

STUDENT VOTING AT ISU

COMMUNITY ADVISER'S GUIDE

Student voting guide provides Ames residents with all the information they need to access their constitutional right to vote. Because ISU students living in student housing are Ames residents, they can vote here, often within a dorm or other campus building. Because of this, Community Advisers have a special and important role in connecting their residents to accurate voting information.

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0. INTRODUCTION

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING INFORMATION

The most common reasons that students cite for not voting are being too busy with schoolwork or believing that they are unable to. This guide aims to tackle these issues through increasing information. Understanding the different voting methods allows students flexibility to fit voting into their packed schedules and understanding the rules of voting allows them to know that they are able to vote here. For example, a student may say that they have to vote at home because that

is where they are registered or that they can't vote because they have not registered, neither of these are true. A student can reregister at their Ames address to vote here and a student can register at the polls if they missed the deadline to mail in a registration form. Having conversations about voting will increase the amount of people who are not only comfortable, but excited to use their constitutional right this fall.

WHAT WILL BE COVERED

This guide is broken into two sections: having the conversations and the information. The conversations may begin at the hall meeting, but will likely continue on until the election. As such, that hall meeting will be discussed and frequently asked questions that may come up in the meeting or beyond will be addressed as well. The

information is in its own section so that it can be easily located if a resident has a question about a specific topic. The goal is to provide you, a Community Adviser, with all the pertinent information to help your residents access their right.



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- What to bring to the Polls
 - Identification
 - Proof of Residence



1. CONVERSATIONS WITH RESIDENTS

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING INFORMATION

The goal of this meeting is to have a conversation about voting that provides information on the safest, easiest method to do so. Many residents in the dorms are new voters in a new city, state, or country. As every state has slightly different rules, voting can be a confusing process to navigate alone. That is why it is important

to have a robust conversation early. The more awareness students have of voting, the more likely they are to make a well-informed decision. This meeting is a space to discuss access to voting rights, but the ultimate decision of whether to vote and who to vote for rests on the student.



FLOW OF THE MEETING:

1. INTRODUCE VOTING

You can bring up that the election is coming up on November 3rd, ask who has voted before, etc.

2. STATE GOAL

This meeting is to provide information about voting procedures and that and state you, as a CA, are a resource.

3. WALK THROUGH THE PROCESS

This is the most important part. Define what Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request forms are, what they mean, and how to fill them out. It would be best to have the forms present during the meeting so that students can follow along if interested. Keep the address of the dorm handy to use in the form. As the meeting will be conducted over Zoom, please hand out the materials in a safe way before the meeting. Forms can be found at the hall desk. For information about the forms, refer to Section 2.

4. ANSWER QUESTIONS

There is a FAQ section below. Reiterate that you and other CAs are resources.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

Voting is a constitutional right, the bedrock of our democracy, and an integral part of becoming an adult and a community member. Engaging with this right allows you to voice your opinions in a meaningful, impactful way.

SHOULD I VOTE IN AMES OR AT HOME?

Students who have a residence in Ames, whether that is a dorm or an apartment, are citizens of Ames. As such, they can vote in an election here. The decisions made in Ames will not only be affecting their lives for the next few years, but the lives of student's down the line who will have similar concerns. At the same time, they are also able to vote back home. If they have particular issues or candidates back home that they care about or if they know that they'll be living back home after graduation, then they may consider voting at home. Either way, deciding where to vote is a layered question that CA's should be ready to hear.

HOW CAN I TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST COVID-19 WHILE VOTING?

Limiting contact with others is the best way to stay safe against the coronavirus. Absentee ballots are strongly encouraged as they allow voting without any face to face contact with poll workers or voters in line. If for whatever reason absentee ballots are not an option, the next best method would be to early vote at an odd hour. The early voting location will be bigger and emptier than polls will be on election night. Keep an eye on your email for updates regarding time and place for early voting!

I WAS BORN IN A U.S. TERRITORY. CAN I VOTE IN THIS ELECTION?

If you are a U.S. citizen, you are allowed to vote in Iowa. Territories that have citizen status include Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For these students, living in Iowa allows them the right to vote in all elections automatically. Students from American Samoa are considered U.S. nationals. In order to become U.S. citizens and gain voting rights, they must undergo the traditional immigration process.

HOW DO I FIND WHO'S RUNNING?

A list of candidates can be found at <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1025/General-Election-11320>. Sample ballots from the Story County Auditor's office will be available in September and can be found on vote.iastate.edu.

In the classroom we are expected to do good research - deciding who to vote for is no different! There are many non-partisan voter guides available online, for example Vote411.org from the League of Women Voters Education Fund.



MORE QUESTIONS?

If there is a question that is not answered in Section 2, please refer the student to the Story County Auditor's office, the office that administers elections in Story County. They are very friendly and helpful.

WEB: <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/91/Auditor-Elections>

PHONE: (515) 382-7210

EMAIL: auditorweb@storycountyiowa.gov

ADDRESS: County Admin. Building

900 6th Street

Nevada, IA 50201

Open M-F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2. VOTING INFORMATION

VOTER REGISTRATION

THE BASICS

Voter registration indicates to the auditor that a US citizen above the age of 18 lives at a new address and wants to vote. Preregistration is getting registered 10 days before the election through the methods listed below. Registration can occur at the polling location as well.

HOW TO GET REGISTERED

Those with an Iowa Driver's License can register online at <https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration>. Otherwise, a voter registration form can be filled in and mailed. This form is located at every dorm hall desk on campus.

Additionally, a form can be printed from <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/270/Voter-Registration-Form>. Forms must be mailed in within a week of signing them for them to be valid. Either option must be processed by **Oct 24th**. When mailing, account for delivery time. The form must reach the auditor on this day.

CHECKING REGISTRATION STATUS

There are two ways. Once the form is mailed, you should receive a Voter ID card in about a week. If you do not receive this card, you can check your registration status at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx>.

If you do not see your status as an active, registered voter, then your form may have not been processed yet or received. If it has been more than two weeks since you mailed the form, then mail another form.

WHAT IF A VOTER MISSES THE PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

Iowa has same-day registration, meaning that on the day of the election citizens can fill out a registration form. This is not optimal as it leads to longer lines and wait times at polling locations.

I AM ALREADY REGISTERED IN ANOTHER COUNTY IN IOWA. CAN'T I JUST GO TO THE POLLS ON CAMPUS?

In Iowa, voter registration is maintained at the county level. If you are currently registered in another Iowa county, you are a new registrant in Story County and must complete a voter registration form to transfer your registration. If, on Election Day, you go to the polls to vote and are not registered in Story County, you can follow Election Day Registration procedures (proof of identity and address are necessary) to become eligible to cast a ballot.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Register online or with a paper form.
Preregistration Deadline is Oct 24th.
Double check forms are filled out fully. Incomplete forms cannot be processed unless there is contact information. As such, contact information is highly encouraged.

FILLING OUT THE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

STATE OF IOWA OFFICIAL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM <small>Revised 11/30/2018</small>	
In Iowa, you are not qualified to vote if you have been convicted of a felony and have not received a restoration of voting rights. You may apply to the Governor to restore your voting rights.	
Qualifications	1. Are you a citizen of the United States? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 2. Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered "No" to either of these questions, do not complete this form.	
ID Number <small>Provide your Iowa driver's license, non-operator ID number, or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number if you have one.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> IA driver's license #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> IA non-operator ID #: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Last 4 digits of Social Security number: XXX-XX-_____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have an IA driver's license, non-operator ID, or Social Security number.
Additional Information <small>Date of birth and gender are required.</small>	Date of Birth (month, day, year) ____/____/_____ Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Phone and/or Email (optional) _____
Your Name	Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Suffix _____
Address Where You Live	Street Address (include apt., lot, etc.) _____ City _____ Zip _____ County _____ If homeless or you do not have an established residence, describe where you reside: _____
Where You Receive Mail (if different)	Address/P.O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Previous Voter Registration Information	Your name was _____ Your address was _____ Your city and state were _____ Your zip was _____
Political Affiliation (check only one)	Political Parties: <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> No Party Non-Party Political Organizations: <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian
WARNING <small>If you sign this form and you know the information is not true, you may be convicted of perjury and fined up to \$7,500 and/or jailed for up to 5 years.</small>	Registrant Affidavit I swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am the person named above. I am a citizen of the United States. I have not been convicted of a felony (or I have received a restoration of rights). I am at least 17 years old. I live at the address listed above. I am not currently judged by a court to be "incompetent to vote." I do not claim the right to vote anywhere else. Signature _____ Date _____

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL VOTER REGISTRATION MATERIAL

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 33 NEVADA IA
 POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

LUCY MARTIN
STORY COUNTY AUDITOR
900 6TH ST STE 3
NEVADA IA 50201-9912


Step 2: Fold Here

Notes:

- This form is to be used to register to vote in Story County, Iowa only. If the Business Reply Mail address on this form is changed or altered the form will not be delivered by the post office.
- Please use only clear tape when sealing this form. Place tape at the locations indicated by a ● after folding.

Step 1: Fold Here

- 1.* Both Qualifications must be "Yes" to vote.
- 2.* Fill in only one. Students without an Iowa Driver's License or Non-Operator's ID must use the last four digits of their Social Security Number.
- 3.* Fill in Date of Birth, Sex, and Phone and/or Email. Include both phone and email so any possible issues with your registration/ballot can be solved.
- 4.* Fill in your full, legal name.
- 5.* Fill in your Ames address. For apartments, include your unit number. For dorms, address should be written as: [Street Number] [Street Name], [Floor Name] [Room number]. We are in Story County.
- 7. Fill in only if your mailing address is different than Ames address. If ISU moves entirely online, put the address where you will be residing for the election.
- 7. Does not need to be filled out.
- 8. Completely optional. Fill in only one. This does not change what ballot you see.
- 9.* Sign and date. This is often forgotten: make sure to check it is filled out.

Fields marked with astricks (*) are mandatory. Follow mailing instructions on the form. This is post-age-paid, so you do not need a stamp.



VOTING METHODS

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Arrive at your polling location, ID and proof of residence in hand, and wait in line to vote. They will direct you to either a ballot machine or give you a paper ballot. You will fill either out in privacy and then submit your results.

POLLING LOCATIONS

As polling locations are being consolidated due to COVID-19, the polling locations are not known yet. Visit vote.iastate.edu for more information and watch your email.

WHAT IF I ARRIVE AT THE WRONG POLLING LOCATION?

If you have enough time to make it to the correct polling location, leave for that location. If there is not enough time, demand a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots allow a vote to be cast but can be called into question. They are a viable option, but not encouraged.

TIMES

7 am to 9 pm. If you are in line by 9pm you will be able to vote.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting allows voters to come into a polling location weeks before the election to cast their ballot electronically. Bring an ID and Proof of Residence.

LOCATION

The campus early-voting location will be at Scheman Building. Information is still being finalized as to when. This year's early voting will not be held in the Memorial Union like normal.

TIMES

Check vote.iastate.edu to confirm times and dates for early voting on campus.

VOTE BY MAIL (ABSENTEE BALLOTS)

Absentee ballots allow voters to vote from home. To begin, an Absentee Ballot Request form must be received by October 24th at 5 pm. Next a ballot will arrive in your mailbox that. Return it as soon as you are able to, but it needs to be mailed and postmarked by November 2nd.

HOW DO I REQUEST A BALLOT?

Request forms can be found at every hall desk. They can be found online as well. If you are registered to vote before late August, a request form will be mailed to you.

WHAT IF THE BALLOT DOES NOT ARRIVE?

Ballots will be mailed to voters starting on October 5th. If you have requested and haven't received your ballot after this date, track your ballot at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/absentee/search>. If you find an issue, call the county auditor.

WHAT IF ISU GOES ONLINE?

If ISU goes online before the ballot is sent out (Oct 5th) and you still wish to vote in Ames, then submit another request form with the mailing address as your home address. Your residential address will be the same. If you'd like to vote back home instead, you can vote at home as you normally would and the ballot from Ames will be voided. If ISU goes online after the ballots have been sent out, stay in Ames until it arrives or return for it. Ballots cannot be forwarded!

FORGOT TO RETURN BALLOT BY DEADLINE?

Go into your polling location on the day of the election with the ballot. You will "surrender" it and then be able to vote normally.

WHAT IF I LOSE MY BALLOT?

You can still vote! At the polling location, ask the worker for a "provisional ballot." Provisional ballots allow a vote to be cast but can be called into question.

FILLING OUT THE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

- * 1.
- * 2.
- * 3.
- 4.
- * 5.
- * 6.
- 7.
- * 8.

STATE OF IOWA OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM		For Ones Use Only	
Your Name and Date of Birth	Last	Suffix	ABS SEQ NUM: _____
	First	Middle	REG: OK _____ NR _____ CH _____
	Date of Birth (month, day, year) ____/____/____		SPLIT: _____
		BALLOT #: _____	
		Revised July 2020	
ID Number	Iowa Driver's License or Non-Operator ID Number: _____		Voters who do not appear in the Iowa Dept. of Transportation's Driver's License or Non-Operator ID files are mailed an Iowa Voter Identification Card at the time of registration. Any voter may request a Voter Identification Card.
Complete one	OR Four-digit Voter PIN (found only on Voter Identification Card): _____		
Your Iowa Residential Address	Home Street Address (include apt, lot, etc. if applicable) _____		
	City	Zip	County
	You must be registered to vote in the county to receive an absentee ballot. If you are registered to vote in the county, this form will be used to update your voter registration if the information provided on this form is different than the information on your registration record.		
Where Your Absentee Ballot Should Be Mailed	Mailing Address/P.O. Box _____		
	City	State	Zip
	If different than above Country (other than USA) _____		
Contact Info Important	Phone	Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not add this contact info to my voter record
Election Date or Type	Election ____/____/____		OR <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> City/School <input type="checkbox"/> Special
	Choose only one election.		
Primary Election Only	Check one political party <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican		
Requester Affidavit	I swear or affirm that I am the person named above and I am a registered voter or I am entitled to register at the address listed on this form. I am eligible to receive and vote an absentee ballot for the election indicated above.		
	Powers of attorney do not have legal authority to request an absentee ballot on behalf of another.		
Signature: X		Date	

Step 1: Fold Here

Instructions:

1) This form is used to request an Absentee Ballot. You must complete a new form for each election.

2) Sign and date the form. Forms must be signed by the voter. Can't I just email or fax you my completed form? Yes, but you still need to send the original signed document to the address above.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

This form was cut off to save space. It is the same as this part of the Voter Registration form.

- 1.* Fill in your full, legal name and Date of Birth.
- 2.* Students with an Iowa Driver's License or Non-Operator's ID can register and request a mail ballot at the same time. Those without must wait to receive a Voter ID card in the mail with their Iowa "Four-digit Voter PIN."
- 3.* Fill in your Ames address. For apartments, include your unit number. For dorms, address should be written as: [Street Number] [Street Name], [Floor Name] [Room number]. We are in Story County.
- 4. Fill in only if your mailing address is different than Ames address. If ISU moves entirely online, put the address where you will be residing for the election.
- 5.* Include both phone and email so any possible issues with your ballot can be easily solved.
- 6.* Fill in Election Date and Type. Election date is November 3rd, 2020. It is a "General" election.
- 7. Only fill in for Primary Elections.
- 8.* Sign and date. This is often forgotten: make sure to check it is filled out.

Fields marked with astricks (*) are mandatory. Follow mailing instructions on the form. This is post-age-paid, so you do not need a stamp.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE POLLS

When voting, bring ID and Proof of Residence to the polls. You may not need to show both, but it is better to have them and not need them than not have them at all. A voter registration card, which is mailed in after registering, can serve

as both an ID and a proof of residence. If ID or proof of residence cannot be established, another voter can attest for you that you are who you say you are and live where you say you do. Pollworkers can help you through this process.

IDENTIFICATION

Iowa State University Identification Card with expiration date.

Anyone can get the expiration date added to their ID in Beardshear Hall. All incoming Freshmen will automatically receive an ID with an expiration date.

Driver's License (in or out of state)

US Passport

US military or veterans ID card

Tribal identification card with a photo and expiration date

Employer issued ID card with a photo and expiration date

PROOF OF RESIDENCE

AccessPlus "Voter Reg Address" Page

All students can use the tab at the bottom left titled "Voter Reg Address" to input your Ames address. Students in campus apartments or dorms may just show their housing contract

Residential Lease

Property tax statement

Utility Bill

Bank Statement

Paycheck

Government Check

Other government doc with address

All documents of the above should include your current Ames address!