

UPDATED ELECTION RULES

I. Voting at the Polls – IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED

Beginning as early as December 2017, voters will be required to present specified identification in order to vote. If you are on record with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) as having a driver's license or a non-operator's ID, you will need to present that card at the polls.

If you do not have a DOT-provided ID, the Iowa Secretary of State's Office will send to you a voter identification card for voting purposes. This will be a new form, and the voter ID cards provided in the past by counties will NOT be accepted.

Other acceptable forms of ID are a U.S. passport or a U.S. military or veterans identification card.

If the voter has none of these, the voter may present multiple forms of identification to establish his/her identity and residence. The law is specific about these forms.

If the voter has no eligible forms of ID, another voter of the same precinct may attest to the identity and residence of the voter by signing a prescribed oath. A voter may only attest for two voters for any given election, but such an attester may also attest for one other person who needs to register to vote on election day.

One more exception: Until January 1, 2019, a registered voter with no acceptable ID shall be permitted to vote by signing a prescribed oath attesting to the voter's identity.

A voter unable to establish identity as described above shall be permitted to cast a **provisional ballot**. In order for the provisional ballot to be counted, the voter must provide the necessary identification to the Decatur County Auditor's Office before the prescribed deadline, which is usually noon on the Monday following the election.

II. ABSENTEE VOTING

These provisions are effective January 1, 2018.

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the County Auditor's Office or a satellite voting location is changed from 40 days before the election to 29 days before the election.

Applications for absentee ballots delivered to the County Auditor's Office must be received 10 days before the general elections and 11 days before all other elections. The previous deadline was four days before the election.

III. OTHER CHANGES IN THE LAW

Straight party voting is eliminated, effective immediately. All candidate choices must be individually marked on a ballot to receive votes.

If a registered voter **declines jury duty** giving non-citizenship or non-residency as justification, the voter's registration will be cancelled.

Effective January 1, 2019, 17-year olds may register to vote, but they may not vote until age 18. However, if a voter will turn 18 on or before the general election, the voter may vote in the primary election while still 17.

These are not all of the changes in the law. For more information, please contact the Decatur County Auditor's Office at 641/446-4323, via e-mail at dauaud@grm.net or visit the county's website: www.decatourcountyiowa.org and look under Elections for NEW VOTING LAWS.