their current North Dakota address.⁷

In order to vote in a precinct, the voter must be a resident within the same precinct for at least 30 days prior to any election.⁸ For the November **general election**, this date is October 6, 2024. If the voter has moved, the voter is entitled to vote in the precinct they moved from until they have established a new residence.⁹

² See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/pdfs/Portals/2019%20to%202021%20Election%20Law%20Book.pdf>

³ See <https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/voter/voting-north-dakota>.

⁴ Id.

⁵ See <https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/voter/voting-north-dakota>.

⁶ Id.

⁷ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/IDRequirements.aspx?ptlhPKID=103&ptlPKID=7>.

⁸ NDCC § 16.1-01-04(1)(c); See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=107&ptlPKID=7>.

⁹ NDCC § 16.1-01-05.

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)	Moved from a different state
<p>If the voter moved but stayed within the same precinct, continue to vote at the same location. Poll clerks will obtain the voter’s new address for an update in the poll book.</p>	<p>The voter must vote at the prior precinct if the voter moved less than 30 days before Election Day. For the November general election, this date is after October 6, 2024.</p>	<p>The voter must vote at the prior precinct if the voter moved less than 30 days prior to Election Day. For the November general election, this date is after October 6, 2024.</p>	<p>If the voter recently moved to North Dakota and has been a resident for less than 30 days, the voter may vote for president but no other offices in the election.¹⁰ For the November general election, this date is after October 6, 2024. In addition, voting for president will require the voter to: (1) submit a sworn statement in the presence of the county auditor, the sworn statement is called an “application for presidential elector ballot”¹¹; and (2) mark the ballot in front of the county auditor (in a way that conceals who the voter chose) and then fold it, place it in an envelope, and write a certification on the outside¹². Additionally, the voter is subject to all of the laws relating to absent voters’ ballots, except those superseded by those explicitly governing this situation.¹³ The voter</p>

¹⁰ NDCC §§ 16.1-13-35.

¹¹ NDCC §§ 16.1-13-37.

¹² NDCC §§ 16.1-13-41.

¹³ NDCC §§ 16.1-13-44.

			should request an absentee ballot from the voter's home state instead.
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9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

In order to vote in a precinct, the voter must be a resident within the same precinct for at least 30 days prior to any election.¹⁴ For the November **general election**, this date is October 6, 2024. If the voter has moved, the voter is entitled to vote in the precinct they moved from until they have established a new residence.¹⁵ See the table in [Question 8](#) above for more detail.

In addition, a voter may vote absentee for any reason. A voter may submit an application for an absentee ballot anytime within the calendar year of an election.¹⁶ See section regarding absentee voting below.

10. **STUDENT:** [I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?](#)

Voting in Your Hometown. If the voter attends college in their hometown and still resides at home, the voter votes in the precinct (voting area) of their residence. If the voter attends school away from their North Dakota residence and the voter lives on or off campus, the voter may still vote in their hometown elections if the address is still associated with that residence. The voter can do this either by absentee voting or by voting in person on Election Day at the voter's hometown precinct polling place.¹⁷

Voting in College Town. The voter may vote in the voter's college town by updating their identification to reflect the address at which the voter resides while attending school. The voter must reside at the address for at least 30 days immediately preceding the election in order to be a resident of the precinct.¹⁸ For the November **general election**, this date is October 6, 2024.

Voting Absentee in Home State. If the voter attends college in North Dakota, but is a resident of another state, the voter should contact the state election official in their home state for information about the voter qualifications and procedures for voting absentee in the voter's home state. In most cases, if the voter votes in an election in North Dakota, the voter's residency will change from their home state to North Dakota.¹⁹

The above guidelines all apply to those engaged in remote learning, as well.

11. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)

¹⁴ NDCC § 16.1-01-04

¹⁵ NDCC § 16.1-01-05

¹⁶ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/pdfs/Portals/Voting-MailBallotAbsentee.pdf>; NDCC § 16.1-07-05.

¹⁷ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/pdfs/Portals/Voting-CollegeStudents.pdf>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

Voters living abroad²⁰ or serving in the military²¹ may vote by mail. A voter may vote absentee for any reason.²² A voter may submit an application for an absentee ballot anytime within the calendar year of an election.²³ See questions regarding absentee voting below.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?

Check the resources at Campaign Legal Center website, [Restore Your Vote](#) for the latest information.

North Dakota permits people with felony convictions to vote as long as they are not currently serving a felony sentence of incarceration, including people who are on probation or on parole.²⁴ The type of felony conviction does not matter. People with misdemeanor convictions can vote.²⁵

13. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?

Check the resources at Campaign Legal Center website, [Restore Your Vote](#) for the latest information.

If awaiting trial for any charge, even if incarcerated, as long as they did not lose the right to vote due to a prior conviction, someone can vote. They can register to vote and request an absentee ballot from office administrators at the complex.

Misdemeanor: Voting rights are not affected by conviction of a misdemeanor, even if the voter is currently incarcerated. They can register to vote and request an absentee ballot from office administrators at the complex.

Felony: North Dakotans with felony convictions do not have the right to vote while incarcerated.²⁶

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

Not applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.²⁷

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. HOURS: When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

The voting hours in North Dakota vary by county. Polling place voting hours are available online through the Polling Place Search (see link immediately below). The polls must be opened at 9:00 am or earlier,

²⁰ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/portals/Voting-NDResidentsLivingOutsidetheUS.pdf>.

²¹ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/portals/Voting-UniformedServiceMem-StationedAwayfromHome.pdf>.

²² NDCC § 16.1-07-01.

²³ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/portals/Voting-MailBallotAbsentee.pdf>; NDCC § 16.1-07-05.

²⁴ NDCC § 12.1-33-01.

²⁵ See <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/voting-rights-restoration/north-dakota>.

²⁶ NDCC § 12.1-33-01.

²⁷ See <https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/voter/voting-north-dakota>.

but not earlier than 7:00 am. The polls must remain open continuously until 7:00 pm or a later hour, but not later than 9:00 pm.²⁸

Voters can find their polling location and hours by visiting:

<https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=50&ptIPKID=7#content-start>.

16. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

Voters can find their polling location and hours by visiting:

<https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=50&ptIPKID=7#content-start>.

17. TIME OFF WORK: Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

Federal law does not require employers to give employees time off to vote, the laws vary state to state. North Dakota has a law that encourages employers to provide time off to vote;²⁹ however, this policy is voluntary, and employers are not required to provide time off to vote.³⁰

18. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line?

Any voters standing in line to vote at the time the polls are set to close must be allowed to vote.³¹

19. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

Voters will need to provide one of the following:³²

- North Dakota Driver's license;
- North Dakota Non-Driver's identification card;
- Tribal government issued identification (including those issued by BIA for a tribe located in North Dakota, any other tribal agency or entity, or any other document that sets forth the tribal member's name, date of birth, and current North Dakota residential address); or
- Long-term care identification certificate provided by a North Dakota facility (if the voter does not have another form of identification listed above).

If a voter's valid form of identification does not include the North Dakota residential address or the voter's date of birth, or the North Dakota residential address is not current, the voter may supplement the identification with a current utility bill; a current bank statement; a check or a document issued by a federal, state, local, or tribal government (including those issued by BIA for a tribe located in North Dakota, any other tribal agency or entity, or any other document that sets forth the tribal member's name, date of birth, and current North Dakota residential address); a paycheck; or a printed document containing the individual's legal name, current North Dakota residential address, and date of birth issued by an institution of higher education for an enrolled student residing in North Dakota with the institution's letterhead or seal, and a student identification card, with a photo, issued by the institution and containing the student's legal name.³³

²⁸ See <https://www.ndlc.org/DocumentCenter/View/3494/2022-City-Election-Handbook>.

²⁹ See § 16.1-01-0.2.1.

³⁰ See https://www.vote411.org/search-by-topic?tid_1%5B%5D=20.

³¹ NDCC § 16.1-01-03.

³² NDCC § 16.1-01-04.1.

³³ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/IDRequirements.aspx?ptlhPKID=103&ptIPKID=7>.

The North Dakota address must be a residential street address; IDs with P.O. Boxes and rural route addresses will need supplemental identification.³⁴ The supplemental identification MUST contain a North Dakota residential street address. If the voter does not provide supplemental identification with a North Dakota residential street address, the voter can cast a “set aside” ballot. The voter will then have the opportunity to return to the polling place with proper identification or can go to a designated election office (ask a poll worker for the location) within six days of the election.

20. NO IDENTIFICATION: *Can I vote without providing identification?*

If the voter is unable to provide a valid form of identification but asserts qualifications as a voter in the precinct in which the individual desires to vote, the voter can cast a “set aside” ballot by marking a ballot that will be securely set aside. After the ballot is set aside, the individual may show a valid form of identification to the election official responsible for the administration of the election via print or electronic means before the meeting of the canvassing board occurring on the thirteenth day after the election.³⁵

21. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: *I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?*

Not Applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.³⁶

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: *I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?*

Not applicable. Since North Dakota does not have voter registration, provisional ballots are not necessary.³⁷

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: *I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?*

Not applicable. Since North Dakota does not have voter registration, provisional ballots are not necessary.³⁸

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: *I voted a provisional ballot, what now?*

Not applicable. Since North Dakota does not have voter registration, provisional ballots are not necessary.³⁹

³⁴ See NDCC § 16.1-11-16(2)(b).

³⁵ See NDCC § 16.1-01-04.1(5).

³⁶ See <https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/voter/voting-north-dakota>.

³⁷ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=94&ptIPKID=7>.

³⁸ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=94&ptIPKID=7>.

³⁹ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=94&ptIPKID=7>.

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: Absentee or Mail Voting)

25. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Early in-person voting is available in some counties. Contact the voter’s county auditor for information about early voting (contact numbers listed at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/CountyAuditors.aspx>).⁴⁰

Otherwise, voters may vote early by absentee ballot. See the section on absentee voting / voting by mail below.

26. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No.⁴¹

27. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Contact the voter’s county auditor for information about early voting (contact numbers listed at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/CountyAuditors.aspx>).

28. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

Contact the voter’s county auditor for information about early voting (contact numbers listed at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/CountyAuditors.aspx>).

29. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don’t have an ID?

For those counties where early in-person voting is available, the ID requirements are the same as on election day. Please see the answer to [Question 19](#).

30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

Please see the answer to [Question 57](#).

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

(in this state defined as: Absentee or Mail Voting)

⁴⁰ NDCC § 16.1-07-15.

⁴¹ See <https://www.vote411.org/node/7512>.

31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

No. The voter must complete a [mail ballot application](#) and mail or return it in-person to the voter's local election office, which can be found [here](#). The simplest method to apply is by electronically filling out the application using North Dakota's [Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#).

32. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No.⁴²

33. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

The deadline is one day before the election.⁴³

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

No prohibition on this.

35. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Voters can return their absentee ballot request form through the mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned attachment to an e-mail.

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

See [Question 51](#).

37. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

No, the online form only requires a mailing address but does not specify that the address must be the voter's home address.⁴⁴

38. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

The voter will not be able to vote by mail, but the voter may vote in-person on election day.⁴⁵

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/absentee/Default.aspx>.

⁴⁵ See <https://www.vote411.org/node/7512>.

39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

The voter can track the status of their absentee/mail ballot here:

<https://vip.sos.nd.gov/AbsenteeTracker.aspx>.

40. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

The last day to request an absentee ballot is 1 day before the election. The voter can still request a mail-in ballot as long as it is no later than 1 day before the election.⁴⁶

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

See [Question 56](#).

42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

Please see the answer to [Question 57](#).

43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

The return envelope including the voted ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before the election.⁴⁷ Please also see the answers to [Questions 33](#) and [35](#).

44. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Please see the answer to [Question 59](#).

45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

Please see the answer to [Question 60](#).

46. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

Please see the answer to [Question 61](#).

47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ See NDCC § 16.1-07-05(3).

Please see the answer to [Question 62](#).

48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Voters who requested mail-in ballots can vote in-person on election day, but the voter should not mail the ballot.⁴⁸

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

(in this state defined as: Absentee or Mail Voting)

49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

All eligible voters in North Dakota have the option to request a ballot before the day of an election in a process known as absentee voting. The voter does not need to provide a reason for why they are requesting an absentee ballot. However, the voter will be required to complete an application and sign an affidavit (sworn statement). To request an absentee ballot:

- Answer the questions on the absentee or mail ballot application (available at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/absentee/Default.aspx>)
- Print out the form generated
- Sign and date the form
- Send the form to the voter's County Auditor (can be delivered by mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned attachment to an email)
- If necessary, include a copy of the qualifying supplemental documentation verifying your new residential address or the alternative ID for voting provided by a tribal government in North Dakota.

The ballot will be sent to the voter; mark it and return it as instructed to the County Auditor no later than the day before the election.

In counties that use mail ballot elections, a ballot application is required to be sent to every active voter between the 50th and 40th day before the election. The application is also printed in the county official newspaper for two consecutive weeks.⁴⁹

50. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

The voter may submit an application anytime during the calendar year of an election; however, ballots are not available until the 40th day before an election. For the November general election, this date is September 26, 2024. Different county auditors have different deadlines, but EARLIER IS BETTER. Completed ballots must be postmarked no later than 1 day before the election.⁵⁰ However, voters

⁴⁸ See <https://www.vote411.org/north-dakota>.

⁴⁹ See *N.D.C.C. § 16.1-11.1-02*.

⁵⁰ See NDCC § 16.1-07-05(2).

prevented from voting the day of the election or requesting an absentee ballot on the day of the election—*due to an emergency that prevented the individual from voting on the day of the election*—must do so through an agent. In the event the absentee ballot is granted to a voter experiencing an emergency, the absentee ballot *must* be returned to the county auditor’s office by 4 p.m. on the day of the election.⁵¹

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

A valid form of identification is required to vote absentee or by mail.⁵² Acceptable forms of identification include: a North Dakota Driver’s license; North Dakota Non-Driver’s identification card; tribal government issued identification (including those issued by BIA for a tribe located in North Dakota, any other tribal agency or entity, or any other document that sets forth the tribal member’s name, date of birth, and current North Dakota residential address); and long term care identification certificate (provided by a North Dakota facility).

There are identification requirements associated with requesting an absentee ballot. The application will request the following information from each voter desiring to vote absentee:

- voter’s name;
- voter’s current or most recent ND residential address;
- voter’s mailing address;
- voter’s current contact telephone number, if available;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- the voter’s affirmation of residence in the precinct for at least thirty days immediately prior to the election;
- voter’s signature;
- the voter’s status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter’s North Dakota residence, or a family member of the uniformed service member living away from the voter’s North Dakota residence;
- voter’s full date of birth (month, date, and year);
- The identification number from one of the applicant’s valid forms of identification, a copy of the applicant’s long-term care certificate, and, if necessary, a copy of the applicant’s supplemental identification. Please see the answer to [Question 5](#).
- voter’s fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter’s email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

The simplest method to apply is by electronically filling out the application using North Dakota’s Absentee Ballot Application Wizard, available at: <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/absentee>.

52. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

If a voter experiences an emergency that prevents them from requesting an absentee ballot or voting on the day of the election, the voter may request an absentee ballot through an agent. If such an emergency absentee ballot is granted, the ballot must be returned to the county auditor’s office by 4:00 pm on the day of the election.⁵³

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/IDRequirements.aspx?ptlhPKID=103&ptlPKID=7>.

⁵³ See NDCC § 16.1-07-05(2).

53. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Absentee ballot applications are to be delivered to the appropriate election official by mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned attachment to an email, available at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/CountyAuditors.aspx>.⁵⁴

54. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?

A voter can check the status of an absentee ballot at <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/AbsenteeTracker.aspx>.

55. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

If the voter has sufficient time to correct the error and receive a new absentee ballot prior to the deadline, they may do so. Otherwise, the voter will need to vote in person at the voter's local polling place.

56. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Complete the ballot following the instructions included. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp.⁵⁵

57. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

Official guidance seems silent on whether anyone can help a voter with their MIB. Assistance does not appear to be prohibited.

58. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

Whether the voter votes absentee or by mail ballot their return envelope must be postmarked no later than the day before the election.⁵⁶ Please also see the answers to [Questions 33](#) and [35](#). If the voter is unable to meet this deadline, then the voter will have to go to their appropriate polling place on Election Day to cast their ballot.

59. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/Precincts.aspx?eid=313> for a list of drop box locations.

60. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

Yes, as long as the voter has signed and sealed the ballot.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ See NDCC § 16.1-07-05.

⁵⁵ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/pdfs/Portals/Voting-MailBallotAbsentee.pdf>

⁵⁶ See NDCC § 16.1-07-05(3).

⁵⁷ See NDCC §§ 16.1-11.1-08.

61. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

If a voter makes a mistake or “spoils” their ballot and has not cast the ballot, the voter has the right to receive a replacement ballot after returning the spoiled ballot to the county auditor or appropriate election officer. The voter must request the replacement ballot by 4PM the day before the election.⁵⁸

62. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

Yes, just like a voter whose ballot is destroyed, lost, or spoiled, a voter who requests but does not receive an absentee ballot, may request a replacement ballot from the county auditor or appropriate election officer. The request *must* be made by 4:00 pm the day before the election.⁵⁹ Otherwise, the voter may vote in person on Election Day.⁶⁰

63. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

An individual may vote in person on Election Day if they have not already submitted an absentee ballot.⁶¹ As a best practice, if possible, the voter should bring their absentee ballot with them to the polls to be canceled.

64. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

Please see the answer to [Question 25](#).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What should I do?

The voter should check the following website for the nearest polling location:
<https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=50&ptlPKID=7#content-start>.

66. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I’m in line?

North Dakota’s minimum poll hours are 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, but individual polling locations can have hours extended, up to 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Anyone in line by 7:00 pm must be allowed to vote.⁶²

67. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

⁵⁸ See NDCC §§ 16.1-11.1-05; 16.1-11.1-08.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ See <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/Can-I-Change-My-Mind>.

⁶² See NDCC § 16.1-01-03.

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. Additionally, a voter should ask if an emergency paper ballot is available.

68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?

An individual may not ask, solicit, or in any manner try to induce or persuade, any voter within a polling place or within one hundred feet (30.48 meters) from the entrance to the room containing a polling place while it is open for voting to vote or refrain from voting for any candidate or the candidates or ticket of any political party or organization, or any measure submitted to the people.⁶³

A person may not approach a person attempting to enter a polling place, or who is in a polling place, for the purpose of selling, soliciting for sale, advertising for sale, or distributing any merchandise, product, literature, or service. A person may not approach a person attempting to enter a polling place, who is in a polling place, or who is leaving a polling place for the purpose of gathering signatures for any reason. These prohibitions apply in any polling place or within one hundred feet (30.48 meters) from any entrance leading into a polling place while it is open for voting.⁶⁴

Voters have the right to wait to vote (or to vote) without anyone electioneering or trying to influence their vote in any other way within 100 feet of the entrance of the polling place or room.

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

Voters should not wear political badges, buttons, or insignia within the same area while a polling place is open for voting.⁶⁵

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Poll workers should not wear political badges, buttons, or insignia within the same area while a polling place is open for voting.⁶⁶

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

Please see the answer to [Question 68](#).

72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

North Dakota contains very limited provisions for someone to challenge a ballot. The only provision explicitly covering challenging a ballot involves a recount, and, in that situation, individuals authorized to participate in the recount may challenge ballots. The ballots are still counted but are set aside and a

⁶³ See NDCC § 16.1-10-06.

⁶⁴ See NDCC § 16.1-10-06.2.

⁶⁵ See NDCC § 16.1-10-03.

⁶⁶ *Id.*

notation is placed including the grounds for their challenge at law. At the end of the recount, the county auditor, or the relevant election official, will present them to the recount board, composed of lawyers, to make a decision on the ballots.⁶⁷

North Dakota's general voter challenge statute was repealed and replaced in favor of the voter identification requirements discussed at length in other places in this document. A poll clerk will request a prospective voter present that identification, if the voter does so successfully there should not be an issue.

73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?

If there are police / members of the military at the polling place, the voter should notify the election official immediately, and the voter should still cast their ballot. Election officials are well-trained and are there to help.

74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

Not applicable, North Dakota does not require voter registration.⁶⁸

75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

See info in the [How to Vote: Election Day](#) Section.

Not applicable. Since North Dakota does not have voter registration, provisional ballots are not necessary.⁶⁹

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. The election inspector and judges must provide the voter with adequate instructions on how to use the electronic voting equipment before entering the voting booth. Instructions must all be posted in large print within the polling location.

Any voter who needs assistance in voting is entitled to have a person of their choice—other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union, a candidate running in that election, or a relative of a candidate—mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. If a voter requests the assistance of a member of the election board, the voter should receive the assistance of both election judges in marking a ballot.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ See NDCC § 16.1-16-01(6)(b).

⁶⁸ See <https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/voter/voting-north-dakota>.

⁶⁹ See <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalListDetails.aspx?ptlhPKID=94&ptlPKID=7>.

⁷⁰ See NDCC § 16.1-13-27; 52 U.S.C.A. § 10508.

77. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

North Dakota law requires all polling places and parking facilities at polling places to be accessible to the elderly and physically disabled. If a polling place is not accessible, a voter should call the County Auditor for immediate assistance (contact numbers listed [here](#)).⁷¹

78. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance in voting is entitled to have a person of their choice—other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter’s union, a candidate running in that election, or a relative of a candidate—mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. If a voter requests the assistance of a member of the election board, the voter should receive the assistance of two election judges in marking a ballot.⁷²

Absentee Ballot Assistance: Each individual requesting to submit an absentee ballot who cannot read the English language or who, because of blindness or other disability, is unable to mark the voter's ballot, upon request, may receive the assistance of any individual of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union, a candidate running in that election, or a relative of a candidate.

79. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance in voting is entitled to have a person of their choice—other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, an officer or agent of the voter’s union, a candidate running in that election, or a relative of a candidate—mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. If a voter requests the assistance of a member of the election board, the voter should receive the assistance of two election judges in marking a ballot.⁷³

Each individual requesting to submit an absentee ballot who cannot read the English language or who, because of blindness or other disability, is unable to mark the voter's ballot, upon request, may receive the assistance of any individual of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer, an officer or agent of the voter's union, a candidate running in that election, or a relative of a candidate.

80. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

North Dakota does not offer curbside voting.

81. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Yes.

⁷¹ See NDCC § 16.1-04-02.

⁷² See NDCC § 16.1-13-27; 52 U.S.C.A. § 10508.

⁷³ *Id.*

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

For Secretary of State:

Secretary of State
State of North Dakota
600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept 108
Bismarck ND 58505-0500
Telephone: 701-328-2900
Toll Free: 800-352-0867
TTY: 800-366-6888
Fax: 701-328-2992

For specific counties, see:

<https://vip.sos.nd.gov/CountyAuditors.aspx>