

Q&A on Same-Day Voter Registration

As of January 1, 2008, Iowa law allows you to register to vote on Election Day at the polling place for the precinct you currently live in. Below are some common questions about same-day registration.

Q: What do I need to qualify for same-day registration?

A: The same rules that apply to pre-Election Day registrations apply to those voters registering on Election Day. The voter must be 18 years old, be a resident of Iowa, a US Citizen, and have not given up or had their voting rights revoked for any reason.

Q: What are acceptable forms of ID to register on Election Day?

A: You need to show proof of residency and proof of identity. A current Iowa driver's license with a photo and current address is the best method.

If the driver's license address is incorrect, you can use it as your photo ID and use any one of the following to verify your residence: residential lease, property tax statement, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, other government document.

If you do not have an Iowa driver's license, you can use one of the following as proof of identity if it has a photo: an out-of-state driver's license, non-driver identification card, US passport, US military ID, ID card issued by employer, student ID card issued by Iowa high school or college.

Q: What if I do not have any proof of residence or identity?

A: You can have another registered voter in your precinct attest for your identity. Both of you will be required to sign an oath verifying that this statement of acknowledgement is true. Falsely attesting or being attested for is a class "D" felony.

Q: What if I do not have any ID nor can I find a person to attest for my identity?

A: Your precinct should allow you to cast your vote by provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be reviewed by the election committee to see if it can be counted.

Q: Do I need to register on Election Day if I have already submitted a voter registration form to my county auditor?

A: No. You should be already registered to vote.

Q: Do I need to register again for other elections if I choose to register on Election Day?

A: No. You should be registered to vote for the same-day election and for future elections. You should re-register only if you move, change names, or are unsure of your voter registration status.

Q: How do I find out where my polling place is?

A: Contact your local county auditor's office with your residence address. They will need your address to find your precinct.

Q: Will same-day voter registration be prone to voter fraud?

A: Not likely. Requiring proof of residence and identity makes it hard for someone to be able to register to vote and vote in more than one precinct on Election Day.

Q: What is the punishment for falsely registering to vote?

A: Falsely registering to vote is election misconduct in the first degree, which is a class "D" felony and punishable by a fine of up to \$7500 and up to five years in prison. This includes attempting to falsely register to vote and registering to vote in more than precinct.

Q: Do I receive any documentation of my same-day registration?

A: After the election, all voters who registered to vote through Election Day registration will be sent a notice by mail. If this notice is returned as undeliverable, a forwardable notice will be mailed to the voter. If the county auditor does not receive a response to that notice within fourteen days, the auditor will notify the county attorney and Secretary of State for investigation and possible prosecution.

Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions about same-day voter registration?

A: You may contact any of the following: your local county auditor, the Secretary of State's office, or Iowa Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc.

Content was used from the Iowa Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.ia.us



**Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA)
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