

# 2022 Primary Election FAQ's

**Q: What is the Primary Election?**

A: The Primary Election is an election by the political parties to nominate their candidates for the General Election ballot. No one is elected in a Primary election; candidates are nominated. In order to win a political party nomination, the candidate must receive more votes than anyone else in his/her party for that race and receive at least 35% of the votes cast for that office by members of their political party.

**Q: When will the Primary Election be held?**

A: Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

**Q: When are the polls open for the Primary Election?**

A: Polls must be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm.

**Q. Why is the Primary Election different from other types of elections?**

A. The difference between Primary Elections and other elections is that a voter's party affiliation must be declared and it must be included on election registers, eligibility slips, absentee ballot requests and absentee ballot affidavits.

**Q: Can I register to vote at the polls?**

A: Yes. You will need both proof of identity (which everyone needs) AND proof of residence.

**Q. If I am registered as No Party can I still vote in the Primary Election?**

A. Yes. However, you will have to re-register with one of the two parties in order to cast a ballot. Only voters registered with one of the two parties (Democratic or Republican) may vote in the Primary Election.

**Q. Can I change my party affiliation at the time that I vote?**

A. Yes.

**Q: How many days before an election do I need to register to vote if I'm not registered or if I moved, and I want my name to be on the voter register at the polls?**

A: 15 days

- Monday, May 23, 2022

**Q: When is the first day I may request an absentee ballot by mail?**

A: 70 days before the election.

- Tuesday, March 29, 2022

**Q: After I send in my absentee ballot request form, when will the County Auditor mail me my ballot?**

A: The Auditor can begin mailing absentee ballots 20 days before the election.

- Wednesday, May 18, 2022 or when ballots are available.

**Q: When is the last day that I can request an absentee ballot by mail?**

A: The County Auditor must receive your request form at least 15 days before the election. (For exceptions, see below.)

- Monday, May 23, 2022

**Q: What is the deadline for getting my absentee ballot back to the County Auditor?**

A: The County Auditor must have your ballot by the close of the polls, which is 8:00 pm on election day.

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**Q: Won't my ballot be counted as long as it is postmarked before election day?**

A: No. The law changed, and your ballot must be in the possession of the County Auditor by 8:00 pm on election day.

**Q: May I return someone else's absentee ballot, or may someone else return my absentee ballot?**

A: The only people who may return a voter's absentee ballot (we're talking about the BALLOT, NOT the ballot REQUEST FORM) are the voter, someone living in the voter's household, an immediate family member, or, if the voter is blind or has another disability, or a special delivery agent. (For exceptions and details, see below.)

**Q: When is the first day I can vote absentee in person at the Auditor's Office?**

A: 20 days before the election. You should only vote at the office if you have not requested a ballot by mail.

- Wednesday, May 18, 2022 or when ballots are available.

**Q: When is the last day I can vote absentee in person at the Auditor's Office?**

A: The day before the election. (This didn't change.)

- Monday, June 6, 2022, 4:30 pm

**Q. If I declare one party to vote for in the Primary Election can I change back to my previous registration?**

A. Yes. However, you may not do so the same day as voting. You will need to complete a new voter registration application. The change will be processed after the Primary Election has been certified and vote credit has been posted for every voter.

**Q. If I vote a Democratic ballot, can I write-in a Republican for an office and vice-versa?**

A. Primary election voters are making nominations for their own political parties. A write-in vote for a Republican candidate on a Democratic ballot will be tallied as a Democratic vote, not a Republican vote.

**Q. How do nonpartisan candidates get on a ballot?**

A. Nonpartisan candidates file nomination papers for the General Election. The filing period for nonpartisan candidates was March 7 - March 25, 2022. The Primary Election is held to nominate political party candidates to the General Election ballot; therefore, candidates not affiliated with either political party cannot participate in the Primary Election.

**Q. What about Primary races where no candidate filed?**

A. In order to win a political party's nomination and have their names placed automatically on the General Election ballot, a write-in candidate must have at least 35% of the number of votes that were cast by the party's voters for the same office the last time the party had a candidate for that office on the Primary Election ballot.

**Q. What if no write-in candidate achieves the necessary 35%?**

A. If a political party fails to make a nomination at the Primary Election, the party can hold a convention to nominate a candidate for that office.

For exceptions, details, and more law changes, [click here](#) for the 2021 Election Law Changes for Iowa Voters, published by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors.

<https://claycounty.iowa.gov/auditor/elections/>