

NORTH DAKOTA VOTERS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Basic requirements:** You must be a citizen of the U.S., a resident of North Dakota, have lived in a precinct for the 30 days before an election, and be 18 years of age or older. Proof of ID is required to vote.
- **Voting if you're attending college:** Students can vote in person in their hometown, in their college town (by updating their identification to reflect the residential address in the college town), or by absentee/mail for either home or college town. If voting in your college town and your ID has not been updated to your college town address, you must accompany your non-updated ID with your student ID and a printed supplemental document issued by your school (letterhead or official seal) with legal name, birthdate, and college town address.
- **Voting if you're experiencing homelessness:** You don't need a home to vote, but you need to have a form of ND identification. A Relief Agency or Shelter Certification document can be used as supplemental documentation for valid IDs that do not have an updated or correct address.
- **Voting and ADA requirements:** All polling places are required to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Call your county auditor if any issues arise on Election Day.
- **Voting if you're a new citizen:** Citizenship must be verified with the ND Department of Transportation. If "permanent" or "temporary" is listed on your state ID, you need to update it before Election Day to properly reflect your US Citizen status. You will need one of the following when visiting a Department of Transportation location to get an updated ID: valid, unexpired U.S. Passport or Card, Certificate of Naturalization, or Certificate of Citizenship.
- **Voting with assistance:** You are allowed to have a friend, guardian, or trusted person assist you at the poll in voting. This includes bringing someone to interpret.
- **Voting if formerly incarcerated:** If you aren't currently incarcerated for a felony conviction, you can vote. This includes people on probation or parole.

*Please note. This handout is a resource, not legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only. North Dakota may revise its laws after this is printed or published online. If you believe your rights have been violated or for more information on your rights as a voter, contact us at aclund.org or email northdakota@aclund.org.
Last updated: May 2024*

Absentee voting

- **Can I vote before Election Day?** Yes, any person eligible to vote can do so, on or before Election Day by absentee or mail-in ballot or by casting a ballot in person at an early voting center.
- **How do I get an absentee ballot?** Any qualified voter is eligible to vote absentee/by mail without excuse. Applications may be submitted anytime within the calendar year of an election.
 - Get an application for an absentee ballot at vote.nd.gov.
 - Applications will be returned for correction if data does not match the state's central voter file.
 - Ballots must be postmarked the day prior to the election or returned to a secure ballot box by 5 p.m. on Election Day.
 - The signature on any ballot envelope must match application signatures.
 - Track your ballot's status at vote.nd.gov.

Voting on Election Day

- **General Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.** Hours of polling places in North Dakota vary by county. Find schedules online at vote.nd.gov.
- **Finding your polling location:** Hours in North Dakota may vary by county, most polling locations are open between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Find your location's schedule at vote.nd.gov.
- **If you are running late:** You have the right to vote if you're in line. Once handed a ballot after the polls close you only have 30 minutes to cast your vote.
- **Getting time off:** If your work schedule would make it practically impossible for you to vote in-person while the polls are open, your employer is encouraged by state law to give you time off to vote, however time off may be without pay. Ask your employer for time off before Election Day and confirm the hours you get off.



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Voter ID laws

- All voters who appear at polling places must show proof of residence. (P.O. Boxes will not be accepted).
- **Acceptable forms of ID include:**
 - North Dakota driver's license or non-driver ID
 - A North Dakota long-term care ID certificate
 - Tribal ID. This includes those issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for tribes located in North Dakota and any other tribal agency or entity, or any other document that sets forth the tribal member's name, date of birth, and current
 - North Dakota residential address.
- **You have the right to vote by set-aside ballot.**
 - If your ID has not been updated or you forget your ID or supplemental documents, you can vote using a "set-aside" ballot.
 - If you vote this way, you must present proper ID to the County Auditor in person or electronically before the meeting of the County Canvassing Board 13 days after the election. Information will be provided to voters using set-aside ballots.
- **Moving and name changes:**
 - You must be a resident of your voting precinct for at least 30 days prior to the election.
 - If you moved less than 30 days before the election, you won't be able to vote at that precinct (but should be able to vote in your previous precinct in person or by mail).
 - If you moved at least 30 days before the election and have updated your address on your ID you can vote in the election in the precinct of your new residence.
 - North Dakotans are able to update their address information via the Department of Transportation's website, dot.nd.gov. You don't necessarily need to get a new ID to vote, updating your information with the D.O.T. is sufficient.

- Updating your ID ahead of Election Day is preferred, however if you are unable to do so, another document displaying a residential address may be provided to the election official, such as:
 - A current utility bill
 - A current bank statement
 - A check issued by a federal, state, local, or tribal government
 - A paycheck
 - A document issued by a federal, state, local, or tribal government

Get involved

- **Become a precinct worker:** This paid position is recruited by your County Auditor. Learn more at sos.nd.gov.
- **Become a poll watcher:** Contact the ACLU of North Dakota at northdakota@aclu.org for more information.

More information

- **North Dakota Secretary of State**, vote.nd.gov or 800-352-0867
- **Election Protection**, 866-687-8683
- **North Dakota Native Vote**, ndnativevote.org
- **League of Women Voters**, VOTE411.org
- **ACLU of North Dakota**, aclund.org/vote

Quick tips

- Locate your polling place and note the hours.
- Consider voting absentee if possible.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Take your time.

Common questions

- **What if I make a mistake on the ballot?** It happens. You can request a new ballot from the precinct worker.
- **What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?** Tell a precinct worker. If a precinct worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher or call the County Auditor.
- **What if my ID doesn't have my current residential address?** Most IDs can be updated at no cost by calling the DOT at 701-328-4353 or at dot.nd.gov.

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