

Frequently Asked Questions

Idaho – General Election 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?

An individual can register to vote if they:

- Are a citizen of the United States;
- Are 18 years old;

- Have resided in Idaho and in the county where they intend to vote for at least 30 days.¹

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?](#)

The primary elections have already passed for the 2024 general election. An individual must be a registered voter in order to vote in the primary election. An individual may, but does not have to, designate a political party affiliation. If an individual does not wish to designate a political party affiliation, they may designate as “unaffiliated” (no party preference). If an individual designates a political party affiliation in their voter registration, they will only be able to vote in that party’s primary. If a voter is “unaffiliated,” they can choose to vote in one political party’s primary or receive a nonpartisan ballot, if such ballot is available. If an unaffiliated voter chooses to participate in one political party’s primary, they may not participate in the primary election of any other party. A poll worker may ask for an individual voter’s party affiliation in order to determine which primary ballot the individual should be given.²

****Note: PLEASE SEE CAUCUS INFORMATION IN [STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT](#) IN REGARDS TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. THIS YEAR WAS THE FIRST TIME VOTERS IN IDAHO DID NOT SELECT PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES VIA THE PRIMARY ELECTION PROCESS AND INSTEAD WILL HAVE TO USE THE CAUCUS SYSTEM.**

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

A voter can determine whether they are registered to vote using the Idaho Secretary of State’s registration lookup website, <https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/VoterSearch.aspx>.

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

A voter can register to vote in a few ways:

1. Online at <https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/ApplicationInstructions.aspx>. To register online the voter must have a driver’s license or identification card issued by the Idaho Department of Motor Vehicles. For the November general election, online registrations must be completed by 11:59 pm on October 11, 2024.
2. By mail by filling out the Idaho Voter Registration form and mailing it to the voter’s county. The form is found at https://sos.idaho.gov/elect/VoterReg/voter_registration.pdf. The address for county election offices may be found on the back of the form or at <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>. Mailed paper applications must be postmarked no later than October 11, 2024.
3. In-person at the voter’s County Clerks’ office. The location of and contact information for the County Clerks’ offices may be found here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>. Paper applications must be handed into the county clerk’s office by 5:00 p.m. on October 11, 2024; or
4. In-person at the polls on Election Day.

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)

¹ Idaho Code § 34-402.

² Idaho Code §§ 34-404 and 34-411A.

- Online Registration:
 - To register online a voter needs either an Idaho driver’s license or identification card.
 - If the voter does not have a current valid Idaho driver’s license or identification card, the voter must register via mail. If the residence address on a voter’s driver’s license does not match the voter’s actual residence address, the voter must provide proof of residence to either their county elections office or at the polls. This can be in the form of photo identifications, proofs of insurance, a utility bill, a paystub, and other similar documentation.³ See [Question 7](#) for all the accepted forms of documentation to establish residency.

- Mail-In Registration
 - A voter submitting a mail-registration must provide either an Idaho driver’s license or identification card, a U.S. Passport or Federal photo identification card, a Tribal identification card, or a Concealed weapons license issued by a County Sheriff in Idaho.
 - If the voter does not have a current valid Idaho driver’s license or identification card, or if the residence address on a voter’s driver’s license does not match the voter’s actual residence address, the voter must provide the last four digits of their social security number for proof of identity. The voter must also provide proof of residence to either their county elections office or at the polls. This can be in the form of photo identifications, proofs of insurance, a utility bill, a paystub, and other similar documentation. See [Question 7](#) for all the accepted forms of documentation to establish residency.

- At a County Clerk’s Office
 - A voter registering at a County Clerk’s Office must provide either an Idaho driver’s license or identification card, a U.S. Passport or Federal photo identification card, a Tribal identification card, or a Concealed weapons license issued by a County Sheriff in Idaho.
 - If the voter does not have a current valid Idaho driver’s license or identification card, or if the residence address on a voter’s driver’s license does not match the voter’s actual residence address, the voter must provide proof of residence to either their county elections office or at the polls. This can be in the form of photo identifications, proofs of insurance, a utility bill, a paystub, and other similar documentation. See [Question 7](#) for all the accepted forms of documentation to establish residency.

- In Person at the Polls
 - A voter registering at a County Clerk’s Office must provide either an Idaho driver’s license or identification card, a U.S. Passport or Federal photo identification card, a Tribal identification card, or a Concealed weapons license issued by a County Sheriff in Idaho.
 - If the voter does not have a current valid Idaho driver’s license or identification card, or if the residence address on a voter’s driver’s license does not match the voter’s actual residence address, the voter must provide proof of residence to either their county elections office or at the polls. This can be in the form of photo identifications, proofs of insurance, a utility bill, a paystub, and other similar documentation. See [Question 7](#) for all the accepted forms of documentation to establish residency.

³ Idaho Code § 34-411.

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?

Registration Deadline: Voter registrations must be received by the county clerk no later October 11, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.

- Applications must be postmarked by no later than October 11, 2024, for mailed paper applications.
- Paper applications must be handed in to the county clerk's office by the close of business, no later than October 11, 2024.
- Online applications must be completed no later than midnight on October 11, 2024.⁴

Idaho also allows for same day voter registration. For same day registration processes, see [Question 7](#).

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

Yes, Idaho permits same-day-registration during early voting as well as on Election Day.

On Election Day, an individual who is eligible to vote may register by appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual maintains residence, completing a registration application, making an oath in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State and providing proof of residence. An individual may prove identity for purposes of registering by:

- Showing a current Idaho driver's license or Idaho identification card issued through the department of transportation; or
- Showing a current passport or other identification card issued by an agency of the United States government; or
- Showing a current tribal identification card; or
- Showing a current Idaho license or enhanced license to carry concealed weapons.

An individual may prove residence for purposes of registering by:

- Showing a driver's license, passport, or license to carry a concealed weapon; or
- Showing a current proof of insurance; or
- Showing a deed, mortgage, or leasing agreement; or
- Showing a property tax assessment or receipt; or
- Showing a utility bill (excluding a cell phone bill);
- Showing a bank or credit card statement;
- Showing a paystub; or
- Showing an intake document from a residential care facility; or
- Sharing enrollment papers from the current school year by an accredited institution of higher learning in Idaho; or
- Showing a letter from a public or private social service agency verifying that the voter is homeless and attesting to the voter's residence for registration purposes.

An Idaho resident who is unable to provide an Idaho driver's license or identification card will need to provide the last four digits of their social security number.

An individual who is eligible to vote may also register, upon providing proof of residence, at an early voting location.⁵

⁴ Idaho 2024 Election Calendar, <https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/calendars/>; Idaho Code §§ 34-408 and 34-410.

⁵ Idaho Code § 34-408A.

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

A voter who has been an Idaho resident for at least 30 days before an election may go to the correct polling place for their new residence during early voting (if the county offers it) or on Election Day and register to vote with their new address. [Please see Question 7](#) for more information on same-day-registration.

A voter who moves to another county within Idaho or to another state within 30 days before an election may vote in that election by absentee ballot or at the polling place assigned to their prior address.⁶

9. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

If a voter moves to another county within Idaho or to another state within thirty (30) days prior to any election, they shall be permitted to vote in the ensuing election by absentee ballot or at the polling place assigned to the elector's prior address.⁷

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?

In Idaho, where a voter can register depends on the voter's residence. For voting purposes, a person's residence is their principal or primary home or place of abode. It is fixed and is the place to which a person intends to return when absent, regardless of the duration of absence. Conversely, only residing in a county or city of Idaho for temporary purposes is not considered to have gained a residence.⁸ In addition, if an individual is currently a student of "any institution of learning," they will not be deemed to have gained or lost residence while they are a student, though they must not register to vote in any other state during their absence.⁹

Some of the factors which may be relevant in determining whether domicile has been established for voting purposes by a student as well as any other applicant, are as follows:

1. Has the applicant registered to vote elsewhere?
2. If married, where does their spouse reside?
3. Where does the applicant keep their personal property?
4. Does the applicant have any community ties to the locale they claim as their domicile – membership in church, social or service clubs, etc.?
5. Where does the applicant maintain their checking and saving accounts, if any?
6. Where does the applicant pay taxes, and what address did they list as their residence on their last income tax return?
7. What is the residence listed on the applicant's driver's license?
8. If the applicant owns an automobile, where is it registered?
9. If the applicant is employed, where is their job located?

⁶ Idaho Code § 34-413.

⁷ Idaho Code § 34-413.

⁸ Idaho Code § 34-107(4) ("[a] qualified elector shall not be considered to have gained a residence in any county or city of this state into which [they] come for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making it [their] home but with the intention of leaving it when [they have] accomplished the purpose that brought [them] there.").

⁹ Idaho Code § 34-405 ("[f]or the purpose of voting, no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence ... while a student of any institution of learning....").

10. Does the applicant live year-round at their claimed domicile, or do they divide it elsewhere? If it is divided, how much time is spent elsewhere and for what reason?
11. What residence does the applicant list on their selective service registration, hunting or fishing licenses, insurance policies, or other official papers and documents which require a statement of residence or address.¹⁰

The Idaho Secretary of State has warned that a student should not register and vote in their college locale simply because they failed to register and vote at their true domicile.¹¹

11. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

Idaho residents who are absent from their voting residence and who are in the military or merchant marines (or an eligible family member of a member of the military or merchant marine), the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or are private U.S. citizens living abroad may use the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot. See <https://www.fvap.gov/idaho>.

For the November general election, registration must be received by no later than 25 days prior to the election (i.e., October 11, 2024), a ballot request must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh day prior to the election (i.e., October 25, 2024), and ballots must be received by the county clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election (i.e., November 5, 2024).

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 [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

Yes, if a voter has a felony criminal conviction, they can register to vote, but only after they have satisfactorily completed all terms of imprisonment, probation, and parole to which they were sentenced.¹²

Individuals convicted of felonies in other states or jurisdictions may register and vote in Idaho once they have satisfactorily completed all terms of imprisonment, probation, and parole to which they were sentenced.¹³

If a voter has a misdemeanor conviction, they never lose their right to vote and there are no restrictions to vote.¹⁴

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

¹⁰ Idaho Government Voting Website: <https://idahovotes.gov/student-and-residency-voting/>.

¹¹ Idaho Government Voting Website: <https://idahovotes.gov/student-and-residency-voting/>; Idaho Secretary of State Website: <https://sos.idaho.gov/service-to-the-state/>

¹² Idaho Const. art. VI, § 3.

¹³ Idaho Code § 18-310(4).

¹⁴ Idaho Const. art. VI, § 3 (“No person is permitted to vote . . . who has, at any place, been convicted of a felony, and who has not been restored to the rights of citizenship, or who, at the time of such election, is confined in prison on conviction of a criminal offense.”); see also ACLU, *Voting in Idaho with a Criminal Conviction*: https://www.acluidaho.org/sites/default/files/votingrights_onesheets_english_criminalconviction.pdf.

It depends. If a voter is incarcerated following the conviction of a felony, they may not vote until they have finalized their prison sentence and completed their probation or parole.¹⁵

If a voter is incarcerated following the conviction of a misdemeanor, they were never stripped of their right to vote and, therefore, can request an absentee ballot from the jail administrators.¹⁶

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

14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** [My registration has been challenged, what should I do?](#)

In Idaho, any eligible voter may challenge another voter’s registration. Such challenges are noted in the “remarks” column in the election register and the individual challenging the registration must sign their name after the entry.¹⁷

No later than the ninth Friday after the election, the county clerk must mail a written inquiry to the challenged voter at the mailing address on their registration card. The inquiry will state the basis for the challenge and provide a form for reply. The challenged voter must state that the information on their registration is correct within 20 days of the date of the mailing of the written inquiry, either in person or in writing.

If the county clerk determines the challenged voter’s response has been satisfied, that is the end of the matter. If the county clerk decides that the response is unsatisfactory, the county clerk must schedule a hearing and must notify the voter of the time and place of the hearing. The hearing must be held no longer than 20 days after notice is given.

If at the end of the hearing, the county clerk determines that the challenged voter’s registration is invalid, the county clerk shall cancel the registration. Similarly, if the challenged voter fails to respond to the initial inquiry, the county clerk will also cancel their registration.¹⁸

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **HOURS:** [When do the polls open/close on Election Day?](#)

¹⁵ Idaho Const. art. VI, § 3; Idaho Code § 18-310.

¹⁶ Idaho Const. art. VI, § 3; ACLU, *Your Rights As an Idaho Voter*:

<https://www.acluidaho.org/en/publications/2023-your-rights-idaho-voter>; see also Alex Brizee, *Who couldn’t vote? How Idaho’s Incarcerated Learned to Participate in a Mock Election*, IDAHO STATESMAN (Nov. 11, 2022) (“In Idaho, anyone qualified to vote who’s in custody at a county jail can request an absentee ballot through their county’s election office.”); DEP’T OF JUSTICE, *Guide to State Voting Rules That Apply After a Criminal Conviction*, at pg. 17, available at <https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1332106/dl?inline=>.

¹⁷ Idaho Code § 34-431.

¹⁸ Idaho Code § 34-432.

On election day the polls are open from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. However, the County Clerk may, at their discretion, open the polls in their county at 7:00 A.M. for a primary or general election. Any elector who is in line at 8:00 P.M. should be permitted to vote.¹⁹

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

A voter can find their polling location at

<https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/ViewPollingLocation.aspx>.

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

No. There is no statute requiring that private employers provide employees with time off to vote.

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

If the voter is in line when the polling place closes, they are entitled to remain and vote.

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

A registered voter must present a photo ID or sign a personal identification affidavit (see below) to vote at the polls during early voting or on Election Day. Acceptable forms of identification are one of the following:

- A current driver's license or photo identification card issued by the Idaho Department of Transportation.
- A current U.S. passport or Federal photo identification card.
- A current tribal photo identification card.
- A current license to carry a concealed weapon issued by a county sheriff in Idaho.²⁰

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

Instead of presenting the required photo identification, a registered voter may sign a personal identification affidavit on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.²¹ After signing the affidavit, the voter will be issued a ballot to vote that will be tabulated with all other ballots.

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?*

If a voter is at the polling place for the precinct in which the voter maintains their residence, and their name is not on the voter registration roll, the voter may register to vote and then cast a ballot that same day by:

- Completing a registration application,
- Taking an oath,
- Providing proof of identity, and

¹⁹ Idaho Code § 34-1101.

²⁰ <https://voteidaho.gov/frequently-asked-questions/>; https://sos.idaho.gov/elections/forms/voter_registration.pdf.

²¹ Idaho Code § 34-1114.

- Providing proof of residence that is dated at least 30 days before Election Day.²²

Proof of identity includes a current driver's license or identification card; a current passport or other identification card issued by an agency of the United States government; a current tribal identification card; or a current license or enhanced license to carry concealed weapons.

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

A voter should not be offered a provisional ballot in Idaho. Idaho has not implemented a provisional voting system. For other options, see [Question 21](#).

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

A voter should not be offered a provisional ballot in Idaho. Idaho has not implemented a provisional voting system. For other options, see [Question 21](#).

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

A voter should not be offered a provisional ballot in Idaho. Idaho has not implemented a provisional voting system. For other options, see [Question 21](#).

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: "early voting" or voting at an "absent electors' polling place")

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

Every county is required to establish one or more "absent electors' polling places" with voting booths and other necessary supplies.²³ This may be referred to as "in person absentee voting". In-person absentee voting involves the registered voter going to the designated location, completing a request for an absentee ballot, receiving and voting the absentee ballot, and returning it to the official, all in one trip. For more information on the location and operation of absent electors polling places contact the relevant county clerk. A directory of county clerk offices is available here, <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

Counties that meet certain requirements may choose to conduct "early voting" instead of establishing absent-electors' polling places. The process used for early voting is the same as the process for voting

²² Idaho Code §§ 34-408A, 34-411.

²³ Idaho Code § 34-1006.

used on Election Day. The dates for early voting are determined by each county. Early voting must begin on or before the third Monday before the election (i.e., October 21, 2024) and end at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election (i.e., November 1, 2024).²⁴ Voters should check with their county clerk's office or visit the county website to determine the details for early voting in their county. A directory of county clerk offices is available here <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

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

No. The voter does not need a reason to vote early in Idaho.

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

The dates for early voting are determined by each county. Early voting must begin on or before the third Monday before the election (i.e., October 21, 2024) and end at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election (i.e., November 1, 2024).²⁵

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

Voters should check with their county clerk's office or visit the county website to determine the details for early voting in their county. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

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

A registered voter must present a photo ID or sign a personal identification affidavit (see below) to vote at the polls during early voting or on Election Day. Acceptable forms of identification are one of the following:

- A current driver's license or photo identification card issued by the Idaho Department of Transportation.
- A current U.S. passport or Federal photo identification card.
- A current tribal photo identification card.
- A current license to carry a concealed weapon issued by a county sheriff in Idaho.²⁶

An Idaho citizen who does not have an Idaho driver's license or identification card will be asked to sign a personal identification affidavit before they are allowed to vote. The affidavit shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and shall require the voter to provide the voter's name and address.²⁷

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

Counties in Idaho provide a clear path of travel and other accommodations to assure access to their polling places. Accessible voting booths and voter assistance terminals are available for voters who may have difficulty seeing or marking a ballot. Additionally, voters may ask any person of their choosing to assist them with voting or may ask a poll worker for assistance.

²⁴ Idaho Code § 34-1012(1).

²⁵ Idaho Code § 34-1012(1).

²⁶ Idaho Code § 34-1113.

²⁷ Idaho Code § 34-1114.

Additionally, a voter assistance terminal is available in every polling place in Idaho. A voter assistance terminal can assist voters to vote privately and independently, especially those voters that have difficulty seeing or marking a ballot.

Visually impaired voters can use headphones to listen to an audio ballot and make their vote selections on a touch screen or on a Braille keypad. A voter assistance terminal also has a zoom feature to enlarge the ballot print and also a contrast feature to make the ballot easier to read for some voters.

Lastly, in some circumstances, curbside assistance and home voting are available. Voters can make arrangements with their county clerk in advance.²⁸ A directory of county clerks is available here <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as: voting by “absentee ballot”)**

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

No. A voter must request an absentee ballot for each election for which they wish to use an absentee ballot. A voter may request absentee ballots for each election during one calendar year at the same time. A voter must already be registered to vote when requesting an absentee ballot.

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot:

- Online at <https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/BeginAbsenteeRequest.aspx>
- By mail by printing and mailing an application to the County Clerk’s office for the county in which they reside. The application can be downloaded from https://sos.idaho.gov/elections/forms/absentee_ballot_request.pdf and a directory of county clerk offices with mailing addresses is available on the back of the application or at <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.
- In person at the County Clerk’s office for the county in which the voter resides. A directory of county clerk’s offices with contact information is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

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

No. Any registered voter may choose to vote by mail.²⁹

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

²⁸ Idaho Code § 34-1108; *see also* <https://voteidaho.gov/accessibility/>

²⁹ Idaho Code § 34-1001.

An application for a mail-in absentee ballot must be received by the County Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the 11th day prior to election (i.e., October 25, 2024).³⁰ This deadline applies whether the application is completed online, by mail, or in person with one exception. An application made in-person for absentee voting at the absent elector’s polling place can be made up until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election (i.e., November 1, 2024).³¹

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

Voters may receive assistance in filling out an application for an absentee ballot.³²

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?

An absentee ballot application may be submitted:

- By mail, by printing and mailing an application to the County Clerk’s office for the county in which the voter resides. The address of the county clerk offices in Idaho is printed on the back of the absentee ballot application. Also, a directory of county clerk offices with mailing addresses is available here <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>. The application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 25, 2024.
- Electronically by facsimile or by filling out a form online at: <https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/BeginAbsenteeRequest.aspx>.
- In person at the County Clerk’s Office for the county in which the voter resides. A directory of county clerk’s offices with contact information is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

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

When a voter is requesting an absentee ballot using the online form, the voter must provide their Idaho driver’s license or identification card number as well as the last four digits of their social security number. If the voter does not have the required identification numbers, they must download and submit a paper application.

When returning an absentee ballot, there are no additional identification requirements.

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?

The mail-in ballot application form allows the voter to designate the mailing address to be used for receiving a mail ballot. The mailing address does not need to be the same as the voter’s residential address.

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

³⁰ Idaho Code § 34-1002(7)

³¹ Idaho Code § 34 1002(7).

³² Idaho Code § 34-1108; see also <https://voteidaho.gov/accessibility/>

Voters who did not request an absentee ballot in time and who do not qualify for an emergency situation absentee ballot (see below) may vote in person at the polls during early voting or on Election Day.

A registered voter who has not previously requested an absentee ballot for the same election and who is unable to vote in person on the day of the election because they are hospitalized due to an emergency situation may request an emergency situation absentee ballot by filing an emergency situation absentee ballot application with the county clerk.

- The emergency application may be submitted to the county clerk up to five (5) days prior to the election (i.e. October 31, 2024) but shall be received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before the election (i.e. November 1, 2024), to allow for the coordination of ballot delivery to the voter at the hospital.
- The emergency application shall be signed personally by the applicant.

The situation rendering the requesting elector unable to vote in person at the polling place must have occurred after 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh (11) day prior to the election, i.e. October 25, 2024, and the applicant must attest to that fact with the applicant's signature.³³

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

To check the status of an application for an absentee ballot, the voter may contact the county clerk. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

A voter can check the status of their absentee ballot using the Idaho “Check Your Voter Record” Tool at <https://elections.sos.idaho.gov/ElectionLink/ElectionLink/VoterSearch.aspx>.

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

The voter should contact the office of the county clerk to learn the reason why their absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. If the absentee ballot application was rejected, the voter may still have time to address any issue and either submit a new application or vote in person. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>

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

Upon receipt of the absentee ballot, the voter should carefully review the materials provided in their absentee ballot package to ensure that they received the correct ballot, an internal secrecy envelope, an external return envelope, and detailed instructions. If any of this material is missing the voter should immediately reach out to their county clerk. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>. The voter should be careful to retain all pieces of the absentee ballot package. Photocopies of absentee ballots are not accepted, and the absentee ballots must be returned in the return envelope provided as each ballot is coded to a specific return envelope. The correct return envelope will be pre-printed with the name of the voter to whom the absentee ballot. Only one ballot may be returned per return envelope.

³³ Idaho Code § 34-1002A.

The voter should carefully review the instructions that came with their absentee ballot and mark the ballot in accordance with those instructions. Voters should be careful not to vote for more candidates than allowed for each office. Votes will not count for any office that the voter has overvoted.

Once the voter has completed voting, they should place the ballot in the secrecy envelope and seal it in accordance with the instructions provided. The security envelope should then be placed in the return envelope and the return envelope should be sealed and signed in accordance with the instructions. The county clerk will use the voter's signature on the return envelope to confirm that the absentee ballot belongs to the registered voter. If the signature is missing or the county clerk determines that it is invalid the ballot will not be counted.³⁴

42. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)

Yes, if a registered voter is unable to record their vote by personally marking his ballot due to a physical or other disability, they may be assisted by a person of their choice.³⁵

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?](#)

Absentee ballots must be received by the county clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.³⁶ If the ballot is to be returned by mail the voter should mail it well enough in advance of the deadline to ensure that it arrives on time. Absentee ballots may also be deposited at the county clerk's office or, in some counties, in drop boxes. More information may be found on the county clerk's website. A directory of county clerk offices, including links to many of their websites, is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

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

Absentee ballots may also be deposited at the county clerk's office or, in some counties, in drop boxes. More information may be found on the county clerk's website. A directory of county clerk offices, including links to many of their websites, is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

45. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)

Yes. Idaho law does not require the voter to deliver their own ballot to designated drop off sites.

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?](#)

If the voter never received their absentee ballot, if the voter received the wrong ballot, or if the voter made a mistake on the ballot, they should contact their county clerk's office for further instructions. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

³⁴ See Idaho Code §§ 34-1004, 34-1005.

³⁵ Idaho Code § 34-1108.

³⁶ Idaho Code § 34-1005.

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

If a voter requested an absentee ballot and did not receive it, the voter should contact their county clerk. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

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

If the voter requested an absentee ballot, but wants to vote in person, the voter should contact their county clerk's office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerks/>.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

(in this state defined as: voting by "absentee ballot")

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

Any registered voter may choose to vote by absentee ballot.³⁷

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

An application for in-person absentee voting at the absent elector's polling place can be made up until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election (i.e., November 1, 2024).³⁸

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

Yes, see [Question 36](#).

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

A registered voter who has not previously requested an absentee ballot for the same election and who is unable to vote in person on the day of the election because they are hospitalized due to an emergency situation may request an emergency situation absentee ballot by filing an emergency situation absentee ballot application with the county clerk.

- The emergency application may be submitted to the county clerk up to five (5) days prior to the election (i.e., October 31, 2024) but shall be received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before the election (i.e., November 4, 2024), to allow for the coordination of ballot delivery to the voter at the hospital.
- The emergency application shall be signed personally by the applicant.

³⁷ Idaho Code § 34-1001.

³⁸ Idaho Code § 34 1002(7).

The situation rendering the requesting elector unable to vote in person at the polling place must have occurred after 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh (11) day prior to the election (October 25, 2024), and the applicant must attest to that fact with the applicant's signature.³⁹

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

See [Question 35](#).

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

See [Question 39](#).

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?

See [Question 40](#).

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

See [Question 41](#).

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

Voters may request and will be provided with assistance in voting. Voters are entitled to vote with the assistance of a person of their choice. Voters may also seek assistance from a poll worker.⁴⁰

Every polling place in Idaho has a voter assistance terminal available to help a voter with certain disabilities, including a visual impairment or difficulty marking a ballot. Links to operating instructions for the machines used may be found here: <https://voteidaho.gov/accessible-voting/>.

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

See [Question 43](#).

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

See [Question 44](#).

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

See [Question 45](#).

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

³⁹ Idaho Code § 34-1002A.

⁴⁰ Idaho Code § 34-1108.

See [Question 46](#).

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

See [Question 47](#).

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

See [Question 48](#).

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

Each county determines where in-person absentee voting will occur.⁴¹ The voter should visit the website for their county clerk or contact the county clerk's office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

The voter should contact their county clerk's office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

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?

If the voter is in line when the polling place closes, they are entitled to remain in line in order to vote.

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

Voters should contact their county clerk's office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

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

During any day on which voting is taking place, including during any primary, general or special election, and during early voting or absentee in person voting, no person may, within a polling place, or any building in which an election is being held, or within one hundred (100) feet thereof:

- (a) Do any electioneering;

⁴¹ Idaho Code § 34-1006.

- (b) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;
- (c) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition;
- (d) Advocate for or against any candidate or measure;
- (e) Solicit votes in any manner or by any means;
- (f) Give or offer to give any money or gifts; or
- (d) Engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of the polling place.⁴²

The Idaho attorney general has opined that the law only covers “active” campaigning or electioneering. For example, the law does not prohibit voters from wearing buttons or other apparel in support for a particular candidate or measure “simply goes about their business to vote without interfering with anyone else, making a statement, or any other active conduct related to their message, this office recommends that they be allowed to vote without any discussion of the issue.”⁴³

According to the attorney general’s office, “active electioneering” includes making a speech, intimidating voters, or otherwise interfering with those at the polls on political grounds. The attorney general’s opinion recommends voters contact the sheriff’s office.

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

There is no statute prohibiting taking photos at the polling place, however, the Idaho Constitution guarantees the right to a secret ballot.⁴⁴

Additionally, “electioneering” is banned within one hundred (100) feet of a polling place.⁴⁵ See [Question 68](#). However, the Idaho Attorney General’s Office released an opinion in 2020, stating that it did not believe that this prohibition included the wearing of political apparel at the polling place.⁴⁶

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

Poll workers are prohibited from communicating any information as to the name or number on the registry list of any voter who has not applied for a ballot, or who has not voted at the polling place. Additionally, no poll worker may interfere with a voter while they are attempting to mark their ballot. Poll workers also may not attempt to induce any voter to display his ballot after they have marked it or attempt to induce the voter to make known to any person the name of the candidate they voted for.⁴⁷

⁴² Idaho Code § 18-2318.

⁴³ See Selected Advisory Letters from the Office of the Attorney General, File No. 20-71421 (Oct. 27, 2020), at pp. 208-05, available at https://www.ag.idaho.gov/content/uploads/2021/06/AnnualReport_2020_Final.pdf; THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, *Idaho AG: County ban on political apparel at polls incorrect* (Oct. 28, 2020), <https://apnews.com/article/campaigns-coeur-dalene-elections-idaho-laws-731385081e9e1d3f26306e39b13aaf1b>.

⁴⁴ Idaho Const. art, VI, § 1.

⁴⁵ Idaho Code § 18-2318.

⁴⁶ See Selected Advisory Letters from the Office of the Attorney General, File No. 20-71421 (Oct. 27, 2020), at pp. 208-12, available at https://www.ag.idaho.gov/content/uploads/2021/06/AnnualReport_2020_Final.pdf.

⁴⁷ Idaho Code § 34-1110.

Poll workers are also prevented from engaging in any electioneering, circulating cards or handbills of any kind, soliciting signatures to any kind of petition, advocating for or against any candidate or measure, soliciting votes in any manner or by any means, giving or offering to give any money or gifts, or “engaging in any practice which interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of the polling place.”⁴⁸

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?

See [Question 68](#).

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

A voter whose registration has been challenged should read the voter qualifications and sign the elector’s oath, affirming that they meet those qualifications before they are allowed to vote. The voter must then sign the election record poll book and be permitted to vote.⁴⁹ The county clerk may contact the voter after the election to confirm the validity of the voter’s registration. Additional information is found in [Question 14](#).

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

Although Idaho does not prohibit or restrict the presence of police or members of the military at the polls, it is illegal for anyone, including the law enforcement officials or members of the military, to “engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of the polling place.”⁵⁰ If this happens, a voter should call authorities or contact its county clerk’s office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

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

Idaho cancels the registration of any voter who has not voted for four years from the voting roles.⁵¹ To vote, those citizens need to register again and may do so at the polls on Election Day.

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

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

A voter should not be offered a provisional ballot in Idaho. Idaho has not implemented a provisional voting system.

⁴⁸ Idaho Code § 18-2318.

⁴⁹ Idaho Code § 34-1111.

⁵⁰ Idaho Code § 18-2318(d).

⁵¹ Idaho Code § 34-435.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

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

A voter may request assistance from a poll worker on how to operate voting equipment. The poll worker will provide instructions on sample voting equipment.⁵²

A voter can find specific voting instructions for the voting system used in their county linked here: <https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/voting-systems-by-county/>. Voters may also contact their county clerk's office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

If a voter is unable to record their vote, due to physical disability or otherwise, they are entitled to assistance from a person of their choice or by an election clerk.⁵³

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?

Polling places in Idaho must be accessible to persons with physical disabilities. However, the Secretary of State may waive this requirement in the case of an emergency or when no other polling place is available. A voter that requires an accessible location should contact their county clerk before the election to confirm that their polling place is accessible. If it is not, there may be several options for the voter including voting curbside at their assigned polling place, being assigned to a new polling place that is accessible, voting at an accessible early voting or in person absentee voting location, or voting using a mail in absentee ballot. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

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?

Voters may request and will be provided with assistance in voting. Voters are entitled to vote with the assistance of a person of their choice. Voters may also seek assistance from a poll worker.⁵⁴

Every polling place in Idaho has a voter assistance terminal available to help a voter with certain disabilities, including a visual impairment or difficulty marking a ballot. Links to operating instructions for the machines used may be found here: <https://voteidaho.gov/accessible-voting/>.

For specific rules regarding language assistance, a voter can contact their county clerk's office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

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?

⁵² Idaho Secretary of State Voter Rights, https://sos.idaho.gov/elect/hava/voter_rights.html.

⁵³ Idaho Code § 34-1108.

⁵⁴ Idaho Code § 34-1108.

Every registered voter in Idaho has the right to ask for and receive assistance in voting, including assistance in languages other than English, where required by law.⁵⁵ For specific rules regarding language assistance, a voter can contact their county clerk’s office. A directory of county clerk offices is available here: <https://voteidaho.gov/county-clerk/>.

Voters may request and will be provided with assistance in voting. Voters are entitled to vote with the assistance of a person of their choice. Voters may also seek assistance from a poll worker. Every polling place in Idaho has a voter assistance terminal available to help a voter with certain disabilities, including a visual impairment or difficulty marking a ballot. Links to operating instructions for the machines used may be found here: <https://voteidaho.gov/accessible-voting/>.

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

Yes. Voters who are unable, due to physical or other disability, to enter the polling place, may request that a ballot be brought to them outside within forty feet of the polling place. Two election clerks will deliver the ballot, allow the voter to mark the ballot in a secret manner, and then return the ballot to the polling place to be placed with all other ballots that have been voted.⁵⁶ Curbside voting is also available at early voting or in person absentee voting locations.⁵⁷ To request curbside voting a voter should contact an election official at the polling place or contact the county clerk’s office.

Home voting and mobile polling places may also be available in special circumstances. Contact the county clerk in advance to make arrangements.

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

Yes, a voter can prepare a “voting list” or other reference materials to help save time at the polls.⁵⁸

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. CAUCUS OR PRIMARY: Will Idaho hold a presidential primary election or a caucus in 2024?

In 2024, Idaho transitioned from holding presidential primary elections to holding caucuses.⁵⁹ The Idaho Republican Presidential Caucus was held on March 2, 2024. The Idaho Democratic Presidential Caucus was held on May 23, 2024.

83. ABSENTEE VOTING IN CAUCUS: Is absentee voting available for the presidential caucuses?

⁵⁵ See https://sos.idaho.gov/elect/hava/voter_rights.html.

⁵⁶ Idaho Code § 34-1108.

⁵⁷ <https://voteidaho.gov/accessibility/>.

⁵⁸ See https://sos.idaho.gov/elections/publications/Citizens_Guide_to_Participation_English.pdf at “Participation is the Essence of Democracy.”

⁵⁹ See Clark Corbin, *Idaho will have a presidential caucus in 2024 – not a primary. Here’s how they differ*. IDAHO CAPITAL SUN (Oct. 16, 2023), <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2023/10/16/idaho-will-have-a-presidential-caucus-in-2024-not-a-primary-heres-how-they-differ/>.

No. Neither the Republican nor Democratic caucuses allow for absentee voting.⁶⁰

84. VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR CAUCUS: When is the voter registration deadline for the presidential caucuses?

For the Republican caucus, the voter registration deadline was January 1, 2024. All voters registered with the Idaho Republican Party as of January 1, 2024, as well as Idaho citizens who had turned 18 between January 1 and March 2, 2024, and who registered to vote and affiliated with the Republican party may participate. The Idaho Republican Party will notify every eligible caucus participant via post card of the time and place of their precinct's caucus. The Idaho Republican Party will also post a general notice on the Idaho GOP website within 10 days of the caucus.⁶¹

For the Democratic caucus, the voter registration deadline for requesting an absentee ballot for those that could not attend in person was May 16, 2023.⁶²

85. AVAILABILITY OF FREE VOTER ID CARD: Who is eligible for a voter identification card issued by the Department of Transportation?

Voters may apply for a Free Voter ID card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and use it as a valid form of identity for voting.

To obtain a Free Voter ID Card, a voter must:

- At least 18 years of age,
- Provide proof of US citizenship to the DMV, and
- Indicate on the application that the Free Voter ID card is needed for the purpose of voting.⁶³

86. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FREE VOTER ID CARDS: What proof of identification must an applicant show to secure a Free Voter ID Card?

Applicants for Free Voter ID cards must provide proof of Idaho residency, proof of age, and identity. Applicants can apply online at itd.idaho.gov/starcard.⁶⁴

87. RENEWALS AND EXPIRATIONS OF FREE VOTER ID CARDS: Can the Free Voter ID Cards be renewed?

Yes, eligible applicants are entitled to one free replacement card and free renewals for as long as the applicant meets these eligibility requirements. The no-fee Voter ID Cards expire after four years.⁶⁵

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

For any questions, voters can go to the Idaho Voter Resource page at <https://voteidaho.gov/resources/>.

⁶⁰US VOTE FOUNDATION, *Idaho Election Dates and Deadlines*, <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/idaho-election-dates-and-deadlines>.

⁶¹IDAHO GOP PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS, *Rules of the Idaho Republican Party for the Presidential Nominating Caucus*, <https://www.idahorepublicancaucus.com/caucus-rules>.

⁶²<https://idahodems.org/caucus/>.

⁶³Idaho Code § 49-2444(22).

⁶⁴Idaho Code § 49-2444.

⁶⁵Idaho Code § 49-2444(22).

The voter may also contact the Administration and Election Office at (208) 334-2852 or elections@sos.idaho.gov.