



**North Dakota Residents Choosing to Vote  
 Absentee or by Mail**

In North Dakota, voting is made easy through absentee and mail ballots. Please use the following information to make your voice heard through voting.

**Michael Howe**  
**North Dakota Secretary of State**  
**The State's Chief Election Official**

**Voter Qualifications**

North Dakota does not have voter registration. However, in order to vote in North Dakota, a voter must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- Eighteen years or older on the day of election;
- A resident of North Dakota; and
- A resident who has resided in the precinct at least thirty days immediately preceding any election; and
- Able to provide a North Dakota driver's license, nondriver ID, or tribal ID that includes your current residential address and date of birth. If an individual's valid form of identification does not include all the information required in [subsection 2 of NDCC §16.1-01-04.1](#), or the information is not current, the identification must be supplemented by presenting any of the documents as outlined in [subsection 3 of NDCC § 16.1-01-04.1](#).

**Residence for voting – Rules for determining**

To determine residence for voting, the conditions from the North Dakota Century Code Section 16.1-01-04.2 must be met.

- Every qualified elector may have only one residence, shown by an actual fixed permanent dwelling, establishment, or any other abode to which the individual returns when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purposes.
- The street address verified by the individual as provided in section 16.1 - 01 - 04.1 when requesting a ballot to vote must be the address of residence for the individual.
- An individual retains a residence in this state until another has been gained.
- The acts of residing at a new address for thirty days and verifying that address as provided under section 16.1 - 01 - 04.1 constitute a change in the individual's voting residence.

**Voting Absentee or by Mail**

All eligible North Dakotans have the option to request a ballot before the day of an election in a process known as absentee voting. You do not need to provide a reason for why you are requesting an absentee; however, you will be required to complete an application and sign an affidavit. You may submit an application anytime during the calendar year of an election; however, ballots are not available until the fortieth day before an election. Your application can either be mailed, faxed, personally delivered or as a scanned attachment to an email to your county auditor's office.

Revised August 2021

You may live in a county using mail ballot elections (at least one polling place must be open on Election Day). In such counties a mail ballot application is required to be sent to every active voter between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> day before the election. The application is also to be printed in the County Official Newspaper for two consecutive weeks. Furthermore, applications may be requested from the auditor's office or accessed online.

Whether you vote absentee or by mail ballot your return envelope **must** be postmarked no later than the day before the election. If you are unable to meet this deadline then you will have to go to your appropriate polling place on Election Day to cast your ballot.

**Application**

Applications for absentee ballots may be submitted anytime within the calendar year of an election. The simplest method to apply is to electronically fill out and print the absentee application for submittal by clicking here [Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#) Additionally, election officials of the county, city, or school district will furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors upon request.

The application will request the following information from each voter desiring to vote absentee:

- voter's name;
- voter's current or most recent ND residential address;
- voter's mailing address;
- voter's current contact telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- the voter's affirmation of residence in the precinct for at least thirty days immediately prior to the election;
- voter's signature;
- the voter's status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence, or a family member of the uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence;
- voter's birth date and year;
- The identification number from one of the applicant's valid forms of identification, a copy of the applicant's long-term care certificate, and, if necessary, a copy of the applicant's supplemental identification under section 16.1-01-04.1.
- voter's fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter's email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

Absentee ballot applications are to be delivered to the appropriate election official by mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned attachment to an email. Uniformed service members stationed away from home and citizens living outside the United States may also receive and return voted ballots by fax or electronic means according to North Dakota law. For more information, please read the information for [Military Voters](#) and for [Overseas Voters](#).

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40<sup>th</sup> day before the election. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp on the envelope, email, or fax by the day before the election.

**ND Absentee Ballot Application**

[Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#)

**ND County Auditors**

[North Dakota Local Election Officials](#)