

A Voter's Guide to Iowa Elections: Opening up the Voting Process to Autism Spectrum and Neurodiverse Community Members



A Voter's Guide To Iowa Elections: Opening up the Voting Process to Autism Spectrum and Neurodiverse Community Members



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“Collectively, more than 450,000 Iowans living with disabilities can make a significant impact on the public policies and practices that affect their daily lives.” - Iowans with Disabilities in Action

“Voting is one of our most important rights. Voting is how people decide who they want our leaders to be, and what they want the government to do. By voting on the people who will represent them in the government, and on the laws we must follow, people choose what they want government to do. Voting is just as important for people with disabilities as it is for everyone else. If people with disabilities can't vote, laws might be made about us, without us.” - [VOTE. It's Your Right: A Know-Your-Rights Guide for Voters with Mental Disabilities and Advocates](#) —Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Autistic Self-Advocacy, National Disability Rights Network, and law firm Schulte, Roth & Zabel.



Voting Rights

◦ Iowans with Disabilities in Action: Voting Rights for Iowans

<http://idaction.org/documents/cms/docs/Vote-Materials/Voting-Rights-for-Iowans.pdf>

◦ Voting with Disabilities & Voting with Assistance in Iowa: Iowa Secretary of State

<https://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities.html>

◦ Vote. It's your right. A Know-Your-Rights Guide for Voters with Mental Disabilities and Advocates— A collaboration with the Autistic Self Advocacy Network

<http://www.bazelon.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=R6XIXPt3QCU%3D&tabid=543>

ELECTION PROTECTION 

Questions about Voting?
Call us! We can help!

www.866ourvote.org

 @866OURVOTE  866OURVOTE

ELECTION PROTECTION ENGLISH
866-OUR-VOTE
866-687-8683

SPANISH/ENGLISH
888-VE-Y-VOTA
888-839-8682

ASIAN LANGUAGES/ENGLISH
888-API-VOTE
888-274-8683

ARABIC/ENGLISH
844-YALLA-US
844-925-5287

Voting in Iowa: Important Dates & Deadlines

Oct 8 TO Nov 5 2018

Early/Absentee Voting

Voting in Iowa by mail or in person at your county auditor's office

October 27, 2018

Deadline to request absentee ballot via mail

October 27, 2018

Voter Registration Deadline

Same day voter registration at the polls

November 5, 2018

Last day for Early /Absentee Voting

in-person at county auditor's office

November 5, 2018

Early Voting/Absentee Ballot post mark date:

If mailing your absentee ballot, it must be postmarked by this date.

November 6, 2018

General Election Day— 7am-9pm

Same day voter registration at the polls

Voting in Iowa: 3 Steps



Who Can Vote in Iowa?

Only registered Voters Can Vote

You can register to vote if:

- You are a citizen of the United States
- You are a resident of Iowa
- You are at least 17 1/2 years old (must be 18 to vote)

****Having a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder or a court –appointed guardian**

DOES NOT automatically take away your right to vote (you can still vote unless a judge has ruled you are ineligible to vote).

You CANNOT register:

- If you are a convicted felon (and your voting rights have not been restored)
- If you claim the right to vote in any other place
- If a court has determined you are “mentally incompetent to vote”

Not sure if you have registered or your registration is up to date?

- Look up your registration status—Iowa Secretary of State: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx>
- Election Protection: Web: <http://866ourvote.org/> Call: 1-866-OUR-VOTE
- League of Women Voters : <https://www.lwv.org/elections/increasing-voter-registration>
- Rock the Vote: <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/iowa/>
- Turbo Vote: https://social20.turbovote.org/?r=fbvrd_520024961758806

Download and print Iowa Voter registration applications easily from one of these web-sites:

Iowa Secretary of State:

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/voterregistration.html>

Iowa Election Center:

<https://www.vote.org/state/iowa/>

League of Women Voters of Iowa:

<http://www.vote411.org/>

Rock the Vote Iowa Elections:

<https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/iowa/>

To Update Voter Registration online:

To update your registration, submit a new voter registration online or send a paper form to your county auditor

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/updatereg.html>

IOWA STUDENT VOTING GUIDE

<http://campusvoteproject.org/>



Registering to Vote In Iowa

Register to vote in Iowa:

Voter Registration by Mail: to register by mail, fill out an Iowa voter registration application and send it to your county auditor. A list of county auditors by county can be found via the following link: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>

Voter Registration online: to register to vote online you will need the to reference your drivers license or state ID number. *An Iowa registered voter CAN NOT vote online at this time.*

See Link for details on how to register online through the Iowa Department of Transportation and video tutorial:

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/voterregistration.html>

Election Day Registration

Registering at the Polls on Election Day November 6, 2018

-Voters will need to show proof of identification and residency. ID must have a expiration date and can not be expired.

-If photo ID does not include current address, must show proof of residency with another document that shows voter's name and address in precinct.

-If voter does not have documents to prove identity or residency, the voter may have another registered voter in the same precinct attest to the voter's identity and residency.

-For more details see Iowa Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/edr.html>

Iowa Voter Identification (ID)

In Person Voter Identification Requirements

If you are voting in person in Iowa, you will be asked to show a valid form of ID before voting at the polls, but if you do not have the necessary ID, you will still be able to cast a ballot if you sign an oath verifying your identity.

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- Your valid Iowa Driver's License or non-operator ID
- Your passport
- Your Military ID
- Your Veterans ID
- Your Voter ID Card
- Tribal ID

*Beginning **January 1, 2019**, Iowa voters will be required to show ID at the polls to vote. Voters without the necessary ID will be offered a provisional ballot and return later with ID for ballots to count. ID can be provided up until the Monday after Election Day.*

Absentee Voter Identification Requirements

You do not need to provide a valid form of ID with your absentee ballot. However, when requesting an absentee ballot in Iowa, you will be required to provide your Iowa driver's license/non-operator ID number or Voter ID card four-digit PIN number on your absentee ballot request form.

Voter Identification: Prepare EARLY

Video Overviewing Iowa Voter ID Law: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnTA_Vbqtu4

If you are having problems getting an approved form of voter ID, you can call VoteRiders' toll-free voter ID hotline at 844-338-8743 or contact Spread the Vote for assistance at www.spreadthevote.org.

<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/forms/idposter.pdf>

Find your Precinct Polling Place

[https://
sos.iowa.gov/
elections/voterreg/
pollingplace/
search.aspx](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/pollingplace/search.aspx)

General Elections

Nov 6: Polls are open from 7am-9pm statewide- for all other elections contact county auditor.

Link to find your county auditor's office in the Iowa & for further questions on polling location and satellite voting See Link:

[https://
sos.iowa.gov/
elections/auditors/
auditorslist.html](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html)



Get the Facts

Locate your Polling Place



When you register to vote, you may receive a voter registration card which will have the name and address of your polling place. See link (left) to assist in determining your precinct polling location.

The Candidates: Good sources for information on the candidates can be found

via the internet, social media, television, radio, and newspapers. You can also communicate with candidates about the issues that you find important. See the following link for a complete listing of candidates <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/generalcandidateelist.pdf>

The Issues: Use mail, email, social media to let the candidates and community members know your thoughts, ideas and perspectives. Find out about the candidates and the issues. Staying informed is an on-going task and can be challenging. At the end this guide is a list of important issues and corresponding resources that report on these issues (see **RESOURCES** section of this guide).

Find out About the Candidates

Head Count: Has a list of sites, APPS, and social media resources that compare the candidates: <https://www.headcount.org/issues-and-candidates/>

Iowa Democratic Party: <https://iowademocrats.org/our-party/candidates/>

League of Women Voters: <http://www.vote411.org/ballot>

NAMI Iowa: Iowa Gubernatorial Candidates on Mental Health - click on Fred Hubbell (D) and Kim Reynolds (R) <https://namiowa.org/candidatesweighin/>

Republican Party of Iowa: <https://www.iowagop.org/>

Vote Smart: <http://votesmart.org/>

PREPARE IN ADVANCE—Accessible Voting: Each polling place will have an accessible voting machine. There are 4 different machines approved in Iowa. County Auditors chose which machine they want to use. To find out which machine your county uses, please click on this link: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/covotesystem.pdf> then look up your county and note the accessible system machine they use. Then see the Iowa Secretary of State's web link to review videos outlining the use of the accessible voting machine in your county. SEE SECTION: How Does An Accessible Voting Machine Work? <https://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities.html#machine>



Voting in Iowa

Early/Absentee Voting: If you would prefer to not vote at your polling location on election day, you can vote prior to the election via Absentee ballot in person at your county auditor's office or by mail. You must request an Absentee ballot by contacting your county auditor or by going to the Iowa Secretary of State's website where you can download application. After printing and completing application, you will need to return the Absentee ballot application to the county auditor's office in your county.

A list of county auditors by county can be found via the following link: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>

Iowa Secretary of State: Absentee Ballot request and video tutorial overviewing Absentee Voting: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/absenteeinfo.html>

Early/Absentee Voting in Person: Each county auditor offers early voting before the elections in person at the county auditor's office during regular business hours. You must vote your absentee ballot at the auditor's office. You cannot take the ballot home to complete. For voters who need assistance in marking their ballots, an accessible ballot marking device is available at the county auditor's office. In-person absentee voting is not available on election day at the auditor's office.

Satellite Early/Absentee Voting: Many county auditors set up other voting stations called "satellites" before election day in public places such as libraries. To check if a satellite voting location is planned for your area check with your county auditor's office. For more details see the Iowa Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/satellite.html>

Early/Absentee Voting by Mail: Registered voters may request an absentee ballot to be sent to them by mail. You must complete an absentee ballot request form and return the original, signed form to your county auditor. Wait for your ballot to arrive by mail. You can track your ballot via the following web link: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/search.aspx>

When your ballot arrives, complete your ballot, sign the affidavit on back of the ballot envelope, and mail the envelope (with the ballot inside) to your county auditor.

Curb Side Voting If you are unable to enter the building where the polling place is located because of disability, two precinct election officials, one from each party, will take a ballot and election supplies outside to the voter. The voter may then mark the ballot in the voter's vehicle. The voter must sign the Affidavit of Voter Requesting Assistance.

It is not required, but would be helpful to contact the county auditor's office, to let them know that you will be voting curbside. If you for some reason are not able to contact the county auditor's office, then bring a person with you in the car to the polls so they can go in and let the poll workers know that someone is in the car and looking to cast their ballot via curbside voting. However, it is highly recommended that one call the county auditor's office prior to arriving so that poll workers are prepared.

For More information on Accessible Voting and Curb Side Voting see 'Iowa Poll worker's Guide to Accessibility' <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/auditors/peoaccessguide.pdf>



Voting in Iowa: Election Day at the Polls

Steps to Voting in Person at the Polls

- Locate the poll location where you will vote (see Page 7 of this guide for tips on how to find out where you vote).
- Upon arrival to the polling location, look for signs to direct you to place where you line up. Many poll stations have signs that say “Vote” or “Vote Here”.
- Wait in line and when it is your turn, check in with the poll worker. Tell the poll worker your name or ask to register.
- If you are voting in person in Iowa, you will be asked to show a valid form of ID before voting at the polls, but if you do not have the necessary ID, you will still be able to cast a ballot if you sign an oath verifying your identity. (see Page 6 of this guide for tips on voter identification).
- The Poll Worker will check you in, direct you to the location where you will vote and tell you where to put your ballot when you are finished voting.
- Helpful tips on voting can be found under the FAQ page of the Iowa Secretary of State’s web page; including answers to questions like “What if I make a mistake on my ballot?” or “Do I have to vote for every race?” See Link: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/edfaq.html#15>

Some ‘Expected’ and ‘Unexpected’ Social Guidelines to Consider When Voting in Person at the Polls

Expected

- Greeting others and talking quietly to people while waiting in line to vote.
- Greeting poll workers and thanking them for their help.
- If you are feeling fatigued or anxious, you can request to move ahead in the line or you can ask for a chair to sit in while you are waiting in line to vote.
- If you need help, you can ask a poll worker for assistance or you can request a Poll Assistant.
- Request use of accessible voting machine, if this would assist you in voting.

Unexpected

- Asking other voters who they voted for while voting at the polls.
- Telling others who you are voting for and why while at the polls.
- Asking other people who you should vote for while at the polls.
- Not asking the poll workers for help when you have questions.
- Not asking to use an accessible voting machine if needed, the machines can be used by any voter.
- Not calling voter hotline, if unable to vote (see page 6 & 3 of this guide)

**Resources: Find Out
About the Issues**



Get the Facts: Autism Spectrum Issues in the News

Find Out the Candidates' Views on the Issues Important to You as a Voter

Important Topics in the News for Reference

- Advocacy and Self-Advocacy
- Access to Healthcare/Medical Insurance Coverage
- Adult Issues— Overall huge gaps in service options
 - Affordable/Accessible House
 - Increase Employment Opportunities
 - Access to Post-Secondary Education
- Community Integration
 - Peer Mentors
 - Life Coaching
- Diversity
 - Under-representation of people of color for evaluation, therapies, support and in research
- Education
 - Access to reasonable accommodations, transition planning and inclusion
- Financial
 - Access to Medicaid Waivers (waitlist) and Managed Care
 - Limited Insurance Coverage
 - ABLE Accounts & Social Security
- Increased need to access to screening/diagnosis & coordinated therapies/services
- Legal Protections
- Mental Health support
- Research - Overlapping & more emphasis needed on therapies and supports
- Safety— Training for Law-Enforcement/First Responders & Coordinated community safety planning
 - Bullying & Wandering/Elopement
 - Safe Practices when addressing challenging behaviors
- Support for parents/caregivers and families

Autism Spectrum Resources

National

- Advancing Futures for Adults with Autism: <http://www.affa-us.org/about>
- Asperger/Autism Network: <https://www.aane.org/>
- Asperger Experts: <https://www.aspergerexperts.com/>
- The Arc-Autism Now: <http://autismnow.org/>
- Autism Speaks– Adults with Autism: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/adults-autism>
- Autism Speaks– Advocacy Tool Kit: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/advocacy-tool-kit>
- Autism Society of America: <http://www.autism-society.org/>
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network– Nothing About Us Without Us: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/>
- Autistic Women & Non-Binary Network: <https://awnnetwork.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Autism Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html>
- National Autism Association: <http://nationalautismassociation.org/>
- National Autism Center: <http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/>
- National Institutes of Health– Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program: <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/ace>
- The Color of Autism Foundation: <https://www.thecolorofautism.org/>
- Thinking Person’s Guide to Autism: <http://www.thinkingautismguide.com/>

State and Regional

- Autism Society of Iowa: <http://autismia.com/>
- Autism Society of the Quad Cities: <https://www.autismqc.org/>
- East Central Iowa Autism Society: <http://eciautismsociety.org/>
- Iowa Child and Community Health Connections: <https://uichildrens.org/medical-services/child-and-community-health>
- Iowa City Autism Community: <http://autismiowacity.org/regional-resources>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness– Iowa: <https://namiiowa.org/>
- Regional Autism Assistance Program: <https://chsciowa.org/regional-autism-assistance-program.asp>
- University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital: <https://uichildrens.org/medical-services/autism>

Find Out About the Issues: Other Resources

Resources for Iowans with Disabilities & Family Members/Caregivers

- The ARC of Iowa: with links to local chapters: <http://www.thearcofiowa.org/>
- ASK Family Resource Center: <http://askresource.org/>
- Disability Rights Iowa: <https://disabilityrightsiaowa.org/>
- Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa: <http://www.epilepsyiowa.org/>
- Families of Iowa Network for Disabilities (FIND Families): <http://findfamilies.org/>
- Iowa Area Education Agencies: <http://www.iowaaea.org/find-my-aea/>
- Iowa Compass: <https://iowacompass.org/>
- Iowa Department of Education- Autism Spectrum Disorder: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education/special-education-programs-services/autism>
 - Iowa Autism Council: <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education/state-requirements-reports/iowa-autism-council>
- Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council: <http://iddcouncil.idaction.org/>
- Iowans with Disabilities in Action: <http://idaction.org/>

Voting

- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law: <http://www.bazelon.org/our-work/voting/>
- Iowa Secretary of State:
 - Voting with Disabilities & Voting with Assistance in Iowa: <https://sos.iowa.gov/disabilities.html>
- Iowans with Disabilities in Action: <http://idaction.org/vote/>
- Rock the Vote: Voting Rights in Iowa- <https://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/iowa/#>
- The Respect Ability Report: <http://therespectabilityreport.org/>
- United States Election Assistance Commission: <https://www.eac.gov/>

Other Autism Spectrum and Disabilities Links:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder– The Mighty: <https://themighty.com/topic/autism-spectrum-disorder/>
- Disability Scoop: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/>
- Disability Visibility Project: <https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/>

Important Terms

- **Bipartisan:** Involving the agreement or cooperation of two parties that usually opposes each other's policies.
- **Conservative:** Often called the 'political right', used to describe someone who believes in less government and fewer government programs, holds traditional views and values, and historically prefers slower and more cautious change.
- **Democratic Party:** One of two major political parties in the United States and the nation's oldest existing party. The Democratic National Committee (DNC) is the governing body for the Democratic Party - <https://www.democrats.org/>
- **Independent:**
 - Independent Voter: Often called an unaffiliated voter in the United States, is a voter who does not align with a political party.
 - Independent Politician: is an individual politician not affiliated to any political party.
- **Liberal:** Often call the 'political left', this describes someone who supports government programs to provide services (such as healthcare), believes in a large government, favors monitoring business, and thinks protecting civil and individual rights is important.
- **Moderate:** A political moderate is an individual who generally holds the middle position between conservative and liberal.
- **Non-partisan:** Not allied with any one political party's agenda.
- **Partisan:** A strong supporter of one political party's agenda.
- **Republican Party:** One of two major political parties in the United States; often called GOP, which stands for Grand Old Party. The republican National Committee is the governing body of the Republican Party, <https://www.gop.com/>.
- **Third Party:** In the United States the term is used for any and all political parties other than one of the two major parties.

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- Leah Parker— Autistic Self-Advocate
- Rik Shannon— Iowans with Disabilities in Action

Funding provided by Iowans with Disabilities in Action 2018 Voter Grant

SAVE THE DATE

**MARCH 30
2019**

FREE
Dozens of exhibitors!
New location

Grant Wood AEA
4401 6th St SW
Cedar Rapids

CARE
CORRIDOR AUTISM RESOURCE EXPO

For updates and information:

www.facebook.com/corridorautismresourceexpo/

Reproducing

This Guide

The Voter's Guide to Iowa Elections: Opening up the Voting Process to Autism Spectrum and Neurodiverse Community Members is reproducible in its' entirety.

A link to a PDF version will be available —see CARE EXPO Facebook page to access link to download for free:

<https://www.facebook.com/corridorautismresourceexpo/>