

Early Voting and Voter Registration Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is early voting?

A. Early voting allows a voter to request their ballot by mail and cast that ballot prior to an election date. Early voting is often convenient for the voter as they may be unavailable, or away for their residence on election day.

Q. Who can participate in early voting?

A. Nebraska allows early voting for any registered voter; however, the voter must submit an early voting application to the county clerk / election office prior to any election that they choose to vote early.

Q. Why did I receive an early voting application in the mail?

A. Adams County chose to mail early voting applications to all active registered voters. This was sent as a courtesy to our voters as the demand for voting by mail has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. The early voting application I received does not have my middle initial on it and I usually sign with my middle name/initial? Will this application still work?

A. Yes. Due to space limitations on the card, middle names/initials were omitted. We use birthdates, address and signatures on file to make sure we are processing the correct voter's request.

Q. Do I have to participate in early voting?

A. No. The decision to participate in early voting is optional. If you do not want to participate, simply discard the form received.

Q. Will polling locations be open on November 3rd?

A. Yes, polling locations will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Due to the developing COVID-19 situation, please verify your polling location prior to voting. Some polling locations may need to be moved due to reasons related to COVID-19, as well as other unforeseen reasons. We will keep our website updated as necessary or you may look up your polling location at www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov

Q. How do I return my ballot application?

A. Return your application by the following methods:

- Mail to: Adams County Clerk
500 W 4th St STE 109
Hastings, NE 68901-7657

(please note that returning the application by mail does require postage, you may fold the application postcard and place it in an envelope for mailing)

- In person / drop box: You may return the application in person to the Adams County Clerk's office, or utilize the drop box at the courthouse main entrance.
- Fax: 402-461-7185
- Email: you may scan or take a picture of your signed application and email it to earlyvote@adamscounty.org

Q. I emailed my early voting application to earlyvote@adamscounty.org. How do I know you received it?

A. Once the application is received, it will generate an automatic reply telling you it has been received in our inbox.

Q. What is the deadline to submit my early voting application?

A. You must submit your early voting application no later than 6:00 p.m. on October 23, 2020 to request you ballot be mailed to you; no exceptions allowed. §32-941

Q. When will my ballots be mailed?

A. Per §32-808 states that ballots can start being mailed 35 days prior to the election. This means ballots will begin being mailed out on September 28, 2020. Please allow sufficient time for delivery.

Q. How do I return my early voting ballot?

A. You may return your early voting ballot by mail; postage is required, or you may return it in person to the Adams County Clerk's office or use the ballot drop box at the main courthouse entrance.

Q. I have been hearing a lot of negative things in the news regarding mail in ballots. Is mailing in my ballot secure?

A. Adams County takes the early voting/voting by mail process very seriously. We have accommodated early voters by mail for many years, as well as conducted special elections by all mail. Every year the request for early voting increases as voters appreciate the convenience it provides.

It is unfortunate that national media coverage is overshadowing the dedication displayed by Nebraska Election Offices. Please know that Adams County will continue to oversee the early voting election process in the same manner we always have. If you are still uneasy mailing your ballots in, please utilize in person drop off or use the drop box at the main courthouse entrance.

Q. I need to register to vote and/or update my voter registration, how do I do this?

A. You may register or update you voter registration at www.sos.nebraska.gov until **October 16, 2020**. The deadline for in person registration at county clerk's office is **6:00 pm on October 23, 2020** to register in person at the county clerk's office. §32-310 and §32-302

As always, please contact our office with any questions.

Respectfully,

Ramona R. Thomas

Adams County Clerk