



South Dakota Secretary of State

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Secretary of State

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Secretary Johnson Announces That Absentee Voting Begins Today!

(Pierre, S.D.) – Secretary of State Monae L. Johnson would like to provide important information regarding absentee voting in the November 3, 2026 General Election.

The absentee voting period for South Dakota's 2026 General Election begins today, September 18th, 2026. To request an absentee ballot, voters must submit an absentee ballot application form to their county auditor. Absentee ballot application forms may be requested from the county auditor or found on the Secretary of State's website: <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/absentee-voting.aspx>. To account for mail processing and delivery times with the USPS, voters are encouraged to request an absentee ballot as soon as possible and return the ballot to the county auditor allowing sufficient time for mail delivery.

Voters may verify whether they have already requested an absentee ballot and check the status of their absentee ballot by contacting their county auditor or searching the Voter Information Portal (VIP) on the Secretary of State's website: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx>.

Voters submitting an absentee ballot application form must include a photocopy of an acceptable photo identification card or have the form notarized, as per SDCL 12-18-6.1. Acceptable photo identification cards include a South Dakota driver's license or non-driver ID card, tribal ID, passport, student ID issued by a South Dakota high school or college, or any other photo ID issued by the United States government. Please contact your county auditor if you have any questions: <https://vip.sdsos.gov/CountyAuditors.aspx>.

Voters also have the option to vote absentee in person up to the day before the election or vote in person on Election Day. For those looking to vote absentee in person, please contact your county auditor for office hours as hours may vary. On Election Day, polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm local time. Information on polling locations and sample ballots may be found on the Voter Information Portal (VIP) on the Secretary of State's website.

"Absentee voting provides South Dakotans with a secure and convenient way to make their voices heard," said Secretary of State Monae L. Johnson. "Whether voting absentee by mail, absentee in person, or at the polls on Election Day, I encourage every voter to plan ahead, review the requirements, and allow enough time for their ballot to be received."

For more information on elections, visit the Secretary of State's website: <https://sdsos.gov/>