



# Iowa

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of State Paul Pate; elected in 2022 for a 4-year term
- **Who runs elections locally:** County Commissioner of Elections
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 99
- **State website:** [www.sos.iowa.gov/elections](http://www.sos.iowa.gov/elections)

ELECTION POLICY	STATUS	NATIONAL COMPARISON
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>		
Online voter registration	OVR permitted	42 states and D.C. have online voter registration
Automatic/automated voter registration	Not provided	24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration
Type of state voter registration database	Top-down	36 states and D.C. use top-down; seven states use bottom-up; seven states use a hybrid system
Pre-registration	17.5-year-olds may preregister	22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds
Election Day/same-day registration	Permitted	22 states and D.C. have same-day registration
Registration deadline	Election Day	National average is 20 days before Election Day
<b>VOTING</b>		
Voter ID for in-person voting	ID required	36 states require ID to vote in person
Early in-person voting	Begins 20 days before Election Day	47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 26 days
Vote centers	Vote centers are used	30 states and D.C. allow vote centers
No-excuse absentee voting	No-excuse absentee voting is permitted	28 states permit no-excuse absentee voting
Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka "mostly mail elections")	Ballots are not mailed to all registered voters	Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters
Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return	Close of polls on Election Day	31 states require ballots returned by Election Day*
Laws governing who can return a voted ballot	A voter's household member, immediate family member or special precinct officials	32 states have laws governing ballot collection
Ballot drop boxes	Permitted*	Six states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent
Ballot cure process	Ballot cure process offered statewide	30 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process
When absentee/mail ballot processing begins	The day before the election, if directed by the commissioner	34 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day
Electronic ballot return	UOCAVA active-duty voters or civilians living in imminent danger area as designated by the D.O.D.	33 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities
<b>OTHER</b>		
Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing)	Uses pre-election audits	47 states and D.C. have pre-election audits
Post-election tabulation audits	Uses post-election audits	48 states and D.C. require post-election audits
State primary type	Partially open	Primaries range from fully open to fully closed

\*Other states accept ballots postmarked by Election Day.

\*\*Drop boxes are limited to one per county and must be located on election office property.

**Note:** Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

**For more information, contact NCSL at [elections-info@ncsl.org](mailto:elections-info@ncsl.org) or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see [www.eac.gov/grants](http://www.eac.gov/grants).**



Use this QR code to access links to NCSL's elections pages with details.



Use this QR code to access links to the EAC's election resources.

