

COUNTY AUDITOR
AND COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

GRANT VEEDER

KAREN SHOWALTER-Elections Manager

ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION DIVISION
BLACK HAWK COUNTY
316 E. 5TH STREET ROOM 210
WATERLOO, IOWA 50703-4774

Phone (319) 833-3007
Fax (319) 833-3119
E-mail election@co.black-hawk.ia.us

NEWS RELEASE

August 26, 2020

Absentee Ballots and the Post Office

Local election officials are in direct contact with the United States Postal Service in Iowa, and have received assurances on issues of concern regarding absentee ballots for the November 3 General Election.

County Auditor Grant Veeder said that he and Elections Manager Karen Showalter held a Zoom conference call with USPS officials in Des Moines who directly addressed the situation at the Waterloo Post Office. They would like the voting public to be aware of the following:

- Election mail, including absentee ballots, will continue to be a top priority.
- The Post Office will grant overtime as needed for processing large amounts of mail.
- The high-speed sorters at the Waterloo plant are capable of quickly sorting all anticipated ballots.
- Absentee ballots sent to zip codes beginning with 504, 506, 507, and 521 will be processed at the Waterloo plant and sent to carrier routes the next day.
- The Election Office will put first-class postage on ballots sent out of the county or state.
- There are five contract postal units (CPUs) in Black Hawk County. In Waterloo: Hy-Vee stores at Crossroads, Logan Avenue and Ansborough Avenue. In Cedar Falls, College Square Hy-Vee and University Book Store. Voters are encouraged to use these sites for their ballots if they wish to request a round date stamp put on their return envelope.
- Both the Post Office and the Auditor's Office still strongly advise voters to mail in their absentee ballot request forms, and once received, their absentee ballots, as soon as possible.
- Absentee ballots cannot be mailed out until October 5. Ballots for all requests received by then will be sent out on that date.

For questions, contact the Election Office at 833-3007 or election@co.black-hawk.ia.us.