



Kathy Thorberg  
Boone County Election Commissioner  
222 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Albion, Nebraska 68620-1247

As your County Clerk and Election Official, I will be providing information and important dates during the course of this election year to keep the voters of Boone County informed. I would be interested to know if you find this information helpful. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me. Thank you.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **< PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES >**

#### **How many election precincts are in Boone County?**

- Boone County has 9 election precincts. On Election Day there will be 1 polling site, a combined polling place at the Boone County Fairgrounds for the precincts of North Manchester, Southeast Manchester and Southwest Manchester. The precincts of Beaver, Boone, Cedar, Dublin/Bonanza, North Branch/Shell Creek and Oakland will be mail only precincts with no polling place being available for those six precincts.

#### **What are the hours the polls are open for voting in the Nebraska Primary on May 15, 2018 and the General Election on November 6, 2018?**

- The respective polling sites are open for voting from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. CST

### **< CANDIDATE FILING INFORMATION >**

#### **How can a person file as a candidate for an office during any upcoming election?**

- The candidate filing form is available through the Secretary of State's office or through the local County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office. Either location can provide assistance with completing the form. In addition, there is Candidate Filing Information and Non Partisan/Partisan Candidate Filing Forms available on our website at [www.co.boone.ne.us](http://www.co.boone.ne.us) at Offices>Election Commissioner>Election Information.

### **< VOTER REGISTRATION >**

#### **Do I have to be registered to vote?**

- Yes, voter registration is required in Nebraska to be eligible to vote.
- The only exception is at a Presidential election for persons who have recently moved to Nebraska, or moved to another state after that state's registration deadline. They may vote a Presidential-only ballot by contacting the county election official.

#### **What qualifications are there for a person to vote in any election?**

- 18 years of age or older on General Election Day
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Nebraska
- Not convicted of a felony, or if convicted, it has been at least two years since the completion of the sentence for the felony including any parole term
- Not to have been found mentally incompetent

#### **If my 18th birthday is on or before November 6, 2018, may I vote in the May 15th Primary Election?**

Yes, provided you have completed a voter registration prior to the May 4, 2018 deadline.

#### **Do I have to be a resident for a certain amount of time to register?**

- No, you may register to vote the same day you become a resident of the State of Nebraska.

#### **How do I register to vote?**

- You may register in person at the local County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office during normal business hours.
- You may also register by mail. Voter Registration Applications are available at several locations throughout the state, including post offices and libraries. Additionally, a voter registration application can be obtained from the following websites:
  - [www.co.boone.ne.us](http://www.co.boone.ne.us) at Offices>Election Commissioner>Election Information and clicking on the Voter Registration Application link; or
  - [www.sos.nebraska.gov](http://www.sos.nebraska.gov) at Elections>Voter Forms.
- If registering for the ***first time in Nebraska by mail***, please provide a copy of a current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document which is dated within 60 days immediately prior to the date of presentation showing the same name and residence address provided on the voter registration application to avoid delays with your registration.
- In addition, you may register to vote through the State Department of Motor Vehicles when applying for or renewing your driver's license or at various other state agencies.
- You ***must sign*** your Voter Registration Application before it is returned to your County Clerk/Election Commissioner.
- In addition, you may register online through the NE Reg2Vote link found at the Nebraska Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.nebraska.gov](http://www.sos.nebraska.gov) and also at [www.co.boone.ne.us](http://www.co.boone.ne.us).

### **Must I designate a party affiliation?**

- No, voters may choose from one of the three statewide parties currently recognized in Nebraska; Democratic, Republican and Libertarian or they may choose to not affiliate with any party by checking the non-partisan box on the application.
- If you wish to vote the Primary Election, where parties choose their nominees for state and county offices, you need to declare your party affiliation.
- If you register without a political party affiliation, you will receive only the non-partisan ballot at the Primary Election.
- Non-partisans may designate a party preference at Primary Elections and receive partisan ballots for the Senate and House congressional races only.
- Party designation has no bearing when voting a non-partisan ballot or in the General Election.

### **If I have not voted for several elections, am I still a registered voter able to vote in the upcoming elections?**

- You may contact the County Clerk's Office at 402-395-2055 to verify if your voter registration is current and correct; or
- You can also visit <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/> and review this information online. However, if any corrections need to be made you will need to provide a new voter registration application to the County Clerk.

### **Are there situations where I would need to re-register?**

- You must re-register whenever you change:
  - Your name,
  - Your address, or
  - Your political affiliation.
  - Failure to vote in a previous election does not require re-registration.

### **How is residence determined?**

- By law, your residence is that place at which you have established a home, where you are habitually present and to which, when you depart, you intend to return.
- Leaving for temporary purposes, such as military service, school attendance, hospital stays, or missions work need not result in a change of residence for voting purposes.
- However, any permanent change in your residence or address will require you re-register to vote.

### **When is the last day to register to vote or to make changes to my voter registration in order to vote in the Primary Election/General Election?**

- ❖ Primary Election:
  - April 30, 2018 with the Department of Motor Vehicles, Deputy Registrars or online and postmark deadline for mail-in voter registrations; or
  - May 4, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. for in-person voter registration in the County Clerk's Office.
- ❖ General Election:

- October 19, 2018 with the Department of Motor Vehicles, Deputy Registrars or online and postmark deadline for mail-in voter registrations; or
- October 26, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. for in-person voter registration in the County Clerk's Office.

## < EARLY VOTING & MAIL ONLY PRECINCTS >

### **Is Early Voting available now?**

- In person Early Voting begins 30 days before the election. The first day you may begin Early Voting for the 2018 Primary Election is April 16, 2018. The first day you may begin Early Voting for the 2018 General Election is October 9, 2018.

### **Who may apply for an Early Voting ballot?**

- Anyone may apply for an Early Voting ballot, such as:
  - Persons not able to go to the polls due to their work or vacation schedule;
  - Persons not able to go to the polls due to a medical condition or hospitalization;
  - Persons temporarily out of the county, state or country;
  - Persons not wishing to travel to the polls; or
  - Persons not wishing to leave their home.

### **Do I need to give the reason why I am voting early when applying for Early Voting ballots?**

- No, since 1999 Nebraska law has not required a person disclose a reason for their request on the Early Voting application.

### **How do I request an Early Voting Ballot?**

- An early voting ballot request **must be in writing**. The first day our office can accept an early voting ballot request for the 2018 Primary Election is January 14, 2018. The first day our office can accept an early voting ballot request for the 2018 General Election is July 8, 2018. The form for requesting an Early Voting Ballot is available at:
  - Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.nebraska.gov](http://www.sos.nebraska.gov) at Elections>Voter Forms; and
  - Boone County's website at [www.co.boone.ne.us](http://www.co.boone.ne.us) by going to the Offices>Election Commissioner>Election Information and clicking on the Application for Early Voter's Ballot link;
- Part of campaign material that may be mailed to you;
- Published in the local newspapers; or
- A written request on note paper.
- The request to the County Clerk's office may be by mail, fax or delivered in person.

### **What is an agent?**

- An agent is someone designated by the voter to sign an Early Voting Ballot Request Form. The agent may pick up the ballot or request the ballot be mailed to the voter. A registered voter may act as an agent for two registered voters in addition to themselves.

### **What information is needed for an Early Voting Ballot request?**

- Your name, voter registration address, party (Primary Election only); precinct, if known, and the address you would like the Early Voting Ballot to be mailed to.

### **May I vote my Early Voting Ballot in the County Clerk's Office?**

- Yes, you may vote an Early Voting Ballot in person from April 16, 2018 through May 14, 2018, for the Primary Election; and from October 9, 2018 through November 5, 2018 for the General Election, in the Boone County Clerk's Office.

### **May I have the Early Voting Ballot mailed to me after the Clerk's office receives a written request?**

- Yes, Early Voting Ballots may be mailed from April 9, 2018 through May 4, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. for the Primary Election; and from October 1, 2018 through October 26, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. for the General Election.

### **When must Early Voting Ballots be returned to the County Clerk's Office?**

- Early Voting Ballots may be returned to the County Clerk's office at any time but no later than 8:00 P.M. CST on Election Day.

### **Can I return my Early Voting Ballot to the polls?**

- **NO**, it must be returned to the County Clerk's Office on or before 8:00 P.M. CST on Election Day, since all of the Early Voting Ballots are considered and counted as a separate precinct.

**How does a Mail-Only Precinct work?**

- All registered voters in Beaver, Boone, Cedar, Dublin-Bonanza, North Branch/Shell Creek and Oakland will be mailed their respective ballot 22 days before the election and will include return postage. The mail-only precinct ballots need to be returned to the County Clerk's office on or before 8:00 P.M. on Election Day.

**Will my Early Voter's or Mail-Only Ballot be counted if I forget to sign the return envelope?**

- **No.** The envelope must be signed otherwise the ballot is logged in the computer as a rejected ballot and not counted.

**On the face of an Early Voter or Mail-Only Ballot, it says "Use only the marking device provided".**

- The ballots used at the polls are the same ballots used for Early Voters and Mail-Only precincts. The device referred to is for use at the polls. The Early Voter and Mail-Only Ballot envelopes give guidance on how to complete the voting process and to use either a black medium pen or a No. 2 lead pencil in order for the M650 counting machine to read your ballot.

**What if I use color ink or a marker?**

- Any device used to mark a ballot other than the above-mentioned may result in the counting machine not counting the vote.

**If my Early Voter's or Mail-Only ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received, what should I do?**

- The voter can obtain a replacement ballot from the Election Commissioner by signing an Affidavit for Replacement Ballot.
- To receive the replacement ballot in person, the voter shall return the affidavit to the Election Commissioner by noon on the day of the election.
- To receive a replacement ballot by mail, the voter shall return the affidavit to the Election Commissioner prior to the close of business on the 4<sup>th</sup> business day before the election.

**Will my Early Voter's or Mail-Only ballot be confidential?**

- **Yes.** Every measure is taken to insure the confidentiality of the vote. The Early Voting and Mail-Only precinct ballots arrive in the County Clerk's office sealed and placed into a ballot box for either Early Voter's ballots or a ballot box for the respective Mail-Only precinct, which is not opened until election evening for counting.

**< MILITARY & OVERSEAS VOTERS >**

**If you need to register to Vote:**

- You may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), National Voter Registration Form or Nebraska Voter Registration Application
- The FPCA is frequently used by military and overseas voters as it serves as both a registration application and early-voting application.
- If possible, it is strongly encouraged that you provide an email address on your FPCA. The email address you provide will be the primary method of correspondence, meaning you will receive your ballot and other materials via email. If you do not have an email address, you may provide a fax number or mailing address. Whatever method you provide will be the method the county election office will send your ballot and keep in contact with you.
- The federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act changed the effective duration of the FPCA. You will need to send an early voting request or FPCA each calendar year you wish to receive an early voting ballot.
- The Federal Post Card Application can be found at:
  - Boone County's website at [www.co.boone.ne.us](http://www.co.boone.ne.us) by going to the Offices>Election Commissioner>Election Information and clicking on the Federal Voting Assistance Program link; or
  - Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.nebraska.gov](http://www.sos.nebraska.gov) and clicking on Elections>Military Voters or Elections>Overseas Voters and clicking on the link to the Federal Post Card Application.

**If you need to Request an Early Voting Ballot:**

- Fill out the Federal Post Card Application or Nebraska Early Voting Application. If possible, it is strongly encouraged that you provide an email address on your FPCA. The email address you provide will be the primary method of correspondence, meaning you will receive your ballot and other materials via email. If you do not have

an email address, you may provide a fax number or mailing address. Whatever method you provide will be the method the county election office will send your ballot and keep in contact with you.

- The federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act changed the effective duration of the FPCA. You will need to send an early voting request or FPCA each calendar year you wish to receive an early voting ballot.
- The Federal Post Card Application form can be found at the sites noted above.
- Once the county election office receives your application, you will receive a confirmation that your application has been received.
- If you receive your ballot and you do not think that it will arrive at the county election office by the deadline, contact the county election office to make other arrangements.

#### **Tracking your ballot:**

- Check the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.nebraska.gov](http://www.sos.nebraska.gov) at Elections>Voter Information Center to track the status of your ballot.

#### **If you have questions:**

- Boone County Clerk/Election Commissioner at (402) 395-2055 or [clerk@boone.nacone.org](mailto:clerk@boone.nacone.org);
- Secretary of State's Office toll free at (888) 727-0007 or [sos.elect@nebraska.gov](mailto:sos.elect@nebraska.gov); or
- Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP.gov) 24 hours a day.

## **< ELECTION DAY & VOTING THE BALLOT >**

#### **Where do I vote?**

- Each voter must cast his/her ballot at his/her assigned polling place. If you do not know the location of your polling place, contact the County Clerk/Election Commission or by checking <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>.

#### **Do I need a voting card or my ID in order to vote?**

- No, the card is for information only and does not need to be presented to election officials in order to vote.
- The only time voters are asked for their ID is if they were a first time Nebraska registrant who mailed in their registration application and didn't provide ID at that time.

#### **Am I able to vote if I did not re-register?**

- Registered voters who moved from one residence to another in the same county, or who changed their name and remained in the same county will be allowed to vote at the polling place designated for their new residence.
- These voters may be asked to cast a Provisional Ballot upon completing a certification and new registration form.
- Persons casting Provisional Ballots may check to see if their ballot was counted starting the second Wednesday after the election by visiting <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/> or calling toll free 1-888-727-0007. Provisional Ballots are counted only after the information the voter provided on their certification form is verified.
- Persons moving from one county in Nebraska to another county in Nebraska must re-register in their new county in order to be eligible to vote.

#### **When voting do I need to vote on all issues on the ballot?**

- No. *For Example:* You may want to only vote the Congressional, School Board and Amendment and leave the rest blank. That is permissible and those votes will count in the total. The other races not voted will be in the under vote/over vote tally.

#### **When voting and it says to vote for up to THREE, what if I only vote for two?**

- The two you voted for will be counted in the overall total and the one not voted for will be considered an under vote.

#### **When voting and it says to vote for ONE but I voted for two?**

- It is considered an over vote and no candidate will receive a vote for that particular ballot race.

#### **I have already marked my ballot and I changed my mind while in the voting booth. What should I do?**

- The voter should write "spoiled" on the back of the ballot and return it to the election official. The election officials shall maintain the secrecy of the ballot and place the spoiled ballot in a "Spoiled Ballot" envelope and issue the voter another ballot.

**If I am registered as a Non-Partisan, can I vote for a partisan candidate in the Primary Election?**

- No. To vote for a partisan (Republican, Democratic or Libertarian) office, you must change your voter registration for the Primary Election prior to May 4, 2018, to affiliate with a specific political party.

**If I am registered as a Non-Partisan, can I vote for the Senatorial and Congressional candidates in the Primary Election?**

- Yes, you may ask for only one of the partisan ballots (Republican, Democratic or Libertarian). The election clerks at the polls cannot offer the ballot, therefore, you, as the voter, have to ask for a partisan ballot when signing the election register.

**May I request help at the polls?**

- Each polling site is furnished with ADA equipment, known as the AutoMARK.
- Assistance may be rendered by a relative, friend or an election judge and clerk of opposite parties.
- A ballot may be taken to a car, if parked within one block of the polling place.
- An oath form is to be completed by the person rendering assistance and "Assistance Rendered" is noted in the precinct roster next to the voter's name.

**Can I campaign at my polling place?**

- No one may campaign or hand out political literature within 200 feet of a polling place. Wearing political badges or any political insignia into the polling place on Election Day is against the law.

**Persons may call the Boone County Clerk/Election Commissioner at (402) 395-2055 or the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office Election Division Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (888) 727-0007 (toll free) or (402) 471-2555 to report problems.**