

COUNTY AUDITOR  
AND COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

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***NEWS RELEASE***

September 10, 2020

**Multiple Absentee Ballot Requests**

The Black Hawk County Auditor's Office is again stressing that voters shouldn't be surprised to receive multiple absentee ballot request (ABR) forms in the mail.

"Every time another group sends out an ABR mailing there is some confusion," said County Auditor Grant Veeder. "The important things to understand are that all the request forms delivered to Black Hawk County voters are valid, and that we're only going to send one ballot per voter, even for voters who send in more than one request."

Veeder said that people who are uncertain whether they have sent in a proper request may call the County Election Office at 319-833-3007 for a quick answer.

Another common misunderstanding is that the mailings contain actual ballots, rather than request forms. Ballots will only be mailed from the office of the County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections, and none will be mailed out until October 5.

To date, ABRs for Iowa voters have been mailed by the Iowa Secretary of State, the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the Center for Voter Information, and some county auditors. People are being encouraged to vote from home to lessen the risk of coronavirus infection.

The only request forms of questionable validity are those sent by Johnson, Linn and Woodbury Counties, where auditors are being sued for pre-filling some of the required information. The Secretary of State told counties they could only send out blank forms, but this requirement does not apply to private organizations like the political parties.

Veeder has also said that the US Postal Service in Iowa has given assurances that absentee ballots will continue to be a top priority, with next-day delivery within the county. Voters are still encouraged to get ballots back as quickly as possible, and a drop box outside of the entrance to the courthouse will be available by October 5 for in-person delivery.

The deadline for ballot requests to be in the Auditor's Office is 5:00 pm on October 24. Ballots must be returned by 9:00 pm on Election Day, November 3, or be postmarked the day before or earlier, and received by noon on November 9.

Further questions may be addressed to the Black Hawk County Election Office at 833-3007 or [election@co.black-hawk.ia.us](mailto:election@co.black-hawk.ia.us).

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