

2024 General Election – Frequently Asked Questions

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How is the General Election going to be run?

McKenzie County is going to conduct this election as we did in 2018, 2020, and 2022. McKenzie County is a Vote By Mail County so many of our citizens vote by mail or in person through absentee balloting before Election Day. On Election Day three (3) vote centers will be open where any McKenzie County qualified elector can vote on Election Day. These vote centers will be in Watford City, Cartwright, and Mandaree and each will be open from 9:00am to 7:00pm CT.

Watford City Civic Center – 213 2nd St NE, Watford City, ND

Mandaree Community Center – 212 Ridge Road, Mandaree, ND

Cartwright Hall – 213 Main St, Cartwright, ND

Why did I receive a ballot in the mail? I don't remember asking for one.

You checked the "November (General) Election" box on the application received for the June (Primary) Election. With this request we are required to mail you your ballot as soon as they are available.

Do I have to return the ballot I received in the mail?

No, you are not required to return the ballot you received in the mail. You have the option to go in person on Election Day and vote at one of the County's Vote Centers. You may only vote once. When your voted absentee/mail ballot is received by the Auditor/Treasurer's Office it is considered cast and you will not be able to vote in person on Election Day. Should you decide to vote in person you will be issued a new ballot at the vote center, please do not bring with you the ballot you received in the mail.

What is absentee voting?

All counties in North Dakota offer **absentee voting** starting at 40 days prior to an election. In McKenzie County that means someone who wants to vote absentee **for any reason** can either mail, fax, or e-mail us a completed application and we would send them a ballot in the mail. The other method was they could stop in our office to apply for and receive a ballot at that time.

Can I pick up a ballot for someone else?

If you are picking up a ballot for another individual an agent authorization application is required. This authorizes you to pick up and deliver another voter their ballot. This form can be found at vote.nd.gov or we can mail/email a form to you.

Can I go to my regular vote center on Election Day?

Yes, the Election Day Vote Centers will be open on Election Day.

Do I have to vote my mail/absentee ballot right away?

No, you need to complete and mail your ballot by at least the day before Election Day, November 5th. Alternatively you can drop your ballot in the secure ballot drop box located outside the Courthouse (201 5th St NW, Watford City) 24 hours a day/7 days a week (until 5pm CT the day before the Election) or you can return it by USPS mail service (postmarked no later than the day before the Election)

What if I do not get an application in the mail?

It is possible that you will not get an application in the mail. Usually the reason is you moved and have not updated your address with the North Dakota Department of Transportation or have moved too recently for that data to be updated and transmitted to the Central Voter File. You may be new to the state and have not been issued a driver's license or state issued non-driver's identification card.

Whatever the reason, if you don't get an application directly in the mail, you can go online to WWW.VOTE.ND.GOV and fill out, print, sign, and mail your application to your county auditor. You can also call the McKenzie County Auditor/Treasurer's office (701-444-3616 x3) and we will mail you an application.

If you checked the "November (General) election" box on your application for a ballot in the June primary you will automatically be mailed a ballot as soon as we are able to send them out. If you are unsure if you checked this box, please call the McKenzie County Auditor/Treasurer's office (701-444-3616 x3) and we will look at your voting record.

So, what if I am filling out my ballot and I make a mistake?

If you make a mistake when filling out your ballot you can request a replacement ballot. Call the Auditor/Treasurer's Office and we will process another ballot for you.

Anything else I have to do with my ballot after voting?

After voting put your ballot into the secrecy envelope, put the secrecy envelope with ballot, in the return envelope provided. You must date and sign the back of the return envelope and you must put postage on the envelope before mailing it back to the county auditor.

Ballot envelopes that are returned to the county auditor without a signature will not be processed.

What happens to my ballot when I mail it or drop it off to the county auditor?

When we get your ballot back from you, we record the receipt of the ballot in Voices. We then attach your application to the front of your ballot envelope. The Election Judges compare these two signatures before opening and counting your ballot. It is important that **you** sign your application and **you** sign your return envelope to ensure your vote counts.

How can I check to see if my ballot was received by the county auditor?

Once we receive your ballot it is checked into our system. You can either call us to verify that it was received or you can visit <https://vote.nd.gov/AbsenteeTracker.aspx> and track your ballot from the comfort of your own home at any time.

Can I drop off a ballot for someone else after they have voted?

Yes, you may drop off a ballot for another voter. Please only give your vote ballot to trustworthy individuals to return on your behalf. You can hand deliver it to the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office or drop it in the secure ballot drop box outside the Courthouse until 5:00pm CT on November 4, 2024 (the day before the Election).

My son/daughter is my Power of Attorney. Can they apply for a ballot for me?

Your vote is yours to cast. You need to apply for your ballot under your signature, you can have anyone help you with completing the application. We cannot send you a ballot based on a request from your Power of Attorney.

How secure is my vote?

We will only issue ballots based on your request for a mail/absentee ballot. We compare your name, address, and ID number with the Central Voter File before sending you a ballot. We will not issue you a ballot without your signature. When we receive your ballot back, the Poll Judges will compare the signature on your application with the signature on the ballot return envelope.

Mail ballots go through the same review process as absentee ballots in a regular election. Mail ballots will be reviewed as noted above by the Absentee Board before being opened and processed. If that board cannot determine if the application and ballot envelope are signed by the same person, they will not process the ballot. They will instead refer that ballot to the County Canvassing Board that meets six days following each election.

Will anyone know how I voted?

No, the ballots are opened by Election Judges. They first separate the secrecy envelopes from the ballot return envelopes after examining the signatures. Once the ballot return envelopes are empty, they are set aside before ballots are removed from the secrecy envelopes and initialed by the Election Judges.

When will my ballot be counted?

The ballots may be opened beginning the day before the Election and processed through Election Day; however, the ballot scanners will be locked so that no results can be tabulated until after 7:00 PM on Election Day.

When and how will election results be released?

Election results will be uploaded to the Secretary of State's website after 7:00 PM on Election Day. <https://www.sos.nd.gov/elections/election-results>