

A Note from your County Auditor....

Pocahontas County Residents,

As you know there has been a lot of media coverage questioning the integrity of voting absentee and whether to trust the mail. There have also been many well intended organizations mailing out absentee ballot request and voter registration forms. However, the overload of forms has caused mass confusion.

I would like to help the residents of Pocahontas County better understand the election process and answer any questions you may have. I would like to invite you to attend our public test, where we test our machines that will be used to count the ballots. At that time, I will also answer questions. The public test will be held on Thursday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. at the Courthouse. Below, please find some frequently asked questions, with answers, about the upcoming General Election. If you have additional questions, please feel free to call my office at (712)335-3361.

Sincerely,
Kelly Jepsen
Pocahontas County Auditor &
Commissioner of Elections

1. Why am I getting multiple Absentee Ballot Request Forms in the mail? **Many outside organizations are sending request forms. The County Auditor's office only sends request forms out to those who contact us requesting one be mailed to them.**
2. Why did I receive an Absentee Ballot Request Form for someone that has passed away or has moved out of Pocahontas County? **The organizations that are mailing out absentee ballot request forms and voter registration forms are using old information from the Secretary of State's Office and commercial lists. Pocahontas County does not share their voter records with anyone.**
3. I have received multiple Absentee Ballot Request forms in the mail, do I need to fill them all out? If not, which one do I fill out? **You only need to fill one out and it doesn't matter which form you fill out, they are all official.**
4. What if I send in more than one absentee ballot request form, will I get multiple ballots? **No matter how many requests we receive from a voter, only one ballot will be mailed. We track every request received and verify that you are an eligible voter of Pocahontas County prior to mailing out any ballots.**
5. When will I receive my Absentee Ballot? **Absentee Ballots for UOCAVA (military and US Citizens that live abroad) voters will be issued once the ballots have been prepared, and domestic absentee ballots will begin to be mailed on October 5, 2020.**
6. Can I bring my filled out Absentee Ballot back to the Auditor's office? **Yes, we will ensure that the back is signed and the envelope is sealed, then you can watch us place it in the Ballot Box.**
7. If I stick my ballot in the mail how will I know my voted ballot gets back to the Auditor's office to be counted? **You can track your ballot status at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/absentee/search> or on the County's**

website at <https://pocahontascounty.iowa.gov/>. When it is received in the Auditor's Office you will be able to see the status update on the website. An absentee board convenes on Election Day to count all absentee ballots.

8. When does my voted Absentee Ballot need to be returned by? If mailed, your ballot needs to be by post marked by November 2, 2020 and received in the Auditor's office by noon on November 9, 2020. If hand delivering your voted ballot, it must be delivered to the Auditor's office by 9:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

9. When is the last day to request an Absentee Ballot Request to be mailed to me? Saturday, October 24, 2020 by 5:00 p.m., is the deadline to request a ballot be mailed to you.

10. Do I have to vote Absentee? No, you may also vote in person on Election Day, November 3, 2020. The polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. Due to COVID-19, some polling locations have been changed. Please review the polling locations listed below:

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Includes</u>	<u>Polling Place</u>
Precinct 1	City of Laurens, Townships of Swan Lake & North Marshall	Laurens United Methodist Church 210 W. Main St., Laurens, IA Normally at: Laurens Municipal Building
Precinct 2	Cities of Havelock, Plover & Rolfe, Townships of Cummins, Powhatan, Des Moines, North Sherman North Roosevelt & North Garfield	Rolfe Community Center 319 Garfield Ave., Rolfe, IA
Precinct 3	Townships of South Marshall, South Sherman And Grant	Pocahontas County Expo Center 310 NE 1 st . St., Pocahontas, IA Normally at: Pocahontas Fire Station
Precinct 4	City of Pocahontas (not in Center Township)	Pocahontas County Expo Center 310 NE 1 st . St., Pocahontas, IA Normally at: Courthouse Assembly Room
Precinct 5	Center Township in the City of Pocahontas	Pocahontas County Expo Center 310 NE 1 st . St., Pocahontas, IA Normally at: Pocahontas Public Library
Precinct 6	Cities of Fonda & Varina, Townships of Dover, Cedar & Colfax	Fonda Fire Department 813 N Queen St., Fonda, IA Normally at: Fonda Community Center
Precinct 7	City of Palmer, Townships of South Lincoln, Bellville, South Lake & Lizard	Palmer Community Center 415 Hansen Ave., Palmer, IA

11. Will I need to show my ID/Driver's License if I choose to vote Absentee in the Auditor's office? Yes, your ID/Driver's License or your Voter PIN card is required.

12. I am a convicted felon, am I able to vote? Governor Reynolds' Executive Order #7 restores felon voter rights. If you have question about your restoration status, you can call the Secretary of State's Office at (515) 281-0145, ask for Molly.

13. If I want to vote in person, prior to the Election Day, when can I do that and where? Starting October 5th, you are able to vote in person in the Assembly Room, on the first floor of the Courthouse., located at 99 Court Square. You can also vote in person on Saturday, October 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 31st, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Auditor's Office, located on the second floor of the Courthouse. The last day to vote in person prior to election day is Monday, November, 2nd. Please make sure to bring your ID/Driver's License or your Voter PIN card.