

CONTACT INFORMATION



LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

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Scan here for
locations,
times, and
applications



If you miss the deadline or do not qualify for these options, voting in person on Election Day is your last chance.

Make a Plan to Vote!

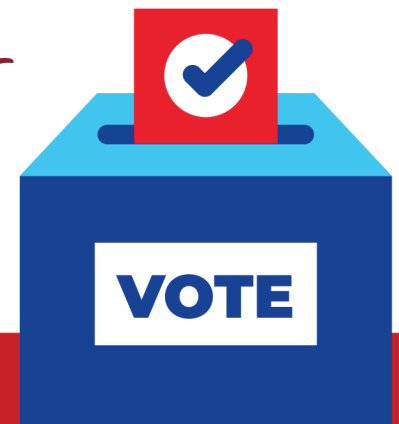
March 2026

ABSENTEE V[✓]OTING 101



LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

*Make a
Plan to*



Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy. **Every vote matters.**

Absentee voting makes participation easier for many voters, but the process can be confusing and unforgiving. Small mistakes can prevent a ballot from being counted. Deadlines are firm. Signatures must match. Dates matter.

This guide walks you through your voting options in Lake county and helps you avoid common pitfalls so your vote counts.



Absentee voting opens the door for every eligible voter to participate, no matter their age, health, schedule, or mobility. But the process has steps, deadlines, and details that matter. Small mistakes can create big setbacks. Too often, those setbacks are discovered when time has already run out.

This guide was created to help you avoid the pitfalls and move confidently through each stage: - from applying, to receiving your ballot, to returning it correctly. When you apply early, review carefully, and follow each step closely and with intention, you give your vote the best possible chance to count.

Voting is personal. It is powerful. **And it is worth protecting.**

Plan ahead. Ask questions. Take your time. Because your ballot is more than paper: it is your voice in our democracy.



AVOIDING COMMON PITFALLS

Absentee Ballot Application Pitfalls:

- **Missing information:** Leaving out a required field (reason, party, signature) will result in rejection.
- Signature doesn't conform.
- **Applying too late:** Late applications leave little or no time to correct errors before the deadline.
- **Using the wrong form:** Outdated or unofficial forms will be rejected.
- **Assuming approval is automatic:** Every application is reviewed; approval is not guaranteed if requirements are not met.

Absentee Ballot Pitfalls:

- **Missing or mismatched signature:** The ballot becomes provisional.
- **Late return:** Ballots must be received by 6pm on Election Day.
- **Invalid or missing date:** A ballot with **no DATE** must be rejected.

Travel Board Pitfalls:

- **Applying too late:** Travel board visits occur only during a short window. Late applications can't be scheduled.
- **Incomplete application:** Missing information can delay approval.
- **Unavailable voter:** Visits are canceled if the voter isn't present when the bipartisan team arrives.

UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION

You must be **registered** to vote.

- You may register in person, online at *indianavoters.com*, or at the BMV.
- Have you moved or changed your name? Update that!
- If your handwriting has changed, please update your signature.



Your signature **must be consistent** across your voter registration, absentee application, and absentee ballot.



REMEMBER Your legal signature can differ from the your everyday signature, and consistency between the two can matter.

- Voter registration closes 29 days before Election Day in the state of Indiana.
- Same-day registration is **not available** in the state of Indiana.



Key steps to planning your vote and avoiding common voting pitfalls:

- ✓ Update your registration and keep your signature current.
- ✓ Decide how you will vote: early voting, mail/absentee, travel board, voters with print disabilities, or in person on Election Day.
- ✓ Apply early for an absentee ballot if needed.
- ✓ Always include a phone number and email on your application.
- ✓ Use Travel Board voting if you are confined, caring for someone confined, or have difficulty signing your name. Apply early!
- ✓ Know and track all voting deadlines.

How It Works

- Registration and application are combined using the **ABS-VPD** form.
- One application allows eligible voters to receive ballots automatically for one year.
- Eligible voters receive a secure link to the **OmniBallot** platform.



Requirements

- Internet access.
- An email address.
- Voters **must** meet the **legal definition** of a voter with a print disability.



“Voter with Print Disabilities” does NOT MEAN a voter lacks access to a printer.

Deadlines

- **ABS-VPD** must be received at least 12 days before Election Day.

TRAVEL BOARD VOTING

EARLY VOTING



A bipartisan team brings a voting machine to you!

Who Qualifies?

- Confined voters or those caring for confined voters.
- Voters with disabilities who cannot travel to a polling location.
- Voters who cannot independently mark a paper ballot due to blindness, low vision, or a physical disability.

How It Works

- The ABS-Traveling Board application must be received by noon the day before election day and may be hand delivered, mailed, e-mailed, or faxed.
- Visits are scheduled 19 days before Election day through the Monday before Election Day.

Need More Help?

Voters may receive assistance with the application when:

1. The voter selects “I am a voter with disabilities” as the reason, *and*
2. The assistant completes the Affidavit of Assistance.

APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT BY TRAVELING BOARD (ABS-TRAVELING BOARD)

For Election on: / / 20

CONTACT INFORMATION: Indiana Election Division, 500 West Washington Street, Suite 1000, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3039, Tel: (317) 232-3500, Fax: (317) 232-3510, Email: abs@indiana.gov

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTER: If you need assistance completing an absentee ballot, you will use this application to vote your absentee ballot before a traveling board. Please print your name and address in this box. If you are unable to print, please call the county clerk's office. However, county election officials must be able to contact you to schedule an appointment. Some voters who have requested for the first time in Indiana, and did not by mail, are required to provide additional identifying documents. The county election board can help you with the requirements applicable to you. The voter (or a person designated by a voter with disabilities who is unable to sign) must SIGN the application below. If you are assisting on the voter's behalf, a copy of the voter's affidavit must be attached to this application. This form must be received by noon the day before election day and may be hand delivered, mailed, or faxed.

1. INFORMATION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICANT

Name (Print Name): _____

Registration: Address (provide and send an old ballot) _____ City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please have the traveling board visit me at the following address: (enter street, room, apt, and 2nd floor) _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone Number (include area code) _____ E-mail Address (include full email address) _____

I qualify to vote by traveling board because: (check all that apply)

☐ I am a voter with disabilities. ☐ I am unable to travel to the polls. ☐ I am unable to mark my ballot. ☐ I am unable to sign my ballot. ☐ I am unable to provide my own ballot.

2. VOTER IDENTIFICATION (YOU MUST COMPLETE OPTION 1 OR OPTION 2)

☐ Option 1: Please provide your Indiana driver's license number or Indiana identification card number OR the unique identification number on your registration receipt OR the last four digits of your resident mailer number (IDM). Your application may be rejected if the county election board cannot match at least one of these numbers with your voter registration record.

☐ Option 2: Please enclose a (photocopy) of your valid Indiana driver's license, Indiana identification card, or other proof of identification that complies with the state's photo ID law (IC 3-5-2-4.5). Your application may be rejected if you do not provide a copy of your photo ID with your application. Please information about accepted forms of voter ID can be found online at www.in.gov/elections.

3. COMPLETE THIS SECTION OF APPLICATION TO VOTE IN MAY PRIMARY ELECTION

Under state law, you must request a major political party ballot to vote in the primary election. You may vote as a public candidate without writing a political party ballot if a referendum (public question) is held on the same day as the primary. (See applying to the ballot of the political party, a referendum or initiative candidates listed for the first general election, or other interest to vote for the first general election (check one box).)

☐ Democratic Party ☐ Republican Party ☐ Other (do not write in vote for a political party's primary and choose a ☐ Public Question Only

4. VOTER'S AFFIRMATION & SIGNATURE

I declare under oath that the information I have provided is true and correct. I understand that the information provided in section 2 is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of verifying my eligibility to vote. I understand that the information provided in section 2 is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of verifying my eligibility to vote.

SIGNATURE OF VOTER: _____ Date: _____

5. AFFIDAVIT OF ASSISTANCE TO BE COMPLETED BY INDIVIDUAL ASSISTING ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICANT

I, the undersigned, am a resident of the same county as the voter and am assisting the voter in completing this application. I am not a candidate for any office in this election. I am not a member of the same political party as the voter. I am not a member of the same political party as the voter. I am not a member of the same political party as the voter.

Signature of Person Assisting Voter: _____ Date: _____

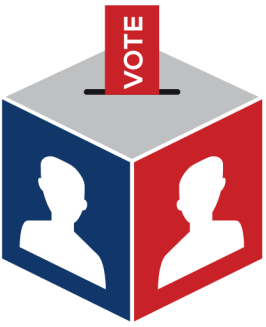
Signature of Person Assisting Voter: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Person Assisting Voter: _____ Date: _____

The assistant may print the voter's name and sign their own name on the application. **The voter must sign or make their mark (such as an X) when voting.**



Every voter should decide *how* and *when* they will vote.

- Open to all registered voters.
- Vote at any of Lake County's early voting sites.
-  Each location is accessible to elderly voters and voters with disabilities.
- Each location has at least one voting system equipped for voters with disabilities. Poll workers are trained to operate the accessible features of these systems.
- All voters must show a valid photo ID issued by the state of Indiana or the U.S. government. Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, state identification card, military ID, or U.S. passport.
- 
 - Opens 28 days before Election Day.
 - Open Monday - Friday.
 - Open the two Saturdays before Election Day. Evening hours on Thursdays (until 7 p.m.)
- Ends at noon the Monday before Election Day.



VOTE BY MAIL (ABSENTEE BALLOT)

Request an Absentee Ballot

- An absentee ballot application is required: apply early!
- Follow all instructions and return by the deadline or you won't be able to vote by mail.
- Approved applications allow ballots to be mailed up to 45 days before the election.

Return Your Absentee Ballot



- Sign and DATE your ballot carefully, using your normal signature.
- Return your ballot as soon as possible: early return gives you time to correct any issues and keeps your vote on track.
- Providing a phone number or email helps us contact you quickly if there is an issue.



CAUTION



New! Ballots missing a valid date **must be rejected**.

- Although Indiana law allows assistance when completing the application, no one can help **you sign your ballot!**
- Ballots missing a signature or with a signature mismatch become provisional.

WHAT IS A PROVISIONAL BALLOT?

If a voter fails to sign the ballot, or the signature does not match, the ballot becomes provisional.

When your ballot arrives at our office:

- A bipartisan team reviews your signature:
 - If the signatures appear to match, the ballot is secured until Election Day.
- A second signature review occurs on Election Day.
- If the signature does not match at either review, you will receive an ABS-18 affidavit by mail and, if available, email.
- The ABS-18 may be sent **before** or **after** Election Day.

No ABS-18 before Election Day does not guarantee the ballot will count. BE SURE TO OPEN ALL ELECTION MAIL!

If you receive an ABS-18 affidavit:

- Complete the information requested.
- Sign the affidavit.
- Return your affidavit ASAP either by email, fax, in person, or by mail.
- If you have any questions about the procedure, please call ASAP.

Important timelines:

- The hearing to determine whether the ballot is counted occurs 9 days after Election Day.
- The ABS-18 must be received 8 days after the election by noon.



5  Ballots must arrive at our office and be date-stamped by 6pm on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

6  Flagged signatures have very low return rates due to narrow time windows. The best way to avoid problems is to keep your signature updated.