

Important Election Questions

Below are some helpful Questions and Answers that are frequently asked regarding voter registration, absentee or “Early” voting and the election process. If you do not find the answer to your question here, you can contact me at 223-1300. Thank you.

Dawn Hill
Gage County Clerk

Q. How old do I have to be to register to vote and what do I need for information?

You can register to vote in both the 2014 Primary & General elections if you will be 18 years of age on or before November 4, 2014. You need to have a valid photo ID such as a Driver’s License or State ID, and the last 4 digits of your social security number.

Q. What is the difference between “early voting” and “absentee voting”?

In the past you were only allowed to vote prior to the election by “absentee” if you had a specific reason such as being out of town, being hospitalized, etc. to keep you from the polls on election day. Now any voter can request an “early voting” ballot without having a reason as to why they cannot be at the polls on election day. The two are basically the same thing, just a change in terminology. Early voting can be done by mail or in person at the Clerk’s Office (see below).

Q. Is early voting available now?

The Early Voting Ballot Request Form is available from the Clerk’s Office, on the county website at www.gagecountynebraska.us under “Offices” & “Election Commissioner”, and will also be published in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Wymore Arbor State and The Voice News. You may mail, fax, or deliver this request form in person to the County Clerk’s Office. You may also submit a simple written request with your name, voting address, party affiliation, address of where to send the ballot, your signature and the date Request by mail, fax or in person at the Clerk’s Office, PO Box 429, Beatrice NE 68310. To have your ballot mailed out, the request must be received in the Clerk’s Office by 4:00 p.m. on May 7, 2014.

Q. May I vote early in the County Clerk’s Office instead of going to the polls on election day?

Yes. Starting Monday, April 14, 2014 and going through Monday, May 12, 2014, you can vote in person at the Clerk’s Office (normal office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - county offices will be closed Friday, April 25th).

Q. Can I return my early voting ballot to my regular polling site?

NO. It must be returned to the County Clerk’s Office either by mail, in person at the Clerk’s Office or placed in the Courthouse drop box located across the street to the East in the parking lot driveway.

Q. When must early voting ballots be returned to the County Clerk’s Office?

May 13, 2014, by 8:00 p.m. whether by drop box, mail or personal delivery.

Q. Can someone pick up a ballot for me?

Yes. An agent may be designated by any voter, to sign the Early Voting Ballot Request Form. The agent then picks up the ballot or asks that the ballot be mailed to the voter. An agent can pick up ballots through May 13, 2014 until 7:00 p.m., but remember the ballots have to be back to the Clerk’s Office by 8:00 p.m. on May 13th. A person can only be an agent for 2 voters other than themselves.

Q. Will my early voting ballot be kept confidential?

Yes. Every possible security measure is being taken to insure the confidentiality of your vote.

Q. If I am registered as non-partisan (or independent), can I vote for a candidate who is running for a partisan (Republican, Democratic or Libertarian) office?

Yes, but ONLY for United States Senate or Representative in Congress in the Primary Election, AND you need to ask for either the Non-partisan Republican ballot, the Non-partisan Democratic ballot or the Non-partisan Libertarian ballot for those races. To vote for any other party specific (partisan) races (Republican, Democratic or Libertarian) in the Primary, you must change your voter registration to affiliate with that party prior to May 2, 2014. In the General Election you may choose the candidate that you wish to vote for regardless of their party.

Q. What is the last day to register to vote or make changes to my voter registration?

By mail, DMV or County Treasurer – April 25, 2014 or in person at the Clerk’s Office – May 2, 2014 (the Clerk’s Office will be open until 6:00 p.m. that day – county offices will be closed April 25th).

Q. If I have moved within Gage County do I need to re-register to vote?

Yes. You need to contact the Clerk’s Office for a form to change your address as the move may cause you to be in a different voting precinct.

Q. If I have not voted for several elections, am I still a registered voter able to vote in this Primary Election?

Check with the County Clerk’s Office (call 223-1300) to make sure your registration is current and correct.

Q. Why is it important to verify my voter information at the County Clerk’s Office?

To make sure your voter information is correct, including any name, address or party changes. If it is not correct, it may slow your voting process at the polling site.

Q. Why am I still receiving voting information for a family member who no longer lives here in Gage County?

In order to remove someone’s name from the voter list, **we must have a request in writing from the voter him/herself.**

Q. If I do not vote for all of the issues on my ballot, will my vote still count on the issues I do vote on?

Yes, you are not required to vote on every issue that is on the ballot. The issues you do vote for will be counted. However, you may only vote for the specified number for that issue. For example, if the heading says “vote for up to THREE”, you may vote for 1, 2 or 3 candidates and your vote will still be counted – if you vote for more than THREE, it will register as an over-vote and will not be counted.