



North Dakota Residents Living Outside the United States

In North Dakota, voting is made easy through absentee voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register to vote. 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 valid form of identification such as 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 16.1-01-04.1(2) of the North Dakota Century Code, or the information is not current, the identification must be supplemented by presenting any of the documents as outlined in section 16.1-01-04.1(3)(b) of the North Dakota Century Code. Additionally, North Dakota residents living outside of the United States may provide their passport as a valid form of identification.

NOTE: A citizen of the United States who is eighteen or older and whose parent is an elector in North Dakota is a qualified voter provided this individual has not registered to vote in any other state or territory of the U.S. These voters use the same North Dakota residential address as their parents and may vote the entire absentee ballot for the residential address.

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.

Ensuring Your Vote

Regardless of where in the world a North Dakota resident is living the right to vote is not diminished. Absentee voting is an easy process to follow.

North Dakota was one of the first states to allow overseas and military voters to fax and email absentee ballots. Through action of the 2011 Legislative Assembly, North Dakota was among the first to further expand the absentee voting process by allowing these voters to request the ballot online and digitally mark the ballot before casting it to be counted.

North Dakota provides many voting options to mark and submit voting materials. The voter has the choice to complete the process on paper through the mail, through digital marking and submission, or a combination of the two.

The Absentee Voting Process in North Dakota

Absentee voting for overseas and military voters may be completed by either electronic or paper means; however, voters using the electronic methods will expedite the process. Choices for completing the process will be given to the voter at each step.

Applying for the Absentee Ballot:

Applications for absentee ballots may be submitted anytime within the calendar year of an election. Absentee ballot applications may be filled out and submitted electronically at [Absentee Ballot Application Wizard](#). Election officials of the county, city, or school district may also furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors.

Both the electronic and paper 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 signature on the affidavit will be compared to the signature on the affidavit included in the application for the absentee ballot.
- 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, and, if necessary, a copy of the applicant's supplemental identification under section 16.1-01-04.1., or a completed Voter's Affidavit;
- 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 filled out and submitted using the electronic application will automatically be sent to the voter's county auditor. A voter choosing to submit a paper application must send it to the auditor of the voter's county of residence. Contact information for all 53 North Dakota County Auditors is found at the end of this brochure.

Receiving the Absentee Ballot:

Absentee ballots will be made available to qualified voters 46 days prior to the election. Upon receipt of the application, the county auditor will deliver the ballot and voter's affidavit in either electronic or paper format depending on the wishes the voter expressed on the application.

Marking the Absentee Ballot:

Voters are given the option to mark the ballot using the digital marking option provided by the online tool or the ballot may be printed and marked with a pen. Ballots received through mail or fax delivery are to be marked by pen.

Submitting the Absentee Ballot Packet:

Voters must submit the marked ballot and the completed voter's affidavit for the ballot to be accepted. These two items may be returned electronically, by fax, or by mail. Ballots and affidavits must be submitted by the voter no later than the day before the election. If submitted by mail, the return envelope must have an official date stamp indicating the date of return.

Additionally, all marked ballots and affidavits must be received by the county prior to the meeting of the county canvassing board, which will take place thirteen days following an election. Voters submitting absentee ballots close to Election Day must take this fact into account.

Tracking the Absentee Ballot:

After the county auditor records the receipt of an absentee ballot application through the point the voted ballot and affidavit is received from the voter, voters may track the status of the ballot through an online utility found at the following address <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/AbsenteeTracker.aspx>

Receipt of the Marked Absentee Ballot:

Upon receipt of the marked ballot and completed voter's affidavit by the county auditor, the ballot will be either accepted or rejected. If the ballot from a resident living outside the United States is rejected, the county auditor will send the voter the reason the ballot was rejected by the county election boards. Remember, absentee ballots must be received by the county prior to the meeting of the county canvassing board in order to be counted.

Following Election Results:

Results of the election can be followed by visiting the following site: <http://results.sos.nd.gov/>

Resources for Overseas Voters

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Toll Free 800-438-8683
Website www.fvap.gov
E-mail vote@fvap.gov

The FVAP website contains information on voting procedures in the various states along with absentee voting deadlines and forms for expatriates to complete and return.

North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Unit

Toll Free (800) 352-0867 ext. 8-4146
Website vote.nd.gov
E-mail soselect@nd.gov

The Secretary of State is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

Revised August 2021

The Secretary of State's website contains information for voters and candidates. The website includes all election-related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

North Dakota's County Auditors

North Dakota's 53 county auditors are the chief election officials for each county and are responsible for absentee voting administration. Click on the link below for the contact information for the county auditors.

[North Dakota Local Election Officials](#)