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As the **Chief Elections Officer** for South Dakota, it is my responsibility to ensure the integrity of the elections process. **Nearly 20%** of all ballots cast in South Dakota are done by **absentee voting**. Any registered South Dakota voter can vote an absentee ballot **by mail or in-person** at their county auditor’s office **up to 46 days prior** to a primary and general election without having to provide a reason. We want your experience to be **fair, transparent and secure**.

- *Shantel Krebs,*
SECRETARY OF STATE



Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

All military and overseas citizens are allowed to submit their application for absentee ballot electronically (fax or email).

- UOCAVA voters provide an email address on the absentee ballot application.
- The UOCAVA voter will receive an email with a username, password and a link to access their ballot. Once the voter accesses the ballot, the username and password is only valid for 48 hours.
- UOCAVA voters must PRINT the ballot off, MARK their ballot and MAIL their ballot back to his/her county auditor. **No marked ballots can be returned electronically.**
- Stateside military must submit the absentee ballot application with a copy of his/her ID or have his/her signature notarized.
- The ID requirements are waived for all military and US citizens living outside of the US.

*For the most current information, visit
SDSOS.GOV or call **(605) 773-3537**.*



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Capitol Building
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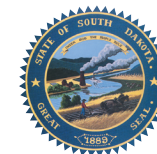
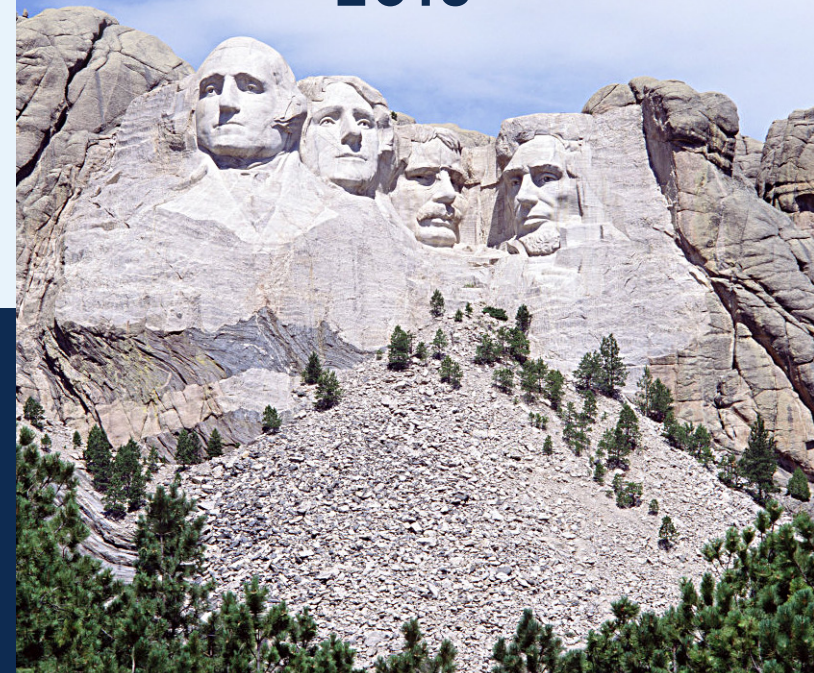
20,000 copies published by the Secretary of State office using HAVA funds on 07/14/16 at a cost of \$0.14 each.

A Guide To Understanding

Absentee Voting

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IN SOUTH DAKOTA

• 2016 •



**SOUTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE**
SHANTEL KREBS

Frequently Asked Questions About Absentee Voting

Q: How do I Absentee Vote by Mail?

A: All voters wanting to vote absentee by mail must complete and submit a signed absentee ballot application to the county auditor in the county he/she is registered to vote in. The application must include a copy of one of the valid ID's listed below or the voter's signature must be notarized, except for military and US citizens residing outside of the US. An application for absentee ballot is only good for the calendar year it is signed in.

Q: Where do I get an Absentee Ballot Request Form?

A: Visit your local County Auditor's office or the Secretary of State's website: SDSOS.GOV.

Q: How do I Absentee Vote in Person?

A: Registered voters can vote in person once Absentee Voting begins at their County Auditor's office by bringing along a valid photo Identification Card (ID). If a voter does not have a photo ID, they must be given the option to sign a personal identification affidavit and vote a regular ballot.

Q: What is the Deadline to Request and Vote an Absentee Ballot?

A: The deadline to request and vote an absentee ballot is 5:00pm the day prior to the election.

Q: How Early can I Absentee Vote?

A: Any voter can vote an absentee ballot 46 days prior to a primary and general election. The voter can vote absentee by mail or the voter can vote in-person at their county auditor's office.

Q: What are Accepted Voter Photo Identification Cards (ID) in South Dakota?

A: South Dakota driver's license or nondriver identification card; A passport or an identification card, including a picture, issued by an agency of the United States government; A tribal identification card, including a picture; or A current student identification card, including a picture, issued by a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, including a university, college, or technical school, located within the State of South Dakota.

All voters are required by law to show a photo ID in order to cast a ballot.

Q: What Do I Do if I don't have a Photo ID?

A: If a voter does not have one of the acceptable forms of ID, that voter must be given the option to sign a personal identification affidavit and vote a regular ballot.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

at Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Centers or Hospitals

- For a **general election**, if there is any nursing facility, assisted living center, or hospital, as defined in § 34-12-1.1, within any county from which there might reasonably be expected to be five or more absentee applications, the county auditor shall notify the person in charge of that facility that the auditor's office will be present to assist the residents of that facility to vote, utilizing the in-person absentee procedure.
- The photo ID and affidavit requirements are waived for residents in these facilities if the auditor's office is voting them in-person at that facility using the combined absentee application/returned envelope.
- The auditor's office can only absentee vote residents in the facility that are registered voters in that county where the facility is located.
- Any resident of one of these facilities can still vote absentee by mail.

Authorized Messenger

In the event of confinement because of sickness or disability, a qualified voter may submit an application for an absentee ballot and designate an individual to serve as an authorized messenger to pick up the ballot from the county auditor and bring it to that voter to vote.

The voter can send the sealed, voted ballot back to the county auditor by mailing it back or returning it with the authorized messenger or any other person they want to have deliver the voted ballot to the auditor. Any application for a ballot by an authorized messenger must be received by the person in charge of the election before 3:00pm the day of the election.

View Your Sample Ballot and Track Your Absentee Ballot

The **Voter Information Portal** (VIP) on the Secretary of State's website allows you to search your voter registration information, polling place location and your sample ballot.

If you are voting by absentee ballot, this search will also provide you with tracking information regarding the date your absentee ballot application was received, the date your absentee ballot was sent to you, and the date your absentee ballot was received.

Visit our website to access the Voter Information Portal (VIP):



SDSOS.GOV/Elections/VIPLogin.aspx

Download the **Vote 605** Smartphone App for **FREE!**

Voting information at your fingertips! Voters have the ability to find their polling place and view their sample ballot for primary and general elections.



- **Find** Your Polling Place
- **View** Sample Ballot
- **View** Legislative District
- **Access** County Auditor
- **Gather** Absentee Ballot Info
- **View** Secretary of State's Website SDSOS.GOV

Find it on:

