



NORTH DAKOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

ELECTIONS & VOTING IN NORTH DAKOTA

IMPORTANT FACTS & WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Many citizens have questions about elections and voting in North Dakota. Here you will find facts about North Dakota elections and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

▶ WHO RUNS ELECTIONS

ND Secretary of State - Michael Howe

Serves as the state's chief election official and provides oversight for North Dakota election structure and laws.

County Auditors

Administrators of the Primary and General Elections.

Local Jurisdictions - City, Schools, Etc.

May conduct their election with the Primary or General election, or may run the election themselves.

▶ 2024 ELECTION DATES

Primary Election

June 11, 2024
Second Tuesday in June

General Election

November 5, 2024
First Tuesday following the first Monday in November

▶ VOTER ID LAW & REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS

VOTER ID LAW – CENTRAL VOTER FILE

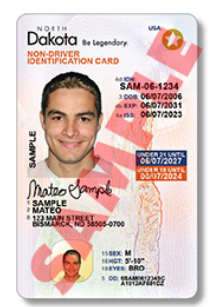
North Dakota is the only state without voter registration as our Voter ID law requires a valid form of ID to vote. Identification issued by the North Dakota Department of Transportation comes in many different styles and statuses, many of which are used for voting. Certain types of IDs are issued to non-U.S. citizens and the voter record flags anyone marked as a non-citizen so election officials can ensure only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote.

ND VOTING REQUIREMENTS

- 18 years of age
- U.S. citizen
- Lived in North Dakota for 30 days prior to an election

VALID FORMS OF ID INCLUDE

- North Dakota Driver's License
- North Dakota Non-Driver ID
- Tribal ID or Tribal Letter
- Long Term Care Certificate



FACT ▶ STRONG ID REQUIREMENTS ARE THE STATE'S BEST PREVENTION AGAINST ANYONE VOTING MORE THAN ONCE AN ELECTION.



► WAYS YOU CAN VOTE

North Dakotans have three options for casting their vote.

ABSENTEE VOTING

If you submit an application requesting an absentee ballot, you may receive and return your ballot by mail. Absentee ballots must be postmarked or dropped off in person by the day before the election to be counted.

- Absentee ballot applications require voters to provide their state ID number and/or personal information that can be verified against the voter record.
- Signatures are compared on application request and return ballot.
- Absentee ballots can be tracked by the voter.
- Returned ballots are officially cast and the voter record is updated to show you have voted.

EARLY VOTING

Some communities offer early voting at certain dates and times prior to Election Day.

- Cast your vote in person when convenient for you.
- Once you check-in at an early voting site, your voter record is updated to show you have voted.

ELECTION DAY AT THE POLLS

Vote on Election Day at a polling location in your precinct.

- Once you check-in at a polling location, your voter record is updated to show you have voted.

CENTRAL VOTER FILE ENSURES ONE VOTE = ONE PERSON

Even if you mailed an absentee ballot and show up at the polls to cast a vote, your voter record will show if you have *OFFICIALLY* cast your vote. Whichever ballot is received first will result in your voter record being updated and not allow you to vote again in that election.

FACT

► YOU ARE NEVER MAILED A BALLOT WITHOUT FIRST REQUESTING ONE.

- *VOTE BY MAIL COUNTIES MAIL VOTING AGE RESIDENTS ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS.*
- *IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES, THE VOTER REQUESTS AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION.*

► VOTE BY MAIL COUNTIES

All North Dakota counties have polling locations open on Election Day. Some counties are **vote by mail counties** which means the county mails absentee ballot applications to voting age residents. Residents may then choose whether they will:

1. Fill out and return the absentee ballot application to request their absentee ballot by mail. (OR)
2. Vote in person on Election Day or at an early voting location.

Voters are never mailed a ballot without first requesting one through an absentee ballot application. In counties that are not vote by mail, a request must be made to the county auditor to receive an absentee ballot application.

SECURE DROP BOXES

Strategically placed secure absentee ballot drop-boxes are provided in each county for voters who wish to deliver their absentee ballot directly to the county rather than return by U.S. Postal Service mail.

RETURN BY MAIL

Absentee ballots can also be returned by U.S. mail or dropped in any U.S. Postal Service public mailbox. Postage is required to be paid by the voter.

▶ VOTER & BALLOT SECURITY

Election officials can verify that you participated in a specific election, but who you voted for is kept secret. Your voter history only indicates if you voted in person or returned an absentee ballot. This is called your voter record and it ensures you only cast one vote each election cycle.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Election officials verify the information and signature provided on an absentee ballot matches the information they have on file from the voter absentee ballot application and voter record. If information does not match, the election official will follow up with the voter to correct any errors before a ballot is cast.

ELECTION DAY BALLOTS

Poll workers on Election Day verify voter ID information matches the information in the voter record. If all is correct, a voter casts a ballot. If there is an issue that cannot be quickly resolved, the voter will be allowed to cast a set-aside ballot. If this occurs, the voter will have 13 days to resolve the issue with their county auditor for their ballot to be counted by the canvassing board.

▶ CASTING YOUR VOTE

Here are some important facts to know before you mark your ballot:

UNDER VOTE

The choice of what to vote for on the ballot is yours. Any race you choose to vote for will be counted, if correctly marked.

You can skip races.

- Vote only for the races you want to. Your ballot will still count.

You can vote for less than the race indicates.

- Vote for 1 candidate, even if the races says choose 2. Your ballot will still count.

OVER VOTE

Marking too many candidates in a race. *Example: Vote for 1 but 2 or more ovals are filled in.*

- You are alerted when your ballot is inserted in the ballot tabulator that you have an **over vote**.
- You can fix the mistake with a new ballot, or cast ballot as-is – the over voted race will be voided but all other correctly marked races will count.

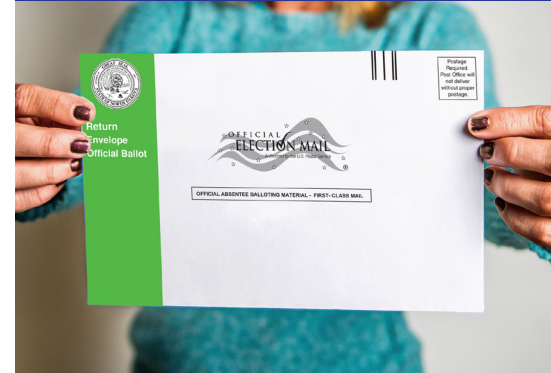
PRIMARY ELECTION ONLY — CROSSOVER VOTE

In Primary Elections, you can only vote for 1 political party in federal, legislative, and statewide (party) races.

You vote for candidates in more than 1 political party.

- You are alerted when your ballot is inserted in the ballot tabulator that you have a **crossover vote**.
- You can fix the mistake with a new ballot, or cast ballot as-is – party races on front of ballot will be voided but all other correctly marked races will count.

VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOT
IN THE WAY THAT THEY PREFER
OR IS MOST CONVENIENT TO
THEM





▶ POLLING LOCATIONS

Primary & General Election

Polling locations during the Primary and General Election are determined by your local board of county commissioners.

Special Elections

Elections not held in conjunction with the Primary and General election are special elections and polling locations are determined by the jurisdiction that is holding the election – school board, city commission, etc.

▶ DISTRICTS & PRECINCTS

Candidates for the North Dakota Senate and House of Representatives run in legislative **districts**. Legislative districts are redrawn every 10 years following the U.S. decennial census to represent similar population sizes in each district.

Precincts help divide geographical areas into smaller sizes to accommodate voting needs in your county. Your precinct is determined by your residential address and ensures you receive a ballot to elect those that represent you where you live.

FACT ▶ **NORTH DAKOTA ONLY USES PAPER BALLOTS FOR VOTING. ALL VOTES CAST AND COUNTED ARE ON PAPER BALLOTS.**

▶ CANDIDATES PROCESSES

Those seeking to run for office declare their intention to do so in varied ways depending upon the type of race. The below are submitted to the North Dakota Secretary of State, unless otherwise noted, for review and inclusion of the candidate on the ballot, if complete.

Endorsed by Party

- Federal, Legislative, Statewide – political parties put forward endorsed candidates for the ballot which they decide at their respective conventions.

Petition - Petitions require a percentage of signatures from qualified electors in the district.

- Federal, Legislative, Statewide – if party endorsement is not received, a person can seek to appear in the Primary by using the petition process to get on the ballot.
- Judicial
- City/County
- filed with city/county

Statement of Interest

- School Board
- filed with school district

LEGISLATIVE RACES ROTATE

Odd Numbered Districts –
midterm elections

Even Numbered Districts –
presidential elections



▶ YOU & ELECTIONS

#TRUSTEDINFO – RUMOR VS. REALITY

The best source of information on elections is your local election official or the North Dakota Secretary of State. Opinions on election processes can be incorrect and misleading, and misinformation spreads easily. Be a smart consumer and sharer of information – you are the last line of defense in election security.

NORTH DAKOTA
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MICHAEL HOWE

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FIND MORE #TRUSTEDINFO ON ELECTIONS AT

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