



## South Dakota Secretary of State

**Monae L. Johnson**  
Secretary of State

**Thomas J. Deadrick**  
Deputy Secretary of State

**For Immediate Release:** September 30, 2024

**Contact:** [SOS.Media@state.sd.us](mailto:SOS.Media@state.sd.us)

### SECRETARY OF STATE EMPHASIZES SAFEGUARDS BUILT INTO SOUTH DAKOTA'S ELECTION PROCESSES

**(Pierre, S.D.)** – As South Dakota prepares for the November 5th General Election, Secretary of State Monae L. Johnson emphasizes the robust security measures and safeguards that protect the integrity of the state's elections.

"South Dakota takes election security seriously," said Secretary Johnson. "We've built a system that prioritizes transparency, integrity, and accountability, ensuring that every vote cast is both legal and secure."

To protect against fraud, South Dakota does not permit online voter registration. When a person registers to vote, their information undergoes thorough review by county auditors before the registration is confirmed. Importantly, every registered voter goes through multiple verification steps to confirm eligibility.

The state's strict voter ID laws further bolster election security. Voters must show a valid form of photo identification at the polls or when requesting an absentee ballot. Accepted IDs include a South Dakota driver's license or nondriver ID card, a U.S. government-issued photo ID, a tribal ID, or a student ID card from a South Dakota high school or college. Voters without an ID may sign an affidavit under penalty of perjury affirming their identity before casting their vote.

Additionally, South Dakota only uses paper ballots in its elections. The state does not use ballot drop boxes. After voting, ballots are sealed in secure ballot boxes and transported by bipartisan poll workers to the county auditor's office. At the end of election day, ballots are counted on machines that are not connected to the internet. These machines are publicly tested before voting begins and again before counting the ballots to ensure accuracy and reliability.

“From requiring photo identification to hand-counting ballots during post-election audits, South Dakota leads the way in secure elections,” Secretary Johnson continued. “We encourage citizens to take part in the process as poll watchers or election workers to see firsthand how secure and transparent our elections truly are.”

Following the election, the county auditors will conduct post-election audits. In compliance with state law, these audits manually compare paper ballots with machine-counted results in five percent of precincts. This hand-counting process enhances election transparency and provides a critical verification of the results.

“Post-election audits are essential for reinforcing public trust and ensuring that election outcomes are accurate,” Secretary Johnson added.

For more information about election security and integrity in South Dakota, please visit the Secretary of State’s [Election Truth and Transparency Page](#).