

### Disclaimer:

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

### Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:

#### 1. It is after 7:00 AM and the polling place is not open.

Contact the county election board. Contact information can be found at <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>. Also contact the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

#### 2. It is 9:00 PM and my precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.

Voters in line or in the process of voting at 9:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. Contact the county election board. Contact information can be found at <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>.

An attorney will contact the county election officials to report the problem. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

### Identification and Registering to Vote:

#### 1. I did not register to vote more than 10 days before the election. Can I still register and vote?

Yes. A person who is eligible to vote may register on Election Day in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual maintains residence, by completing a registration application, making an oath and providing proof of residence.

#### 2. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Yes. If the voter is registered and signs the polling place roster stating that the individual is at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, satisfying residency requirements, has not been found by a court of law to be legally incompetent to vote and if the individual was convicted of a felony, his or her citizenship rights have been restored, and has not already voted in the election, THEN the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. Note that Iowa law allows election judges to ask for identification if they do not recognize the person who is registered. If the voter does not have I.D. and the judge requests it, then the voter can cast a provisional ballot and provide the requisite I.D. at a later date.

Individuals who registered by mail, did not provide identification when doing so, and are voting for the first time will be required to show identification under HAVA.

### **3. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote?**

Confirm that the voter is a qualified to vote (i.e., meets the age, criminal status, and durational residency requirements) and that the voter registered in time to vote in this election. Next, using the online poll locator tool, make sure the voter is at the correct polling place. See

<http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/VoterReg/PollingPlace/search.aspx>

If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, direct the voter to ask the poll worker to call the county auditor and confirm the registration. If the voter still is not on the rolls, let them know that the voter can register to vote at the polling place.

### **4. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID.**

Call the *Legal Command Center* or call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

## **Where to Vote:**

### **1. Where do I vote (for voters who have not moved)?**

You can look up polling locations with the Polling Place Finder at <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/VoterReg/PollingPlace/search.aspx>.

### **2. I have moved within the same PRECINCT and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?**

If the voter has moved within the same precinct, the voter should go to the appropriate polling place for that precinct. If the voter registration list still lists the voter's old address, the voter will be asked to update their registration. If the updated address is within the precinct, the voter must be permitted to vote.

### **3. I have moved to a different precinct within the same COUNTY and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?**

The voter should go to the new polling location that corresponds to their new address and update the registration by completing a new voter registration application using the new residence address. The voter will be required to present acceptable evidence to prove her/his new residence address.

### **4. I have moved from one county to another and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?**

The voter should go to the new polling place that corresponds to their new address in the voter's NEW COUNTY, and update the registration by completing a new voter registration application using the new residence address. The voter will be required to present the forms of identification required to register to vote, including proof of the voter's new address.

## **Assistance at the polls:**

### **1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?**

Iowa law requires that each polling place be evaluated for accessibility and provide at least one accessible voting booth. Voters can also vote from their vehicle if they cannot easily enter the polling place. If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the disabled, call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE immediately so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

### **2. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance at the polls in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?**

A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above can take a person of their choice into the voting booth (except employer, an agent of employer, an officer or agent of their union). Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to disabled or language minority voters if asked to do so by the voter. If a poll worker refuses to allow a disabled or language minority voter to bring a person of their choice into the voting booth, call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE immediately. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

Iowa is not covered by the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and is not required to provide ballots in non-English languages.

## **Miscellaneous Issues:**

### **1. I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls.**

An individual shall be allowed to go to and from the polling place for the purpose of voting without unlawful interference. All candidates and anyone else trying to induce or persuade a voter may not do so within ~~100~~ 300 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated, or anywhere on the public property on which a polling place is situated: I.C.A §39A.4. -They can solicit you if they comply with this rule. If they are violating these requirements, contact the *Legal Command Center* to report the problem, let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess if calling an election official is necessary.

### **2. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?**

As long as the voter has NOT already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, they should be allowed to vote in person. If the voter received, but did not cast, the ballot, they should bring it to the poll where they can get a new ballot to cast at the polls. If they lost or never received the ballot, they can still vote at the polls by provisional ballot after signing an oath promising that they did not cast their ballot.

### **3. There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.**

Call the *Legal Command Center* immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

If the voter agrees, put them on hold while you call the *Legal Command Center* so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible.

After hanging up with the caller, call back the *Legal Command Center* and fill the attorneys there in on the details.

**4. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?**

Maybe. Iowa law permits convicted felons to vote if their rights have been restored. Voting rights may be restored any time after conviction. Persons can request restoration of rights from the governor. On a monthly basis, the governor also considers whether to restore rights to all people who were completely discharged of their sentence, including any parole, probation, or supervised release.

**5. I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?**

College students may register and vote where they go to school if they live near the school, but student may also opt to vote at their permanent home address. If a student has been turned away at the polls, determine whether they fulfilled all the registration requirements (residency, age, criminal status) and that they have presented proper proof of residence. If so, contact the Legal Command Center to dispatch an attorney to the location and contact the appropriate election official.