
Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 20-28 (revised 9/26/24) ***Voter ID requirements for 2024 general election***

DATE: September 28, 2020

REVISION DATE: September 26, 2024

FROM: MVD Policy & Compliance Team

TO: All Motor Vehicle Division staff

EFFECTIVE: September 26, 2024

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains Iowa's voter identification (ID) requirements, and the role of driver's license issuance staff in ensuring that customers are prepared with the appropriate identification to vote in the 2024 presidential election being held on Tuesday, November 5th.

SUMMARY

Iowa voters are required by law to register to vote and must provide identification to vote. To register, Iowans must meet certain criteria which include that they must be at least 17 years old, be a United States Citizen, and be an Iowa resident.

While determining voter eligibility is a responsibility of the county auditor's office, Iowa DOT has an important role in the voter registration process. A customer can choose to register to vote during an issuance transaction for a driver's license or non-operator ID, online at myMVD, or by completing a voter registration form and returning it to their county auditor's office.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Iowans can pre-register to vote up to 15 days before the 2024 general election, **Monday, October 21**, or register to vote on the day of the election at their polling place. Iowans can request an absentee ballot 70 days before an election but no later than 15 days before the election takes place. For the 2024 general election, an Iowan can request an absentee ballot between August 27th and October 21st. Iowans can also vote by absentee ballot in-person at their county auditor's office beginning October 16th, 2024. If an Iowan has not pre-registered to vote by October 21st, they can register to vote on election day when polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

INACTIVE VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

The Iowa Secretary of State conducts voter list maintenance that is required by federal and state law. Following the passage of Senate File 413 by the Iowa legislature in 2021, Iowans that have not voted in the most recent general election (the 2022 general election) and have not registered again will be marked inactive and are required to either pre-register or register to vote on election day. Iowans can find out if their voter registration is inactive by visiting <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx>.

APPLYING TO REGISTER ONLINE OR AT AN IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID ISSUANCE LOCATION

The application to pre-register to vote must be submitted 15 days before an election, either online on myMVD or during a DL/ID transaction. For the 2024 general election, the deadline is **October 21**. When customers submit an online application to pre-register to vote, they will need either their driver's license or non-operator ID, and the last 5 digits of their SSN. **If you are registering a customer to vote AFTER to pre-registration deadline during a DL or ID issuance transaction (October 21, 2024), inform the customer that the pre-registration has passed but they can still register to vote on the day of the election by providing proof of identity and residence at their polling location.**

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID FOR IN-PERSON VOTING

If the customer is registering to vote on the day of the election at their polling place, they must present a photo ID that is current, valid, and contains an expiration date. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- Iowa Voter Identification Card (must be signed)
- Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID (not expired more than 60 days)
- Out-of-state- driver's license or non-operator ID
- Unexpired U.S. passport
- Unexpired U.S. Military or Veteran ID
- ID card issued by employer
- Student ID issued by Iowa high school or college
- Tribal ID Card/Document (must be signed, with photo, and unexpired)

If the customer cannot prove who they are and where they live with the documents listed above, a registered voter from the customer's precinct may attest for them. The attester is required to show ID and both the voter, and the attester will be required to sign an oath swearing the statements being made are true.

USING A FORM OF VOTER ID WITH AN OLD ADDRESS

If a customer moves to a different precinct, and their new address does not match their current form of voter ID (e.g., driver's license or nonoperator ID card), they will be required to additionally provide another document (paper or electronic) to serve as proof of residence that contains the customer's name, current address, and is current within 45 days. Acceptable proofs of residence include a residential lease, utility or cell phone bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document, or property tax statement that is current within 45 days of final payment date.

EXPIRED DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO VOTE

For the 2020 general election only, Iowans were allowed to use an expired driver's license or non-operator ID to vote due to the backlog in driver's license and ID renewal caused by COVID-19 service disruptions. This proclamation only impacted the 2020 general election and is no longer in effect. **For the 2024 general election, voters must have a current and valid form of identification to vote.**

BUSINESS IMPACT

Our services are *critical* to ensuring that customers have access to voting, whether it be in-person or by mail. Most voters use their Iowa driver's license or nonoperator ID card to verify their identity in order to vote, although there are many other forms of identification that are accepted. In the remaining weeks leading up to the November 5th, 2024 election, it is critical that we recognize our important role in ensuring Iowans have access to exercising their right to vote.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information to you and to customers:

IS A DL OR ID THAT IS MARKED 'NOT FOR REAL ID ACT PURPOSES' ACCEPTABLE FOR VOTER ID?

Yes, non-REAL ID credentials issued after February 2024 that have 'NOT FOR REAL ID ACT PURPOSES' printed on them as well as non-REAL ID credentials issued prior to February 2024 are both acceptable for voter identification. REAL ID credentials are also acceptable.

IS MOBILE ID ACCEPTABLE FOR VOTER ID?

No, for the 2024 general election mobile ID (either as part of a smart wallet or the standalone app) will not be acceptable for voter ID purposes.

WILL A PAPER INTERIM LICENSE OR MYMVD RENEWAL CONFIRMATION BE ACCEPTABLE FOR VOTER ID?

If a person has renewed their driver's license or ID in-person but has not yet received their new credential in the mail, the paper interim document they are given is acceptable for voting purposes, since it is a current photo ID that contains the voter's name and address.

If a person renewed the DL or ID online they can print the confirmation page showing they successfully renewed their license. The confirmation page, in conjunction with the expired plastic card, is acceptable voter ID.

WILL A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION BE ACCEPTABLE FOR IN-PERSON VOTER ID?

Yes, an expired driver's license that is presented in conjunction with an unexpired paper extension is acceptable voter ID.

WILL A DL THAT EXPIRED WITHIN THE LAST 60 DAYS (I.E., STILL COVERED BY THE STATUTORY GRACE PERIOD) BE ACCEPTABLE FOR IN-PERSON VOTER ID?

Yes. A DL or non-operator ID that expired within the last 60 days is acceptable for in-person voter ID.

HOW DOES A PERSON OBTAIN A VOTER ID CARD?

Any registered voter may request an Iowa voter ID card by contacting their county auditor's office. A list of county auditors can be found at: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html> A voter ID card is valid for both in-person and absentee voting.

DOES THE CUSTOMER NEED TO SHOW ID IF THEY VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON?

Yes. Voters in Iowa are required to show an ID when voting absentee in-person or at the polls on election day.

HOW CAN SERVICE MEMBERS STATIONED OUTSIDE OF IOWA VOTE?

Active-duty members of the Uniformed Services or a Merchant Marine absent from their voting residence, eligible spouses or family members of an active-duty service members, or a U.S. citizen residing outside of the U.S. can vote absentee. The Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) is a federal law that makes it easier for members of the armed forces and certain overseas U.S. citizens to register to vote and cast absentee ballots. UOCAVA voters are exempt from the requirement to include a voter verification number on an absentee ballot application. More information can be found online at www.fvap.gov.

CAN A CUSTOMER WITH A FELONY CONVICTION VOTE?

In Iowa, a person's voter registration is cancelled if the person is convicted of a felony. However, for most felonies, an individual's right to vote can be restored by the Governor upon completion of the felony sentence. For more information on the voting rights restoration process, you can direct customers to <https://governor.iowa.gov/services/voting-rights-restoration>.

HOW CAN COLLEGE STUDENTS VOTE?

College students may choose to register to vote at their home address or at their college address. They cannot register to vote in both places. If the student is registered at their home address and wishes to vote absentee while at school, they must request an absentee ballot from the county auditor in their home county no later than 15 days before the election. For more instructions on absentee voting, the customer can visit sos.iowa.gov.

IF A CUSTOMER HAS ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BEYOND WHAT IS IN THIS MEMO, WHERE CAN I DIRECT THEM?

If you are unable to answer a customer's questions from the information above in this memo, please refer your customer to the Iowa Secretary of State website, sos.iowa.gov or their county auditor's office.