

## 2016 General Election Frequently Asked Questions

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Q. What is your address? Your address is not on my absentee ballot request form?

A. The address to our office is.

**Polk County Election Office**  
**120 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite A**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50309**

Please note that the Polk County Election Office address may not be conveniently located on forms at websites we do not maintain, such as, federal candidate websites or the Iowa Secretary of State.

Absentee Ballot Information: <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor/election/absentee-voting/>

Absentee Ballot Request Form: <http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/pdf/election/absenteeballot.pdf>

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Q. Can I pick up an absentee ballot or does it have to be mailed?

A. We are unable to give a ballot to a voter that they can take with them. Voters can vote in our office (120<sup>nd</sup> Ave.) M-F 8-5, at a satellite location (starting October 17) or via USPS.

Absentee Ballot Information: <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor/election/absentee-voting/>

Satellite Voting Information: [http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election/2016/General\\_11082016/satellite/satellite\\_2016.pdf](http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election/2016/General_11082016/satellite/satellite_2016.pdf)

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Q. Do you automatically get an absentee ballot if you had one before in the last presidential election?

A. No, you need to request an absentee ballot for each election that you wish to vote absentee.

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor/election/absentee-voting/>

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Q. When will the list of satellite voting be available on your website?

A. Satellite locations will be posted on our website, on Friday September 23, 2016. The Satellite Absentee Voting Station Petitions Deadline is Thursday September 22, 2016 at 5:00 PM, we wait until this deadline has passed to post the satellite locations and times.

Satellite Voting Information: [http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election/2016/General\\_11082016/satellite/satellite\\_2016.pdf](http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election/2016/General_11082016/satellite/satellite_2016.pdf)

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Q. I sent in an absentee ballot request a couple of months ago, when can I expect my ballot to arrive?

A. Absentee Ballots for the 2016 General Election can be mailed out before September 28, 2016.

Track your ballot request: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/search.aspx>

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Q. Why can't I find information on early voting?

A. Some members of the media and campaigns interchange the use of %Early Voting and Absentee Voting+. The Polk County Auditor uses %Absentee Voting+anytime a voter casts a ballot before the date of the election, whether it's in our office, at a satellite location or by mail. Iowa Code uses only %Absentee Voting+

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Q. Can you tell me if I am registered to vote?

A. The Secretary of State has an app to verify your voter registration or call our office **(515) 286-3247**.

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx>

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Q. I have moved to a new address. How do I update my voter registration card?

A. You may make changes either

Electronically: <https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration>

Or - Manually: [http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/media/311406/voterreg\\_2016.pdf](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/media/311406/voterreg_2016.pdf)

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Q. I am registered to vote, but I have lost my card. How do I request a replacement card?

A. Please, call our office at **286-3247**.

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor/election/voter-registration/>

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Q. How do I request an absentee ballot?

A. Print and fill out the request form

Mail it to our office.

**Polk County Election Office**  
**120 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite A**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50309**

You may also visit any satellite voting center (if available) to pick up an absentee ballot request form.

Absentee Request form: <http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/pdf/election/absenteeballot.pdf>

More Information: <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor/election/absentee-voting/>

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Q. How do I know where to vote?

A. Your polling site is listed on your voter registration card. Please note that your polling place may differ based on the type of the election. If you have lost your registration card, call our office at **286-3247**.

[http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election/2016/General\\_11082016/polling\\_locations/poll.pdf](http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/election/2016/General_11082016/polling_locations/poll.pdf)

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Q. Is there a reason that incumbents are not noted on the election ballot?

A. Noting incumbents could give the candidate an unfair advantage. Candidate names are also rotated on ballot styles so that no one candidate is listed first on every ballot.

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Q. How does the press request an interview with the Polk County Auditor?

A. Call our office to set up a time, Election Day can be very busy. **(515) 286-3247**

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Q. I am deployed or living overseas. How do I vote? How do I stop this service now that I have returned home?

A. FPCA will allow you to receive all ballots for Federal offices through two regularly scheduled general elections for federal office. FVAP recommends that each voter submit an FPCA to their state of legal residence in January of each year and again each time there is a change in the voters mailing address.

<https://www.fvap.gov/>

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Q. I filled out and mailed a voter registration card, but realized that I did not check the questions on the top. Should I send in a new one?

A. Call our office at **286-3247**. We must verify that you are a citizen and will be at least 18 at the time of the election. We will check this status with your name, birth date and ID number (Drivers license number, non-driver ID card or last 4 digits of your social security number) If they do not match, your registration will be rejected and you will be notified by mail. If you sign the form and you are not a United States Citizen or you will not be 18 years of age on or before Election Day, you can be convicted of perjury and fined up to **\$7,500 and/or jailed for up to 5 years.**

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Q. Where can I find sample ballots?

A. A webpage is created for each election which includes a sample ballot. You may also view a sample ballot published in the DM Register as well as at the Election Office during regular business hours

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor/election/2016-general-election/>

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Q. How can I get another absentee ballot that was lost?

A. You may request another absentee ballot, but the Polk County Election Office tracks each request to ensure that each voter only casts one ballot, call our office at **286-3247**

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Q. I registered to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles and did not receive a card.

A. Inaccurate information is on the form and a contact phone number is not available. Call our office at **286-3247** if you do not receive a notice from our office within two weeks of registering to vote.

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Q. Can voting progress be updated during an election?

A. Voter turnout is updated throughout Election Day. Results are counted only after the polls have closed.

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Q. I sent my voter registration form in some time ago and have not received a card yet. Why does this happen and who can I call to verify that I am registered to vote?

A. Many times it is an incomplete voter registration card without a contact phone number. Double check that your name, address, and street are clearly printed on the registration form. If a phone number is provided we will call to verify any problems on the form. Call our office at **286-3247** if you do not receive a notice from our office within two weeks of registering to vote.

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Q. I will be 17 this year, when can I send in my voter registration form?

A. You must be at least 17 ½ years old to register and 18 to vote in all elections.

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Q. Can I update my voter registration on-line?

A. Yes, at the Iowa DOT:

<https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration>

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Q. Please provide me with the write-in candidate names for this past election.

A. Write-in candidates are reported only when a write-in candidate receives votes of two percent or greater of the total.

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Q. I will be out of town for the next election; can I come to your office to vote before the election?

A. Yes, we are open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. plus two Saturdays before a federal election 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our office is located at 120 Second Ave., Suite A in Des Moines, IA.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/120+2nd+Ave/@41.584867,-93.619319,852m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x87ee99aad7ecf02d:0x4cfdef7e024769da>

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Q. Is there residential requirements when moving between counties?

A. No. In order to avoid lines at your polling site just mail in a new voter registration form to our office at 120 second Avenue, Suite A. Des Moines, IA 50309-4757 or you may change your address at your polling site on the date of the next election or on-line at the Iowa DOT.

<https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=/VoterRegistration>

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- Q. Why did you offer voter registration and absentee ballots requests in languages other than English? (Language minority forms removed April 3, 2008)
- A. The Voting Rights Act has a language minority provision. Currently Polk County is not a section 203 covered jurisdiction.

[http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/sec\\_203/activ\\_203.php](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/sec_203/activ_203.php)

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- Q. I have a question that is not on this list. How do I get my question answered?
- A. Call our office with any questions you may have about elections or election processes and procedures at **286-3247**. Please call if you have a question, we do not have the staff available to answer emails on Election Day.
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