



Iowa Election Law Changes

and their impact on the
November 2022 election.

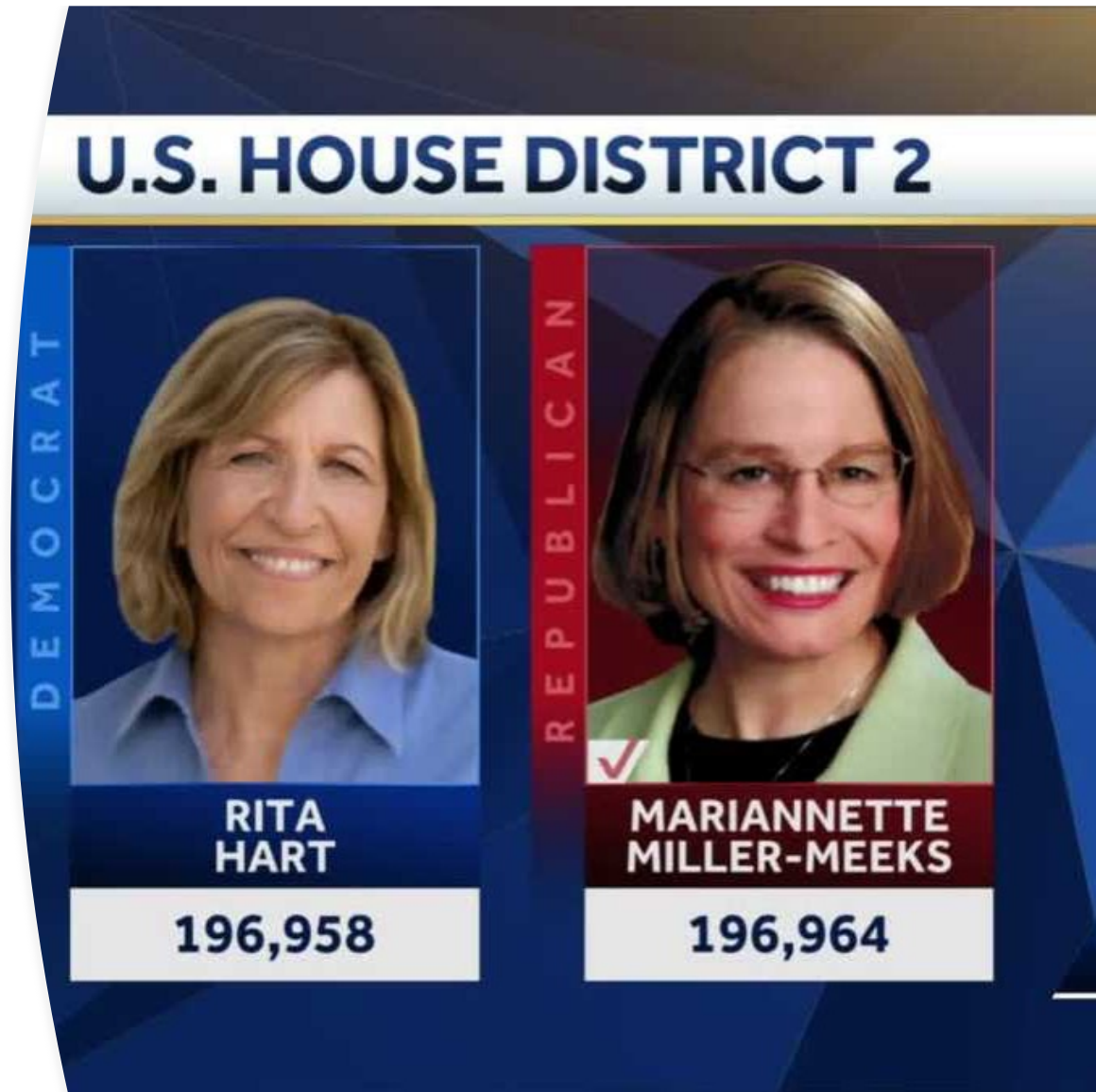


VOTE



Reflecting on the 2020 Election

- Pandemic
- Record statewide voter turnout
- Absentee ballot mailers sent to voters by County Auditors and Iowa SOS
- Over 1 million votes cast early – mostly by mail
 - 75% of Democrats
 - 52% of Republicans voted early
- Closest race in Iowa Congressional history in Southeast Iowa
 - 6 vote margin and multiple recounts (Miller-Meeks v. Hart)





Iowa Republican's Response to 2020: SF - 413

- 29 pages with 74 sections
- Passed both chambers in six days (including a public hearing)
- February 22, 2021 – Passed Iowa House 57 - 37
- February 23, 2021 – Passed Iowa Senate 30 - 18
- **March 8, 2021 – Governor Reynolds signed SF 413 into law**

Rushed Legislation



- Senate File 413 contained language that voters who did not vote in the general election would be designated “inactive”. No retroactive language in bill to allow the usage of the 2020 General Election.
- As a result, 294,000 legally registered voters became “inactive”; including hundreds of new voters/17-year-olds.
- Legislature resolved the issue with SF-568; Iowa SOS cannot make 17-year-olds’ “inactive”.

Absentee Ballots



Absentee Ballot Requests

- The request now cannot be requested prior to 70 days before an election
 - This is 50 days LESS than prior elections
- The form must be filled out by the voter and **MUST** include all required information
- Campaigns cannot pre-fill any information other than the date and type of election
- The Legislature also requires that this form must include the date signed as a requirement.

ABR Form Instructions

- A registered voter may make a written application to their County Auditor for an absentee ballot. A written application for a mailed absentee ballot must be physically received by the voter's County Auditor no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2022.
- In order to receive an absentee ballot, a registered voter **MUST** provide the following necessary information:
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Iowa residential address
 - Voter Verification Number (ID Number)
 - Iowa Driver's License or Non-Operator ID Number OR
 - Four-digit Voter PIN located on the voter's Iowa Voter ID Card
 - Any voter may request an Iowa Voter ID Card by contacting their County Auditor's Office
 - The name OR date of the election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot
 - Party affiliation - only required for Primary Elections, which are held in even numbered years
 - Signature and date the form was completed

STATE OF IOWA OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

**YOUR NAME AND
DATE OF BIRTH**

Last	Suffix
------	--------

First Middle

Date of Birth (month, day, year) / /

Revised June 2021

ID NUMBER

Iowa Driver's License or Non-Operator ID Number:

OR

Complete one

Four-digit Voter PIN (found only on Voter Identification Card):

Voters who do not appear in the Iowa Dept. of Transportation's Driver's License or Non-Operator ID files are mailed an Iowa Voter Identification Card at the time of registration. Any voter may request a Voter Identification Card.

**YOUR IOWA
RESIDENTIAL
ADDRESS**

Home Street Address (include apt, lot, etc. if applicable)

City

Zip

County

You must be registered to vote in the county to receive an absentee ballot. If you are registered to vote in the county, this form will be used to update your voter registration if the information provided on this form is different than the information on your registration record.

**WHERE YOUR
ABSENTEE BALLOT
SHOULD BE MAILED**
If different than above

If different than above

Mailing Address/P.O. Box

City

State

Zip

Country (other than USA)

CONTACT INFO
Important

Important:

Phone

Email

☐ DO NOT ADD THIS INFORMATION
TO MY VOTER RECORD

ELECTION DATE OR TYPE

Election Date: 11/08/2022

OR

General

Primary

City/School

Special:

Choose only one election

PRIMARY ELECTION
ONLY

Check one political party

Democratic

☐ Republican**REQUESTER AFFIDAVIT**

I swear or affirm that I am the person named above and I am a registered voter or I am entitled to register at the address listed on this form.

I am eligible to receive and vote an absentee ballot for the election indicated above.

Powers of attorney do not have legal authority to request an absentee ballot on behalf of another.

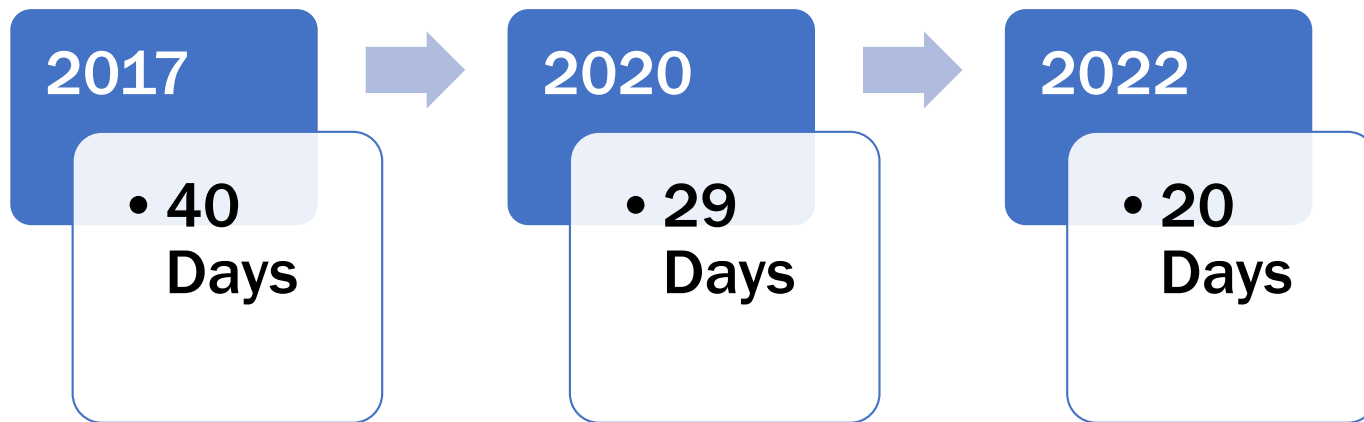
Signature: X

Date _____

Additional ABR Details

- Campaigns can pick-up and deliver ABRs to the Polk County Election Office
- There is a 72-hour window to get them to the office once you touch them.
- Hundreds of voters in Polk County did not fill out the form correctly in the 2021 city/school and 2022 primary election resulting in many of them being unable to receive a ballot
 - New law requires Auditors to contact the voter if they have any errors on the form

Mailing Ballots



In 2017, ballots were mailed 40 days before the election. In 2020, that time was reduced to 29 days. In 2021, Republican leadership reduced the time down to 20 days before an election. They also changed the last day ballots can be mailed to voters changing it from 3 days before an election to 15 days.

4 Days in October

October 2022							< Today >
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	10/19: First day ballots can be mailed to voters		19	20	21	22	
23				27	28	29	
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5	

Impact of New ABR Deadline



November 2, 2021 – City/School Election

- 193 voters missed the new deadline to have a ballot mailed to them
 - 95 (49%) of those that missed ballot did not vote in the election

March 29, 2022 – Ankeny, Clive and Mitchellville

- 112 voters missed the new deadline to have a ballot mailed to them
- This would have accounted for over 14% of those voting early (if all 112 votes were cast)
 - These voters received an email, call or letter letting them know we could not mail them ballot
 - 74 (66%) of the 112 did not vote – almost 2/3 of those that missed deadline didn't vote

June 7, 2022 – Primary Election

- 162 voters missed the new deadline to have a ballot mailed to them
 - 67 (41%) of those that missed ballot did not vote in the election

Returning Ballots



Counting Your Vote

- **New deadline:** To be counted, voted ballots **MUST** be received in the Polk County Election Office by 8:00 PM CT on Election Day
- Postmarks and the required intelligent mail bar code **no longer count**
 - 6,500 ballots in 2020 had the required postmark/intelligent mail code and counted despite being received after Election Day
- Primary 2022 – Polk County had 1, while Clinton County had 42 and close races
- Bleeding Heartland reported that over 150 ballots would have been counted statewide under old law in a small sampling of counties

Returning Your Absentee Ballot

Only the following people can return a ballot for the voter:

- The voter
- Someone living in the voter's household
- An immediate family member
- Special Precinct Election Official – Health care facilities
- A delivery agent – if the voter is unable to return a ballot due to blindness or other disability

A delivery agent **CANNOT** be

- The voter's employer or an agent of the employer
- An officer or agent of the voter's union
- An actual or implied agent of a political party, candidate, or committee

Drop Boxes

- Counties can have one drop box located where voters can drop off their completed ballots
- This can only be used to collect ballots and not voter registrations or requests
- It will be open 20 days before the election and closed at 8 PM on election night
- This will need recordable security along with several other items Auditors must do





Early In-Person Voting

- You will need to bring ID and fill out form ahead of time before you are able to get a ballot
- Anticipate longer lines at the Polk County Election Office

Other Notable Changes

- **One less hour of voting on Election Day**
 - In 2020, over 1,000 voters in Polk County cast ballots between 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 - One less hour for shift workers to vote if they work between 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- **Satellite voting stations – As of 2021, County Auditor's cannot schedule satellite voting stations.**



Important Dates for Election 2022

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August 30 – First day to request an absentee ballot be mailed to the voter.

October 19 – First day ballots can be mailed to voters that have requested them

October 19 – First day to vote early in person at the Polk County Election Office

October 24 – All absentee ballot requests for a mailed ballot MUST PHYSICALLY be in the office by 5 PM. Postmarks do not count!

November 5 – Office open for early voting. Hours to be determined

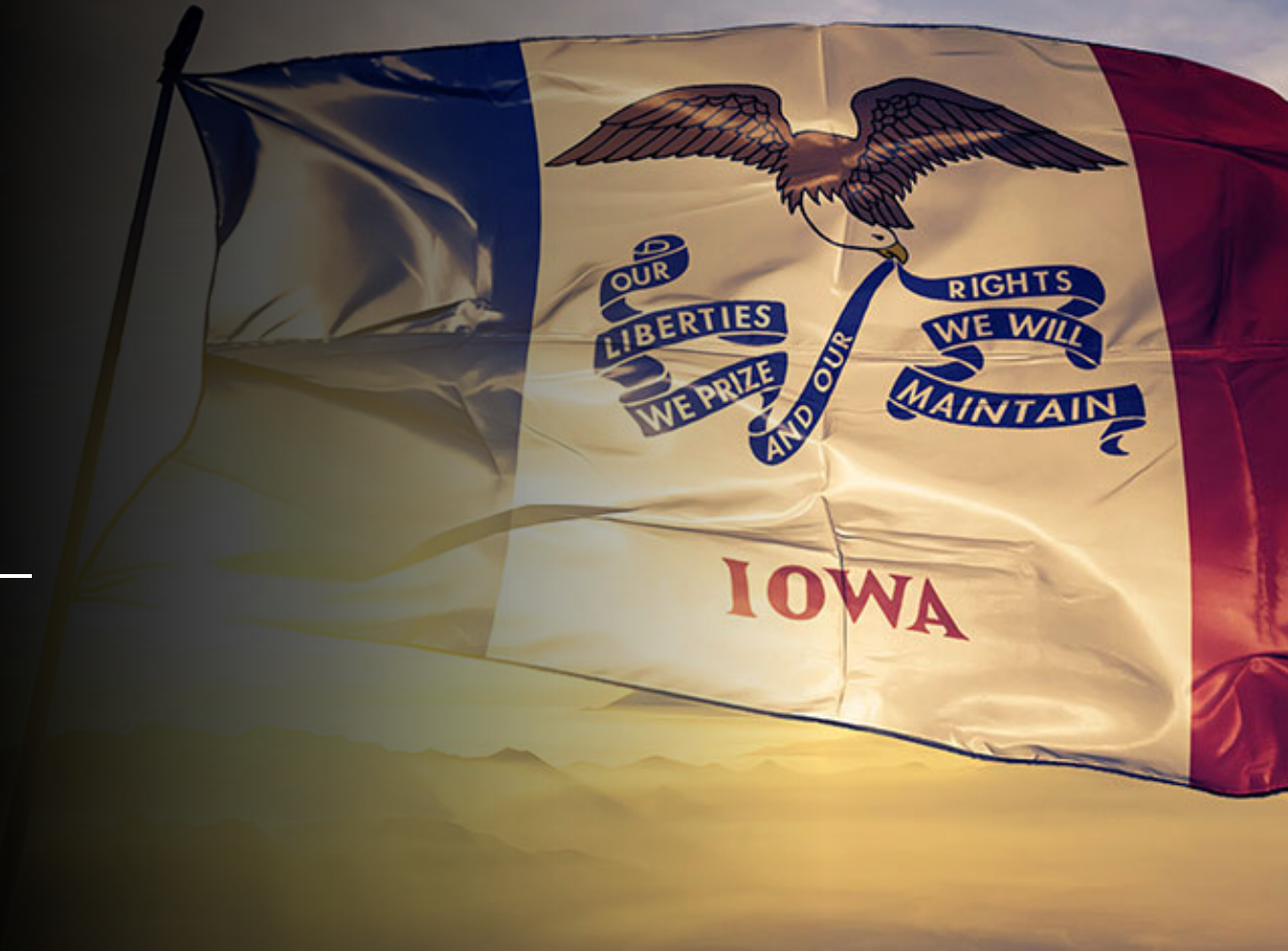
November 7 – Final day to vote early in the Polk County Election Office – 5 PM deadline.

November 8 – Election Day – polls will be open from 7 AM – 8 PM. Vote at your assigned polling location. All early votes must physically be in the office by 8 PM.



Protecting Your Vote in Iowa

Post-election audits and
other final thoughts.





Post-Election Audits

- After every election in Iowa, the Iowa Secretary of State randomly selects a precinct that will be hand counted to ensure that the unofficial results are correct and accurate.
- Thus far, all 99 counties have been **100% accurate** in their election reporting and audits.

Final Thoughts

- **Misinformation:**
 - Continues to be the biggest issue facing Election 2022
 - Intentional misleading and disinformation about the processes has effectively raised questions about the integrity of our voting systems, elections, elected officials, and neighbors
- **Election Deniers and Threats:**
 - After the decisive 2020 General Election, some people began to question the results and convinced each other that the results were “fixed” and inaccurate. A wave of candidates who have echoed former President Donald Trump’s lie that the 2020 election was rigged have increasingly called for recounts after losing their own Republican primaries.
 - Recently, in Kansas where Roe was on the ballot A larger than expected turnout of voters on Aug. 2 rejected a ballot measure that would have removed protections for abortion rights from the Kansas Constitution and given to the Legislature the right to further restrict or ban abortion. It failed by 18 percentage points, or 165,000 votes statewide. A recount was asked for and paid (\$120,000) to try and show the election was faulty.



Thank you.



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