



SHARED RESOURCES:

Vote By Mail Ballot Educational Material for 501 c3 Organizations

The following information can be used to educate your membership and supporter base about voting safely from home (absentee ballot) in North Dakota. Additionally, an election calendar and information about early voting (some counties), polling sites, and election day voting is included. This content is available for replication to your organization's website/email/social media to use as needed. **This content can be shared 'as is' or rebranded for your organization.**

GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

MAKING YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 3, 2020, is Election Day and everyone should get ready to exercise their right to vote!

The safest way to vote this November is from home. With fewer polling locations open across the state on election day physical distancing will certainly be a challenge. The best way to stay safe and healthy is to request an absentee ballot so you can vote on your own time from the comfort of home.

Planning to vote is key to voting successfully. Make sure you know if you can vote safely from home or early at in-person location - and don't miss the deadlines. Think about if you will vote from home or are you going to the polls? Does your county have early voting? If you're voting on election day, be sure to think about your schedule for the day. What time will you be voting? Where are you voting? How are you getting there? Do you have all the necessary documents to vote? Planning ahead helps make casting your vote easy and successful.

Who can vote in North Dakota?

In order to vote in North Dakota, you must be;

- A U.S. Citizen
- At least 18 years old on election day
- A legal North Dakota resident
- A resident in the precinct for 30 days preceding the election

What sort of identification do I need to vote in North Dakota?

- Driver's license
- Non-driver's identification card



- Tribal government issued identification card (including those issued by BIA for a tribe located in North Dakota, 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)
- Long-term care identification certificate (provided by ND facility)

What will my ballot look like?

You can view a sample ballot to see what your ballot will look like and to begin researching candidates and where they stand on issues you care about. An example of your ballot can be [found here](#). Just enter your house number and zip code, select your address from the search results, and open the 'my ballot' tab.

VOTE SAFELY FROM HOME

We are encouraging North Dakotans to vote safely from home this November due to the public health concerns from COVID-19. Voting from home/absentee allows you to avoid lines during early voting or on Election Day. It's easy! Three simple steps:

Step 1: All eligible voters can request an [absentee ballot application](#) from the North Dakota Secretary of State or from their [county auditor's office](#). Absentee ballots will begin arriving in the mail after September 24th.

To complete the absentee ballot application voters must have [valid identification](#) like a North Dakota drivers license, state issued ID, or a tribal issued ID.

- Once the application is complete you must print and sign the generated form and mail to the address listed.
- If you do not have access to a printer, an absentee ballot application can be mailed to you. Just call your county [auditor's office](#) to make the request.
- For more information on voting from home, forms of identification, and other questions visit the '[Voting Basics](#)' provided by the ND Secretary of State.

Step 2: After completing your vote from home (absentee) application make sure to watch your mail for the ballot to arrive.

Step 3: Once you receive your ballot you can vote! Just complete the ballot, place the ballot inside the secrecy envelope and then inside the return envelope. Make sure to sign the return envelope on the signature line, apply postage, and mail it or drop it off at your [ballot drop off box](#) (county drop boxes tab). It is recommended to put your ballot in the mail as soon as possible to make sure it's submitted in time to be counted. **If mailing, must be postmarked by November 2nd - the day BEFORE the election. If using the dropbox, it must be placed in the dropbox no later than November 2nd. Cass County deadline is November 2nd at 5pm.**



County drop box locations have closing times deadlines so please contact your [county auditor](#) for specifics.

Remember when mailing your ballot:

- Ballots must be in the return envelope provided and the return envelope must be signed by the voter.
- Ballot envelopes that are returned without a signature will not be processed.
- If voters are mailing ballots, it must be postmarked by Nov. 2nd or earlier.
- If mailing your ballot, remember to affix the required first-class postage stamp to the envelope.

Remember when using the ballot Drop Off box:

- Each county will have one secure ballot drop box; contact the county auditor regarding the location. All county [drop box locations here](#).
- Ballots can be deposited 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until November 2 (the day before the election).
- Cass County deadline is November 2nd at 5pm. County drop box locations have closing times deadlines so please contact your [county auditor](#) for specifics.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

(not all counties offer early in-person voting)

Some counties in North Dakota will have early voting in-person polling locations. Early voting allows eligible voters to cast their ballot in person at a polling place prior to an election. A voter does not have to provide an excuse for being unable to vote on election day.

Note, due to COVID-19 North Dakota will have fewer polling locations open on election day. Early voting, in the counties that participate, allows voters the ability to vote in-person while offering the opportunity to keep socially distanced as much as possible.

When you arrive make sure to have your state issued ID or other [acceptable identification](#).

Oct. 19 Early voting begins in Cass, Stark, and Stutsman counties.
Dates and hours vary. Find locations in the '[Early Voting Available Counties](#)' tab.

Oct. 21 Early voting begins in Burleigh and Morton counties.
Dates and hours vary. Find locations in the '[Early Voting Available Counties](#)' tab.

**Oct. 22, 24
27, 29** Early voting in Rolette county.
Single days. Hours vary.
Find locations in the '[Early Voting Available Counties](#)' tab.



- Oct. 26** Early voting begins in Grand Forks, Mercer, and Ward counties. Additional Early Voting location added in Cass county. Dates and hours vary. Find locations in the [‘Early Voting Available Counties’](#) tab.
- Oct. 31** Early voting in Sioux county. Single day. Find locations in the [‘Early Voting Available Counties’](#) tab.

If you will be voting in-person at your polling place, please review the [CDC's Recommendations on Protecting Yourself and Your Family](#).

ELECTION DAY- November 3rd

To avoid long lines at the polls, vote at off-peak times. According to the Cass county auditors polls are generally busiest from about 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM and then again at 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Remember, due to COVID-19 there are fewer polling location sites and you may vote somewhere different than you have in the past. You can find your [election day polling location here](#).

When you arrive make sure to have your state issued ID or other [acceptable identification](#).

Important Dates in the Election Calendar

- Sept. 24** Vote from home/absentee ballots begin to land in mailboxes.
- Oct. 19** Early voting begins in Cass, Stark, and Stutsman counties.
- Oct. 21** Early voting begins in Burleigh and Morton counties.
- Oct. 22, 24, 27, 29** Early voting in Rolette county.
- Oct. 26** Early voting begins in Grand Forks, Mercer, and Ward counties. Additional Early Voting location added in Cass county.
- Oct. 31** Early voting in Sioux county.
- Nov. 2** Mailed in ballots must be postmarked by November 2nd or will not be valid. Ballot drop box deadline is today- times vary by county.
- Nov. 3** Election Day!