

2021 Special Election FAQ's

Q: What is the Special Election for?

A: Governor Reynolds called for a Special Election to fill a vacancy following State Senator District 1 Zach Whiting's resignation.

Q: When will the Special election be held?

A: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Q: When are the polls open for the Special election?

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

Q: What does the Special election include?

A: The only item on the ballot is State Senator District 1 To Fill A Vacancy.

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, November 29, 2021

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

A: 70 days before the election.

- Governor Reynolds called for the Special Election on November 3. This means absentee requests for this election can be accepted immediately.

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, November 24, 2021 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, November 29, 2021.

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.

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

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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, November 24, 2021 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, December 13, 2021, 5:00 pm

Q: Where will the polls be on election day?

A: Vote Center's will be used for the Special election. Voter's in Clay County may go to any of the locations below on election day to cast their ballot:

- Webb: Webb Community Center, 306 Church Street
- Royal: Royal Community Center, 302 Main Street
- Spencer: Clay Regional Events Center, 800 West 18th Street

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/>