

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS VOTER REGISTRATION

### **Who and Where is the Election Commissioner located?**

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### **How many election precincts are in Lincoln County?**

14 Within the city limits of North Platte  
10 Rural precincts  
24 Total

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

### **Do I have to be registered to vote?**

- ❖ Yes, voter registration is required in Nebraska to be eligible to vote.
- ❖ The only exception is at a Presidential election for persons who have recently moved to Nebraska, or moved to another state after that state's registration deadline. They may vote a Presidential only ballot by contacting the county election official.

### **What determines my eligibility to vote?**

To register to vote in Nebraska you must:

- ❖ Be a United States Citizen;
- ❖ Be at least 18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November;
- ❖ Live in the State of Nebraska;
- ❖ Have not been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, you have completed your sentence for the felony including any parole term;
- ❖ Have not been officially found to be mentally incompetent.

### **Do I have to be a resident for a certain amount of time to register?**

- ❖ No, you may register to vote the same day you become a resident of the State of Nebraska.

### **How is residence determined?**

- ❖ By law, your residence is that place at which you have established a home, where you are habitually present, and to which, when you depart, you intend to return.
- ❖ Leaving for temporary purposes, such as military service, school attendance, hospital stays, or missions work need not result in a change of residence for voting purposes.
- ❖ However, any permanent change in your residence or address will require you to re-register to vote.

### **How do I register to vote?**

- ❖ You may register in person at the local County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office during normal business hours.
- ❖ Register ONLINE. [www.ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote](http://www.ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote)
- ❖ You may also register by mail. A voter registration application can be printed off at [www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele\\_forms.html](http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/ele_forms.html) ;
- ❖ If registering for the first time in Nebraska by mail, please provide a copy of a current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document which is dated within 60 days immediately prior to the date of presentation showing the same name and residence address provided on the voter registration application to avoid delays with your registration.
- ❖ In addition, you may register to vote through the state Department of Motor Vehicles when applying for or renewing your driver's license or at various other state agencies.
- ❖ You may also register through the state Department of Health and Human Services and State Department of Education at the time of application, review or change of address in connection with public programs.
- ❖ You must sign your Voter Registration Application before it is returned to your County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office.

### **When is the registration deadline?**

- ❖ Mail-In voter registrations must be mailed and postmarked on or before the third Friday preceding an election.
- ❖ Voter registrations delivered by personal messenger or personal agent must arrive on or before the third Friday preceding an election
- ❖ Individuals may register in person at the County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office prior to 6:00 P.M. on the second Friday preceding an election.

### **Must I designate a party affiliation?**

- ❖ No, voters may choose from one of the four statewide parties currently recognized in Nebraska: Democratic, Republican, Libertarian Legal Marijuana NOW or they may choose to not affiliate with any party by checking the non-partisan box on the application.
- ❖ If you wish to vote in the primary election, where parties choose their nominees for state and county offices, you need to declare your party affiliation.
- ❖ If you register without a political party affiliation, you will receive only the non-partisan ballots at a primary election.
- ❖ Non-partisans may designate a party preference at primary elections and request partisan ballots for the Senate and House Congressional races.  
(In addition, this year the Nebraska Democratic, Libertarian & Legal Marijuana NOW parties have opened their primary election per Nebraska State Statute §32-912(2) to allow nonpartisan voters to vote in any race where their party is nominating a candidate for partisan office.)
- ❖ Party designation has no bearing when voting a non-partisan ballot or in the general election.

## Are there situations where I would need to re-register?

You must re-register whenever you change:

- ❖ Your name,
- ❖ Your address, or
- ❖ Your political party affiliation.
- ❖ Failure to vote in a previous election does not require re-registration

## Will I receive notice that my mail-in/online registration has been accepted and processed?

- ❖ Yes, if you completed the form correctly and mailed it by the deadline (third Friday prior to the election), you will receive an acknowledgement from the election official that you are properly registered.
- ❖ If you are a first time registrant in Nebraska using the mail in application and did not provide copies of the ID requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> time mail in registrants, you will be notified of the need to do so.
- ❖ If you have questions on your registration, call you County Clerk/Election Commissioner at 1-308-534-4350 Ext 4110.

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- Who?** Any Nebraska resident that is a U.S. citizen who will be 18 years of age on or before the November General Election Day is eligible to vote in that calendar year.
- How?** Complete a Nebraska Voter Registration Application, providing the complete name, address, date of birth, party affiliation, valid Nebraska drivers license\*, and affirmation of oath by their signature.
- Where?** Obtain the form at the election office, Nebraska Secretary of State's Office or online at the Nebraska Secretary of State's website, DMV offices or Health and Human Services offices.
- Mail In?** Yes, the form can be completed in person at the Election Office or mailed in as all the county elections offices in the State are listed on the back of the application.
- When?** Persons wishing to vote in an election must be registered 10 days before the Election. In person registrations cease the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday\*\* preceding and Election Mail-In registrations \*\*\* must be postmarked the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday preceding the Election.

\* If the person doesn't have a valid Nebraska driver's license they may provide the last 4 digits of the Soc Sec #.

\*\* In the case of a holiday, the deadline goes to the following Monday

\*\*\* First time registrants in the county must provide a copy of their ID prior to voting in order to not vote Provisional at the polls.

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## **FILING AS A CANDIDATE**

To file as a candidate you must file with the election commissioner's office.

- ❖ Filing fees for a county office are paid to the Election Commissioner.
- ❖ Filing fees for a city office are paid to the City Clerk, receipt must be provided to the Election Commissioner with filing.
- ❖ If the office you are filing for requires a statement of financial interest to be filed with the Accountability and Disclosure Commission your filing is not complete until this office receives a copy.

### **Is there a filing deadline?**

- ❖ Yes: Primary Election is February 17<sup>th</sup> for an incumbent and March 2<sup>nd</sup> for non incumbent.
- ❖ General Election is July 15<sup>th</sup> for an incumbent and August 3<sup>rd</sup> for non incumbent

### **What is an incumbent?**

One who holds any elective office

## **EARLY VOTING IN NEBRASKA (Formerly Absentee Voting)**

### **Who may apply for an Early Voting ballot? (SOS)**

Anyone may apply for an Early Voting ballot, such as:

- ❖ Persons not able to go to the polls due to their work or vacation schedule, or
- ❖ Persons not able to go to the polls due to a medical condition or hospitalization, or
- ❖ Persons temporarily out of the county, state or country
- ❖ Persons not wishing to travel to the polls
- ❖ Persons not wishing to leave their homes

### **Do I need to give the reason why I am voting early when applying for Early Voting ballots? (SOS)**

- ❖ No, since 1999 Nebraska law has not required a person disclose a reason for their request on the Early Voting application.

### **How do I apply for and vote an Early Voting ballot? (SOS)**

- ❖ You can apply for an early voting ballot by contacting your County Clerk/Election Commissioner in person at the election office, by personal agent, by mail or by fax.

### **What is an agent?**

An agent is someone whom you have sign the request form and pick up your ballots for you. An individual can only act as the agent for two voters per election.

### **How do I apply by mail? (SOS)**

- ❖ Print the on-line form at [https://sos.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/elections/earlyvote\\_app\\_fill.pdf](https://sos.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/elections/earlyvote_app_fill.pdf) Complete the form; then mail or fax it to your County Clerk or Election Commissioner.
- ❖ Write to your County Clerk or Election Commissioner, including:
  1. Your name and residence address
  2. Your Nebraska driver's license or ID number, or other acceptable form of ID
  3. Your political party affiliation
  4. Your voting precinct, if known,
  5. Your telephone number
  6. The mailing address you want the ballots sent to, and
  7. Your signature.

**Is there a process to assist military and overseas citizens in obtaining Early Voting ballots? (SOS)**

- ❖ Yes, Nebraska participates in the Federal Voting Assistance Program for our military personnel and overseas citizens. You may go to the following website for further information: <https://www.fvap.gov>
- ❖ **When may I apply for an Early Voting ballot? (SOS)**
- ❖ All county election offices will accept Early Voting applications up to 120 days prior to a statewide Primary or General election.
- ❖ 35 days before the Election is the first day early voting ballots are available to vote at the County Office. Contact your County Clerk/Election Commissioner for information on office hours.
- ❖ 35 days before the Election is also the first day ballots are sent to non-military stateside applications.
- ❖ Should your ballots not arrive, contact your County Clerk/Election Commissioner to confirm the date and address the ballots were mailed out.
- ❖ Make arrangements with the County Clerk to receive a replacement ballot if it is determined your ballots were lost, destroyed, spoiled or never received.
- ❖ The last day to request an Early Voting ballot to be mailed is the 2nd Friday preceding the election at the close of business 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ The Monday before Election Day is the last day to cast an early voting ballot at the County Election Office.

**ELECTION DAY**

**Where do I vote:**

- ❖ Each voter must cast his/her ballot at his/her assigned polling place. If you do not know the location of your polling place, contact your county clerk/election commissioner or go to: <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/> .
- ❖ Whenever you register or reregister to vote, your county clerk/election commissioner will inform you of your polling place location. Your voting card informs you not only of your polling place, but also your voting districts.

**What time will the polls open? (SOS)**

- ❖ The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Central Time Zone and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Mountain Time Zone

**Do I need my ID in order to vote? (SOS)**

- ❖ Yes, voters must present an acceptable form of ID before casting a ballot in every primary, general and special election. Active-duty military spouses and overseas voters covered by the Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are not required to present photo ID when voting unless they are a registered Nebraska voter casting a ballot in person at a Nebraska polling site.

**Am I able to vote if I did not re-register? (SOS)**

- ❖ Registered voters who moved from one residence to another in the same county, or who changed their name and remained in the same county will be allowed to vote at the polling place designated for their new residence. These voters may be asked to cast a Provisional Ballot upon completing a certification and new registration form.

Persons casting Provisional ballots may check to see if their ballot was counted starting the second Wednesday after the election by visiting:

<https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/> or calling toll free 1-888-727-0007.

Persons moving from one county in Nebraska to another county in Nebraska must re-register in their new county in order to be eligible to vote.

**How does a person vote? (SOS)**

Registered voters go to their assigned polling place where there will be three or more poll workers at a table checking voters in. Voters will be asked for their name and the residence address they are living at. In primary elections voters will also be asked to name their party. Upon verifying the information, the election workers will provide the voter with ballots assigned to persons living in their district and instructions on how to cast a ballot.

In Nebraska all counties use optical scan ballots; so voters are instructed to darken the oval completely, not to erase or cross out and return to the table if they have spoiled their ballot and need a new one. Ballots are centrally counted using a M850 that can count over 300 ballots a minute.

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Where?

Upon receipt of the completed voter registration application form, the registered voter will receive an acknowledgement from the county election official, advising them that the registration has been processed and where their polling place is located.

Notices are published in the paper listing polling place locations. Polling places are often listed on the county’s website.

When?

Notices are printed in the paper, on the Secretary of State website, on the county election official website regarding when Election Day is and what hours the polls are open. Polls are open – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CT or 7:00 am to 7:00 p.m. MT

Who/What?

To obtain information on who to vote for or how to vote on an issue, obtain information from media (print, radio or television) the web, the candidates, the parties, the committees.

Become informed and develop your opinion.

Voters may bring notes or marked sample ballots to the polls but may not leave them there.

How?

Go to your polling location between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CT

Wait in line; when reaching the Receiving Board table, give the person behind the table your full name (as registered) and the address you are registered at. The poll worker will confirm your name, address and party affiliation.

You will be asked to sign in as your written signature is required in the poll book.

The poll workers will verify on their computer list which issues and candidates you are allowed to vote on based on your residence, i.e. city councilman, school board member, etc. You will be given the appropriate ballots based on your party affiliation or non-affiliation with the instructions to darken the oval completely and vote both sides, if necessary.

Proceed to the booth where you mark your ballot in the privacy of the booth, or you may use the Express Vote, or you may use an open table if available.

Return to the Receiving Board table from the booth with the ballot(s) inside the ballot sleeve so the poll workers' initials show at the bottom of the sleeve.

The poll worker will assist you in placing your ballot in the ballot box if necessary or if you spoiled the ballot and wish to be issued a new ballot the poll worker will see that you receive one.

Poll workers may not answer questions on who or what to vote for.

Upon casting your ballot you may leave.

### **What are “overvotes” and “undervotes”?**

Be sure to read the ballot closely. Some races are a vote for one. Some races allow you to vote for multiple persons. If you vote for more persons than specified in the portion of the ballot, it is considered an “overvote” and none of the votes in that portion are counted.

“Undervotes” occur when you mark less candidates in a race than the number listed in the “Vote for” statement. Undervoting a race where more

than one candidate is voted for does not disqualify the vote(s) cast.

### **How do you vote for a write-in candidate?**

To vote for a write-in candidate, that person must be filed as a Write-In Candidate. If you wish to cast a vote for a “write-In” candidate, be sure to darken the oval to the left of the line where you have written in the candidate’s name.

### **Provisional Voting**

Provisional voting occurs when someone is not properly registered, when the voter’s name does not appear on the Precinct Voter Registration list, or when a first-time mail in registrant has not provided ID.

The Provisional Voter is given a new registration form to complete.

The Provisional Voter is given the ballots for their residence.

The Provisional Voter places their ballots in an envelope prior to casting them in a ballot box.

The Provisional Voter completes a form choosing a PIN number so they may contact an 800 number or the SOS website to check if their ballots were included in the counting process. Election Officials verify the information the Provisional voter has provided prior to including their ballots for counting.

### **Election Day Don’t(s)**

Do NOT engage the poll workers in political conversation.

Do NOT leave printed information in the voting booth.

Do NOT wear Candidate or Committee attire to your polling location.

Do NOT park your car within 200’ of polling location if you have “Vote for \_\_\_\_\_” bumper stickers on your car.

Do NOT try to influence other voters entering the polling place to vote your opinion.