

Disability Rights IOWA

Law Center for Protection and Advocacy™

Iowans with Disabilities Voter Eligibility and Rights

Generally, you are eligible to vote in Iowa if:

- ✓ You have lived in Iowa and in the election district you plan to vote in
 - ✓ You are a citizen of the United States
 - ✓ You are 18 years old on Election Day

If you are an eligible voter, you:

- Can **vote by absentee ballot** if you make a written request for the ballot in advance.
 - Should be **treated with respect** at a polling location.
 - Can request **accessible voting instructions and registration materials**.
 - Have the right to vote at a **physically accessible polling place**.
 - Can **vote curbside at your request**.
 - Can **ask for accommodations** if you need them.
 - Can **ask for assistance** in marking a ballot or completing a registration application.
 - Can **file a complaint** if you feel your rights have been violated.
- If your name is on the list of registered voters **you have the right to vote without providing proof of your identity or residence**.
 - **You have the right to register on election day at your polling place** if you can show proof of residency in the election district, or if another qualified elector who resides in your municipality will verify (or “corroborate”) your eligibility.
 - If you have not registered to vote, or if you did register but your name is not on the registration list, **you have the right to vote at your district’s polling location** after (i) signing a registration form and (ii) providing written proof of your residence or having another voter confirm your residence.
 - If you cannot read, if you have difficulty understanding English, or if you are blind or otherwise physically disabled, **you have the right to receive help when voting** from anyone except your employer or agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union.
 - All polling places must be physically accessible to you; however, state statutes still allow the option to vote curbside. **If you are unable to enter a polling place as a result of a disability, you must be allowed to vote outside the polling place. Two election officials must take a ballot out to you.** After you mark the ballot, it will be taken back into the polling place.
 - If you do not provide the clerk with proper identification when registering to vote by mail, and if you go to the polls without proper identification, **you have the right to vote by provisional ballot**.
 - **You may bring an unofficial sample ballot** into the polling place.
 - **You may request a paper ballot** if you cannot use the voting machine due to your physical disability.

- If you make a mistake or “spoil” your ballot, **you have the right to request a replacement ballot** from the election officials.
(Note: If a voter is experiencing difficulty in marking the ballot, the voter may request assistance from any individual who is not his or her employer or an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of his or her union.)
- When you are within 100 feet of the entrance to a building containing a polling place, **you have the right to wait in line to vote without a political candidate or anyone from a political party or group supporting a referendum trying to influence your vote.**
- If you are eligible to vote in a ward or district, but do not have documented proof of your residence, **you can have someone who is eligible to vote in your municipality corroborate your residency.** The corroborator does not need to be a registered voter. They must provide proof that they reside in the same municipality as you, and must sign a statement that says you live at the address in question.

You may call this number if you have any questions about your voting rights or the voting process. If you are a person with a disability and feel that your voting rights have been violated, you may call this number if you have any questions about your voting rights or the voting process. You may contact

Disability Rights Iowa (**DRI**)
400 East Court Ave., Suite 300
Des Moines, IA 50309
Tel: 515-278-2502 • TTY: 1-866-483-3342
FAX: 515-278-0539 • Toll Free: 1-800-779-2502
www.disabilityrightsowa.org

Our Mission: To Defend and promote the human and legal rights of Iowans with disabilities