



# NORTH DAKOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

## ELECTIONS PROCESSES IN NORTH DAKOTA

### IMPORTANT FACTS & WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Many citizens have questions about election processes in North Dakota. Here you will find facts about North Dakota elections and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

#### ▶ VOTER ID LAW & REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS

##### VOTER ID LAW – CENTRAL VOTER FILE

North Dakota is the only state without voter registration as our Voter ID law requires a valid form of ID to vote. Election officials verify IDs against the **Central Voter File**, also known as the voter record, to ensure residents are qualified to vote.

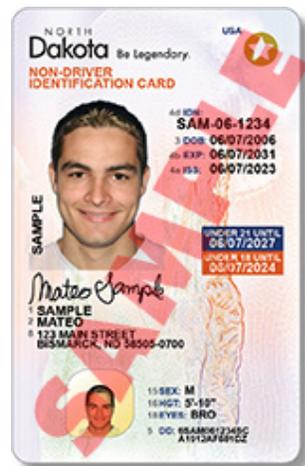
The Central Voter File is directly linked to identification data at the North Dakota Department of Transportation and is:

- Updated continuously with any changes made to your identification information.
- Monitored for security threats by both state and federal agencies as part of election



##### VALID FORMS OF ID INCLUDE

- North Dakota Driver's License
- North Dakota Non-Driver ID
- Tribal ID or Tribal Letter
- Long Term Care Certificate



##### DIFFERENT ID STYLES, TYPES, & CITIZENSHIP

Identification issued by the North Dakota Department of Transportation comes in many different styles and statuses, many of which are used for voting. Certain types of IDs are issued to non-U.S. citizens and the Central Voter File flags anyone marked as a non-citizen so election officials can ensure only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote.

##### ND VOTING REQUIREMENTS

- 18 years of age
- U.S. citizen
- Lived in North Dakota for 30 days prior to an election

**FACT**

**STRONG ID REQUIREMENTS AND THE USE OF POLLPADS ARE THE STATE'S BEST PREVENTION AGAINST ANYONE VOTING MORE THAN ONCE AN ELECTION.**



# VOTE

## ▶ ELECTION EQUIPMENT USED



### POLLPADS

**PollPads**, also known as electronic pollbooks, are used only to check-in voters at polling locations. Pollpads read data from a voter's ID and verify that information against the Central Voter File. Pollpads are connected through a secure, private network to every other PollPad used in North Dakota's elections. Once a voter checks in at one polling location, statewide every other polling place's PollPads are updated with this information. This prevents voters from voting more than one time per election. PollPads are tested extensively before each election.

### FACT

▶ **BALLOT HANDLING MACHINES ARE NOT CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET AND CONTAIN NO COMPONENTS FOR SUCH A CONNECTION.**

### ASSISTIVE BALLOT MARKING DEVICE – EXPRESSVOTE

Each polling site has **ExpressVote** assistive ballot marking devices. Facts about the ExpressVote:

- Any qualified voter can use the ExpressVote.
- Voter marks ballot by touch screen.
- Prints a paper ballot card.
- Voter can review choices before ballot is inserted into the ballot tabulator.
- Eliminates unclear marks, overvotes, and crossover votes.
- Not connected to the internet and has no components for such connection.

### ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES INCLUDE:

- **Larger font sizes**
- **Having ballot read aloud**
- **Ability to use devices like headphones, switches, etc.**
- **Contrast settings**
- **Ability to blank screen for privacy**



### BALLOT TABULATOR – DS200

The **DS200 is the ballot tabulator** used at polling locations. Facts about the DS200:

- Traditional paper ballots and ExpressVote paper ballot cards are deposited in it for counting.
- Not connected to the internet and has no components for such a connection.
- Tested extensively before each election with 100% accuracy.

## FACT

**NORTH DAKOTA ONLY USES PAPER BALLOTS FOR VOTING. ALL VOTES CAST AND COUNTED ARE ON PAPER BALLOTS.**

## ▶ BALLOT STYLES AND STRUCTURE USED

### PAPER BALLOTS

North Dakota only uses paper ballots in its elections.

There are two styles of ballots in use:

- **Traditional Paper Ballot** - voter receives paper ballot and then marks ballot by filling in ovals with a pen.
- **ExpressVote Paper Ballot Card** - voter uses accessible touch screen to mark ballot and then prints paper ballot card.

Both traditional paper ballots and ExpressVote paper ballot cards are cast and counted in the DS200 Ballot Tabulator. Election officials store ballots for 22 months post-election and may audit or recount ballots, if a recount is required.

### BALLOT SECTIONS

Ballots in North Dakota have three sections in which voters make choices on:

1. **Party Races** - federal, legislative, and statewide
2. **No-Party Races** - county, city, school, and other non-partisan races
3. **Measures** - all measures brought forward by the legislature, local jurisdictions, or by the public petition process

## FACT

**▶ YOU ARE NEVER MAILED A BALLOT WITHOUT FIRST REQUESTING ONE.**

- *VOTE BY MAIL COUNTIES MAIL QUALIFIED ELECTORS ABSENTEE APPLICATIONS.*
- *IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES, THE VOTER REQUESTS AN ABSENTEE APPLICATION.*

## ▶ TYPES OF ELECTIONS

North Dakota holds two types of statewide elections in election years:

### PRIMARY ELECTION

The **Primary Election** is held each even year in June and decides which:

- Federal, legislative, and statewide nominees will move to the General Election
- Judges and county nominees will move to the General Election
- City and school candidates are elected and take office shortly after
- Measures are approved, if any are appearing on the Primary Election ballot

### GENERAL ELECTION

The **General Election** is held each even year in November and decides which:

- Federal, legislative, and statewide candidates are elected
- Judges and county candidates are elected
- Measures are approved, if any are appearing on the General Election ballot

Other jurisdictions (cities, schools, etc.) also hold elections. These elections may happen during statewide elections or at a special date – as a **special election** – chosen by the jurisdiction.





## ▶ VOTING TECHNOLOGY & ELECTION SECURITY

### SECURITY & CERTIFICATION

North Dakota takes election security very seriously. There are several steps taken to ensure the accuracy of voting tabulation equipment, before, during, and after an election.

#### These steps include:

- Purchasing election systems that are U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Certified according to state law.
- Programming all devices according to state law.
- Testing equipment for 100% accuracy prior to and after each election.
- Conducting an election with bipartisan poll workers and observers.
- Verifying the total number of ballots cast matches the total number of voters.
- Maintaining a strict chain of custody.
- Using multi-factor authentication.

### TESTING BEFORE & AFTER

Election officials conduct logic and accuracy testing on election equipment before and after the election to ensure it is working properly and with 100% accuracy. This testing is also open to the general public to attend and observe.

- All test results are cleared before equipment is locked and sealed with numbered tags for Election Day.
- Prior to opening the polls on Election Day, officials check seal numbers and machines to ensure they have not been tampered with in any way.

## FACT ▶

**QUALIFIED ELECTORS SERVE ON MANY ELECTION RELATED BOARDS TO ENSURE ELECTION PROCESSES ARE CONDUCTED WITH INTEGRITY.**

## ▶ POST-ELECTION PROCESSES

### ELECTION RESULTS & CANVASSING

Once polls close, unofficial election results are submitted to the North Dakota Secretary of State. Election results are unofficial until canvassed. Local canvassing boards, made up of election officials and qualified electors, meet 13 days after the election to account for every voted ballot to ensure all votes are included in official results. Canvassing boards:

- Review late-arriving absentee ballots
- Review set-aside ballots
- Tabulate any approved ballots
- Certify the results

Following the canvassing boards, the North Dakota Secretary of State certifies the election.

## ▶ YOU & ELECTION SECURITY

### #TRUSTEDINFO – RUMOR VS. REALITY

The best source of information on elections is your local election official or the North Dakota Secretary of State. Opinions on election processes can be incorrect and misleading, and misinformation spreads easily. Be a smart consumer and sharer of information – you are the last line of defense in election security.

NORTH DAKOTA  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
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