

VOTER REGISTRATION

The voter registration deadline for the November 2nd election is 5:00 pm on October 18th. Voter registration forms can be obtained at <http://www.sdsos.gov/electionsvoteregistration/registrationvoting.shtm> and mail the original, signed form to the county auditor for the county in which you are registered. The contact information for each county auditor is also on that same webpage.

If a person does not know if they are registered to vote, they can check on the Voter Information Portal (VIP) at <https://apps.sd.gov/applications/st25cers/> or they can contact their County Auditor. The VIP page shows the voter of his/her voter registration information, polling place location and a sample ballot.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting for the primary election begins Sept 20th, however the majority of counties will have their ballots printed and ready ahead of this date. If the voter's county has ballots available prior to the 20th, they can begin absentee voting at that time. A voter can vote in-person at their County Auditor's office (in the county they are registered to vote in) or they can vote absentee by mail.

Absentee voting in-person: If the voter is going to vote absentee in-person at their County Auditor's office, they will go to that office and complete an absentee application at that office. They will show their photo identification or if they do not have that with them, the voter can sign the Personal Identification Affidavit.

The following are acceptable forms of identification:

1. A South Dakota driver's license or non-driver identification card;
2. A passport or an identification card, including a picture, issued by an agency of the United States government;
3. A tribal identification card, including a picture; or
4. A current student identification card, including a picture, issued by an accredited institution of higher education, including a university, college, or technical school, located within the State of South Dakota.

Absentee voting by mail: If the voter is going to vote by mail, he/she will need to complete the application for absentee ballot <http://www.sdsos.gov/electionsvoteregistration/registrationvoting.shtm#absentee> and submit the completed form to their County Auditor in the county where they are registered to vote. UOCAVA voters are the only voters who can submit their signed application for absentee ballot by fax or email. (County Auditor contact information can be found on that same webpage.) A new absentee ballot application must be submitted for each calendar year, with the elections for which an absentee ballot is requested being indicated.

Stateside military voters are required to submit a photocopy of their ID (same acceptable forms as listed above) with their absentee ballot application. The ID requirement is waived only for overseas voters, which includes overseas military and overseas citizens. Should notarization of the stateside military voter's signature be easier to obtain than a photocopy of the ID, a notarized absentee ballot may be submitted. The notarization on the absentee ballot application can be administered by any commissioned officer in the military service of the United States, as per SDCL 18-3-2.

Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot: If a UOCAVA voter has submitted an absentee ballot application but has not received their absentee ballot, a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) may be submitted. The FWAB may be accessed at <http://fvap.gov/>. The instructions on the site will step you through the process. The Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment (MOVE) Act changed the law to have the FWAB recognized for all Federal Elections, including Primary, General, Secondary and Congressional Special Elections.

Questions should be directed to the Secretary of State's office (605-773-3537).