



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Nebraska – General Election 2022

*Last Updated: September 13, 2022*

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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?

An eligible voter is a citizen, is at least 18 years old on Election Day, lives in Nebraska, has not been convicted of a felony (or, if convicted, has finished parole and probation at least two years ago), and must not have been officially found incompetent.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?

To vote in a primary election for *state and county offices*, voters must declare their party affiliation when registering. If their registration does not contain a party affiliation, they will only receive ballots for nonpartisan contests in the primary election. Voters can change party affiliations in accord with procedures and deadlines for registration.

However, non-partisan voters may designate a party preference when voting in U.S. *Senate and House congressional* primary elections and receive partisan ballots.<sup>2</sup>

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

Voters can determine whether or not they are registered to vote by checking the Nebraska Secretary of State's website (<https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView>).

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

Voters in Nebraska have several ways to register:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/registering-vote>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

**Online**

Voters may register to vote online by visiting Nebraska’s registration portal (<https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration>).

**By Mail**

Applicants should complete the voter registration form available in English and Spanish at [https://sos.nebraska.gov/elec/ele\\_forms.html](https://sos.nebraska.gov/elec/ele_forms.html) and mail the form and supporting documents to their county election office. Applicants can find the address for their county election office at <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html>.

**In Person**

An individual can register in person at their county clerk’s office, the DMV, or an office of the state departments of education and health and human services.<sup>3</sup> Voters can visit <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html> to find their county clerk’s office.

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

**Online**

Applicant must have a Nebraska driver’s license or other state issued identification card.

**By Mail**

Voters can register by mail without photo identification. First time registrants must provide their Nebraska driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number (verified by the election commissioner or county clerk pursuant to subsection (2) of section 32-312.03); **OR** a copy of a photo identification which is current and valid **OR** a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that is not more than 60 days old and shows their name and current residence address.<sup>4</sup>

**In Person**

**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?**

The voter registration deadline depends on the method of registration.

**Online**

The online voter registration deadline is midnight Central Time on the third Friday before an election.<sup>5</sup> The deadline for online registration for the November 8, 2022 general election is October 21, 2022. In order to register online, a voter must have a Nebraska driver’s license or state-issued identification card. Applicants can apply to register at <https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration>.

**By Mail**

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<sup>3</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-302, 304, 310.

<sup>4</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-318.01

<sup>5</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-304; <http://www.nebraska.gov/faqs/sos/OVRA/FAQ-eng.html>.

The mail-in voter registration deadline is the third Friday before an election; voter registration applications submitted by mail will be processed if they are postmarked on or before that day. The deadline for the November 8, 2022 general election is October 21, 2022.<sup>6</sup> To register by mail, applicants should complete the voter registration form available in English and Spanish at [https://sos.nebraska.gov/elec/ele\\_forms.html](https://sos.nebraska.gov/elec/ele_forms.html) and mail the form and supporting documents to their county election office. Applicants can find the address for their county election office at <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html>.

***In Person***

The deadline to register in person is 6:00 p.m. Central Time on the second Friday before an election, which is October 28 for the November 8, 2022 general election. Individuals may register to vote in person at their local county clerk and other government offices.<sup>7</sup> Voters registering in person should visit <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html> to find their election office.

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

Nebraska does NOT offer same day registration.

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

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

<b>Moved within the same precinct &amp; county</b>	<b>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</b>	<b>Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically county)</b>	<b>Moved from a different state</b>
Because the polling place will be the same for the new and old address, voters should go to that polling place and complete a change of address form. The voter will be able to cast a provisional ballot and may be able to cast a regular ballot based on local county rules. <sup>8</sup>	The voter should go to the polling place that corresponds with the new address and complete a registration application. The voter will cast a provisional ballot. <sup>9</sup>	A voter who moves to a different county must re-register in the new county by the voter registration deadline to be eligible to vote. <sup>10</sup> Except they will still be entitled to vote for president and vice-president during a general election. <sup>11</sup>	An individual who moves to Nebraska after the voter registration has passed may still vote for President and Vice President (but no other offices) if they meet the requirements for voter registration (Q #1) and complete a New Resident Affidavit at the Election Commission after the close of registration but before the close of polls on election day. <sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-321.

<sup>7</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-302.

<sup>8</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 32-914.02; 32-915; 32-929.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-314.

<sup>11</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-933(1)(b).

<sup>12</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-933(1)(a).

**9. TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

An individual cannot vote in person from a polling place associated with a temporary residence. Voters must vote (either in person or absentee) in the precinct where they are a resident.

**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?](#)

Students have several options. A voter who attends school in Nebraska can establish residency and vote in Nebraska if they intend to establish a home in Nebraska. The legal definition for establishing residency includes a place where someone actually lives, has a connection, and where they intend to return after an absence.<sup>13</sup>

A voter who is a resident of Nebraska but who attends school in another state may vote in Nebraska if his or her family is domiciled in Nebraska and the voter has not established residency in the other state.<sup>14</sup> The voter should check the state law of the state in which he or she attends school to determine whether residency is established there.

An individual who is taking classes remotely must determine where he or she is a “resident.” An individual whose schooling is fully remote will have a hard time defining their residence as the campus if he is not physically there.

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

An individual living abroad or serving in the military can register via the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), the National Voter Registration Form, or the Nebraska Voter Registration Application. The Nebraska Secretary of State encourages voters to include their email address on the FPCA if they use that form.

In order to vote by mail, voters abroad must fill out the FPCA or Nebraska Early-Voting Application to request an early voting ballot.

Once the county election office receives their application, the voter will receive a confirmation that their application has been received. If a voter receives their ballot and does not think that it will arrive at the county election office by the deadline, they should contact their [county election office](#) to make other arrangements.

[Check the Voter Information Center](#) to track the status of a ballot.

Nebraska allows voters to use the [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot](#) (FWAB) for registration and voting in all federal, state and local elections. Feel free to use the FWAB to vote any time before an election. Voters who receive their Nebraska Early Voting ballot, may use that. If both ballots are received by the deadline, only the Nebraska ballot will be counted.

**12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?](#)

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<sup>13</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-116.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

Misdemeanor convictions do not affect a Nebraskan's voting rights. However, a Nebraskan convicted of a state or federal felony, temporarily loses citizenship rights including the right to vote. Voting rights are restored two full years after completing all of the terms of the sentence (including incarceration without parole, incarceration with parole, probation or any combination of sentences). After voting rights are restored, the voter must submit a new voter registration application.<sup>15</sup>

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

Individuals in jail for a felony conviction CANNOT vote. Those who are in jail pending trial or in jail for a misdemeanor CAN vote. Voters may request an Early Voting Application be mailed to them at the jail from the county election office where they are a resident (when not in jail).<sup>16</sup>

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

The polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Central Time or 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Election Day, depending on the region.<sup>17</sup>

**\*Note to hotline and field volunteers:** If a polling place is not open by its required opening time, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by 8:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

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

Voters can look up their polling location at <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview>.

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions #8 and 9](#).

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

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

The polling place will remain open for a reasonable period after the closing time to allow voters in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. Central Time or 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time to vote.<sup>18</sup>

**17. IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?

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<sup>15</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/registering-vote>.

<sup>16</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/felon-voting-rights>.

<sup>17</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-908 (1).

<sup>18</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-908 (4).

Nebraska does not require identification on Election Day, *unless* the voter registered by mail and did not previously provide the required proof of residence. If the voter did not previously provide proof of residence, then they will need a driver’s license, a state-issued identification card, or a form of address verification (copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that is current and shows the voter’s name and residence address).<sup>19</sup>

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

Usually, Nebraska does not require photo identification on Election Day, and does not require *any* ID unless the voter registered by mail and did not previously provide the required proof of residence. See also Answer # 5.

In addition, voters described below need not provide ID when voting:<sup>20</sup>

- (a) Has provided his or her Nebraska driver's license number or the last four digits of his or her social security number and the election commissioner or county clerk verifies the number provided pursuant to subsection (2) of section 32-312.03;
- (b) Is a member of the armed forces of the United States who by reason of active duty is absent from his or her place of residence where the member is otherwise eligible to vote;
- (c) Is a member of the United States Merchant Marine who by reason of service is away from his or her place of residence where the member is otherwise eligible to vote;
- (d) Is a spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States or United States Merchant Marine who is absent from his or her place of residence due to the service of that member;
- (e) Resides outside the United States and but for such residence would be qualified to vote in the state if the state was the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States; or
- (f) Is elderly or handicapped and has requested to vote by alternative means other than by casting a ballot at his or her polling place on election day.

**19. 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?**

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where they are attempting to vote, the precinct should call the relevant county clerk’s office to verify the voter’s status.

If the county clerk informs the poll worker that an error has been made, the poll worker must allow the voter to cast a provisional ballot or, under certain circumstances, a regular ballot.<sup>21</sup> If a voter is in the wrong precinct, they should attempt to go to the correct precinct. Otherwise, the voter should ask to cast a provisional ballot.<sup>22</sup>

**20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don’t have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?**

A voter should be offered a provisional ballot if they did not provide proof of residence or identification after registering by mail and did not provide identification to vote.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/election-day-faq>.

<sup>20</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-318.01(2)

<sup>21</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-328.

<sup>22</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-915.

<sup>23</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-318.01.

If a voter's name is not on the rolls, see [Question #19](#).

## **HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING** **(in some states called "in-person absentee")**

### **21. AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in-person absentee voting)?

Nebraska uses the term early voting, instead of absentee voting, for both voting by mail and in person voting in advance of Election Day. All registered voters are permitted to participate in early voting.<sup>24</sup> The earliest that a voter can request an early voting ballot is 120 days before Election Day—on July 11 for the November 8, 2022 general election.

Voters may request an early ballot in person, or send a request by mail, fax, or email. The deadline to request an Early Voting ballot is the second Friday before an election.<sup>25</sup> For the 2022 general election, that is October 28, 2022.

- Voters may request an early ballot using the form provided on the Secretary of State's website, available at [http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/earlyvote\\_app.pdf](http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/earlyvote_app.pdf). Voters can email, mail, or fax the form to their Election Commissioner or County Clerk.
- Voters can also submit a written request to their Election Commissioner or County Clerk. The request must include the voter's home address, the address where the voter wants to receive the ballot, telephone number (if applicable), and signature.

The Election Commissioner/County Clerk does not automatically confirm receipt of a voter's early ballot. The voter may contact the office of the Election Commissioner/County Clerk to confirm receipt.<sup>26</sup>

### **22. ELIGIBILITY:** Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No, Nebraska offers early voting without excuses.<sup>27</sup>

### **23. WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?

July 11, 2022: First day to accept early voting ballot request for the primary election.

October 4, 2022: Early voting ballots begin to be mailed out.

October 11, 2022: Early voting in county election offices begin.

October 28, 2022: Last day County Elections Office to receive a request for a ballot to be mailed to the voter.

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<sup>24</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-938 (1).

<sup>25</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-941.

<sup>26</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-949.01.

<sup>27</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/early-voting>.

(Request must be received by 6pm)<sup>28</sup>

November 7, 2022: Last day to vote early in county election office.

November 8, 2022: Election Day

7 PM CT (6 PM MT) - Deadline for voters to have another person pick up an early voting ballot on their behalf.

8 PM CT (7 PM MT) - Mailed and in-person early voting ballots must be RECEIVED by county election office.

Voters can check the status of their early voting ballot on [Votercheck](#).

#### 24. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?

Registered voters can vote **early in-person** at their county election office for a period prior to an election (30 days prior to a primary or general election and 15 days for all other elections). The day before the election is the last day to vote early in person. Find the county election office: [County Election Office](#)

Mail Ballots received via 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 a 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 to the county office or drop box. All Early Voting ballots, whether personally delivered, delivered by agent, delivered by mail or other carriers must arrive at the county election official's office by the closing of the polls on Election Day at 8:00 pm CT (7:00 pm Mountain Time).

#### 25. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

In order to vote early a voter must be registered. A voter does not need identification to vote, unless they did not provide it when registering. In that case, the voter may need identification to vote. See Answers [17](#), [18](#).

A voter who did not provide sufficient identification with mail application for registration will receive instructions with their mail ballot.<sup>29</sup>

## HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

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

No. Voters must request their ballots. (In Nebraska, absentee voting and vote by mail are both called "Early Voting"). Any Nebraskan can use Early Voting; no excuse is needed. Voters may request an early ballot in person, or send a request by mail, fax, or email. The deadline for the County Election office to receive a request for an

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<sup>28</sup> [https://sos.nebraska.gov/sites/sos.nebraska.gov/files/doc/elections/2022/2022\\_Election\\_Calendar.pdf](https://sos.nebraska.gov/sites/sos.nebraska.gov/files/doc/elections/2022/2022_Election_Calendar.pdf) (Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-941).

<sup>29</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-947(4)(c).

Early Voting ballot is October 28, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 primary election.<sup>30</sup>

- Voters may request an early ballot using the form provided on the Secretary of State’s website, available at [http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/earlyvote\\_app.pdf](http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/pdf/earlyvote_app.pdf). Voters can email, mail, or fax the form to their Election Commissioner or County Clerk.
- Voters can also submit a written request to their Election Commissioner or County Clerk. The request must include the voter’s home address, the address where the voter wants to receive the ballot, telephone number (if applicable), and signature.

The Election Commissioner/County Clerk does not automatically confirm receipt of a voter’s early ballot. The voter may contact the office of the Election Commissioner/County Clerk to confirm receipt.<sup>31</sup> Or use: [votercheck](#)

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

No, Nebraska offers voting by mail without excuses.<sup>32</sup>

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

The earliest that a voter can request an early voting ballot is 120 days before Election Day—July 11 for the 2022 general election. The *deadline* to request an Early Voting ballot is October 28, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 general election.<sup>33</sup>

Early voting for the November 8, 2022 general election starts October 4, 2022 and ends November 8, 2022. Voters who properly request an early ballot will receive a ballot and an identification envelope.

**29. 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?

The return envelope containing the application may be mailed back to the [County Election Office](#), returned by personal delivery, an agent, or courier service to the county office or drop box. Or: the application may be scanned or photographed and emailed to the county election office<sup>34</sup>.

**30. IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

[See Question #25](#)

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<sup>30</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-941.

<sup>31</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-949.01.

<sup>32</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/early-voting>.

<sup>33</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-941.

<sup>34</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/early-voting>

**31. 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?

Voters who wish to have their ballots sent to addresses different from their official residence can do so by entering that desired address in the "Send Voter's Ballot To" section of the [Early Voting Ballot Application](#).

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

An individual who does not request a mail-in ballot in time retains the ability to vote in person.

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

Individuals can check their registration, ballot status, and polling locations at <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview>.

**34. 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?

Voters should closely monitor the status of their Early Voting ballot request and ballot (online at [Voter Information Center](#)). If the voter's request or ballot is rejected, they should immediately contact their [local election official](#) to see if the error can be remedied.

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

Though most voters do not need identification to vote, voters do need identification to register. See Questions #4, [#5](#), [#18](#).

Ballots received by mail will be accompanied by instructions on how to cast a vote and a return envelope.

IMPORTANT: The envelope must be sealed and signed (or mark made) by the voter, and if assistance was provided, by the person who provided assistance.

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

Yes. A friend or voter-designated person may provide assistance.

**37. 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?

To be counted, the completed ballot must be received by the Election Commissioner/County Clerk before the polls close (8:00 p.m. Central Time/7:00 p.m. Mountain Time) on Election Day.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 32-949; 32-950.

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

The return envelope containing the ballot may be mailed back to the [County Election Office](#) returned by personal delivery, an agent, or courier service to the county office or drop box. All Early Voting ballots, whether personally delivered, delivered by agent, delivered by mail or other carriers must arrive at the county election official's office by the closing of the polls on Election Day at 8:00 pm CT (7:00 pm Mountain Time).

In addition to the County Election Office, ballots may be returned to drop boxes. Voters can check with their County Election Office for box locations.

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

Yes, an agent or other carrier can drop off an Early Voting ballot.

**40. 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?

Voters should closely monitor the status of their Early Voting ballot request and ballot (online at [Voter Information Center](#)). Voters who find their ballot is missing or spoiled, should immediately contact their local election official (available here <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/election-officials-contact-information>) to see if the error can be remedied.

A registered voter may cast a provisional ballot at the voter's polling place on election day **or** may obtain a replacement ballot from the election commissioner or county clerk by signing a statement verified on oath or affirmation on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State that the original ballot for early voting was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received and delivering the statement to the election commissioner or county clerk.

To receive a replacement ballot in person, the voter shall return the statement to the office of the election commissioner or county clerk by 8 p.m. on the day of the election.

To receive a replacement ballot by mail, the voter shall return the statement to such office prior to the close of business on the second Friday preceding the election.<sup>36</sup>

If the election commissioner or county clerk receives a statement meeting the requirements of this section, he or she shall deliver a replacement ballot to the voter if the voter is present in the office or shall mail a replacement ballot to the voter at the address shown on the statement.

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

See [Question #40](#)

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<sup>36</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-949.01.

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

Nebraska uses the term early voting instead of mail-in voting. A voter whose name appears on the precinct list with a notation that the voter received an early voting ballot can vote in person only by provisional ballot.<sup>37</sup>

## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

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

See [Question #27](#)

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

See [Question #28](#)

45. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?

See [Question #25](#)

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

Nebraska does not have an emergency absentee ballot procedure.

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

See [Question #29](#)

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

See [Question #33](#)

49. **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?

See [Question #34](#)

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

See [Question #35](#)

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<sup>37</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-915.

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

See [Question #36](#)

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

See [Question #37](#)

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

See [Question #38](#)

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

See [Question #39](#)

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

See [Question #40](#)

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

See [Question #40](#)

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

See [Question #42](#)

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

Voters can vote early in-person at their county election office for a period prior to an election (30 days prior to a primary or general election and 15 days for all other elections). The day before the election is the last day to vote early in person. For more information, voters should contact their [County Election Office](#).

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

Instruct the voter to stay at the polling location. Double check that the location is correct and has not been moved (<https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview>). Contact the county election office (<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/election-officials-contact-information>).

60. **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?

In either situation, instruct the voter to stay at the polling location.

See [Question #16](#) for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

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

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down (<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/election-officials-contact-information>). However, paper ballots are used throughout Nebraska, and machines are only used to assist individuals with disabilities in marking their paper ballots and to count all the ballots.<sup>38</sup> Therefore, even if a machine breaks down, most voters should be able to continue voting, and the ballots should be placed in a secure, backup storage container while the ballot counter (aka optical scanner) is not functioning or is being repaired.

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

Yes. If a voter informs the judge of election that they need assistance to operate a voting device, a poll worker may assist the voter.<sup>39</sup>

63. **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?

Polling places are required to be accessible to all registered voters and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Help America Vote Act. At least one voting booth at each polling place must be installed for easy access for those with physical limitations, must accommodate voters in wheelchairs, and must have a cover or barrier to provide privacy.<sup>40</sup> If an individual is unable to access the polling place, one judge of the election and one clerk of the election may take a ballot from the polling place to an accessible, convenient location within one block of the polling place (including the individual's vehicle) and may assist the individual in casting his or her vote.<sup>41</sup>

64. **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?

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<sup>38</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/nebraska-election-security>.

<sup>39</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-918.

<sup>40</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 32-907.

<sup>41</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-918.

Yes. Voters who are blind, who cannot read, or who for reason of physical disability need assistance voting are entitled to choose a friend or relative to assist them with voting, or otherwise get assistance from an election official.<sup>42</sup>

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

Individuals are prohibited from electioneering, including circulating petitions or soliciting votes, within 200 feet of any polling place. Prohibited actions include displaying or disseminating information with the purpose of advocating for or against any candidate, elected official, political party, or ballot measure.<sup>43</sup>

Individuals are also prohibited from conducting an exit poll or otherwise interviewing voters on Election Day to determine voter preferences within 20 feet of the entrance of the polling place or within 100 feet of any voting booth.<sup>44</sup>

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

Voter qualification may be challenged by any inspector, judge or clerk of election, or registered voter.<sup>45</sup> If challenged, a voter will be permitted to vote if they swear an affidavit as to their eligibility.<sup>46</sup>

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

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

Police may be present at a polling location if the election commissioner, county clerk, or city or village clerk appoints or summons such police officers and sheriffs as may be necessary to maintain order at the election and enforce the Election Act. Except in counties having an election commissioner, if no police officer or sheriff is available, the judges of election may appoint one or more persons in writing to act as and have the powers of a police officer.<sup>47</sup>

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

A voter’s name may be removed from the list of registered voters by their written request, death, because the voter has registered or voted in another state, because the voter has become ineligible (e.g. through felony conviction or adjudication of incompetency), or in connection with a voter registration list maintenance program.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> *Id.*

<sup>43</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-1524

<sup>44</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-1525

<sup>45</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-926.

<sup>46</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-932.

<sup>47</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-924.

<sup>48</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-326.

If a voter is told that their name has been removed from the voter rolls and cannot resolve the issue, he or she is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. An election official will provide a provision ballot, collect the provisional ballot after the voter has cast his or her vote, and ask the voter to sign a certification indicating that the voter is eligible to vote in that precinct.<sup>49</sup>

Election Protection hotline volunteers can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question #3](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #3](#) and [Question #8](#))
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #3](#))
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline (See [Question #6](#))?

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

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A registered voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:<sup>50</sup>

- The voter did not provide proof of residence or identification after registering by mail and does not provide identification to vote (see [Question #17](#));<sup>51</sup>
- The voter moved to a new residence within the same county and did not re-register (see [Question #8](#));<sup>52</sup>
- The voter's name does not appear on the voter rolls due to error (see [Question #19](#));<sup>53</sup> or
- The voter's name appears with the notation that they have received an early voting ballot.<sup>54</sup>

Except for the above reasons, a registered voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. However, if the voter does cast a provisional ballot, the voter can check whether the ballot was counted by calling the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office at (888) 727-0007 or (402) 471-2555 or by visiting <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView/ProvisionalBallotSearch.do>.

## ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

70. **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?

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<sup>49</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-915.

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*

<sup>51</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-318.01.

<sup>52</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 32-914.02; 32-929.

<sup>53</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-328.

<sup>54</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 32-915.

Voters who do not understand the language spoken at the polling place or in which the ballot is written may use an interpreter at the polling place or place where they are voting. Additionally, the voting machines function in multiple languages, and the Secretary of State's website is available in 14 languages.<sup>55</sup>

**71. CURBSIDE VOTING:** [Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?](#)

Voters who go to the polling place but are physically unable to enter may remain in their vehicle and vote curbside. Persons may call the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office Election Division Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (888) 727-0007 (toll free) or (402) 471-2555 to report problems. Volunteers can help with arrangements.

**72. VOTER GUIDE:** [Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?](#)

Voters are allowed to bring notes, a voter's guide, or a sample ballot into the voting booth. Some polling places do restrict cell phone use, so it might be safer to bring paper copies.<sup>56</sup>

## QUESTIONS

**73. QUESTIONS:** [Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?](#)

There are several places to look for help.

For most voter issues, the first place to check is with county election officials (<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/election-officials-contact-information>).

For statewide issues, the Nebraska Secretary of State provides many resources online (<https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/general-voter-information>) and takes calls (402-471-2555).

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<sup>55</sup> <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/accessible-voting>.

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.usa.gov/election-day>.