

Absentee Voting Instructions

For Domestic Voters

General Election - November 4, 2008

**Prepared in the Office of the
Iowa Secretary of State**

State of Iowa

Absentee Voting Instructions

Read this guide carefully before you mark the ballot.

If you have questions, please call the county auditor at 712-225-6704
or email the auditor's office at kglienke@co.cherokee.ia.us

If You Need Help to Vote

If you are blind, cannot read, or cannot mark your own ballot because you are disabled, you may choose any person you want to help you vote. However, you **cannot** accept help from your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union.

If You Make a Mistake Marking Your Ballot

Return the voting materials you were sent to the County Auditor.

1. Put all the voting materials in the **Return Envelope** addressed to the Auditor.
2. Write "**SPOILED BALLOT**" on the Return Envelope.
3. Mail or deliver the envelope to the auditor.

Marking Your Ballot

1. **Vote in secrecy.** Mark your ballot so that no one else will know how you voted, unless you need help to vote.
2. **Study the ballot carefully before voting.** Marks cannot be erased without spoiling the ballot.
3. **Mark your ballot using _____.**
4. **Straight party voting.** If you mark a straight party vote, you may change your straight party vote for any office by marking the voting target for a candidate of another party. If you can vote for more than one person for an office and you are splitting your vote between candidates of two or more parties, you must mark all of your candidate choices for that office.
5. **"Vote for..."** For some offices you may vote for more than one person. Watch for instructions under each office title that say, "Vote for no more than"
6. **Voting for candidates.** Fill in the oval next to the name of each candidate you want.
7. **Overvoting.** If you mark too many candidates for an office, no votes for that office will be counted.
8. **Optional write-in vote.** To vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot:
 - a. Fill in the oval next to the blank line after the names of the other candidates, **AND**
 - b. Write the person's name on the line.
9. **Voting on questions and judges.** Instructions are printed on the ballot.
10. **No extra marks.** Make no marks on the ballot except the marks you make to vote.

After you vote

1. **Secrecy Envelope** (if one was provided). After you vote, put the ballot in the Secrecy Envelope.
2. **Affidavit Envelope.** Complete and sign the affidavit.

- a. Fill in the address on your voter registration record.
- b. Sign your name and write the date you signed.
- c. Put the Secrecy Envelope inside the Affidavit Envelope.
3. **Seal the Affidavit Envelope.** If you don't put your ballot in this envelope and seal it, your ballot cannot be counted.
4. **Return Envelope.** Put the Affidavit Envelope inside the Return Envelope and seal the Return Envelope.

If your affidavit is not properly completed and your ballot is received before 5 p.m. on the Saturday before the election, you will be notified about how to correct your mistake.

Returning Your Ballot

Return this ballot even if you don't vote. If you do not mark the ballot, write “**not voted**” on the Return Envelope.

Ways to return your ballot:

1. You may send your ballot through the mail – postage is already paid. The postmark must be before Election Day and the ballot must be received by noon on November 10.
2. You may personally return the ballot to the county auditor's office before the polls close at 9 p.m. on November 4, 2008.
3. You may designate someone else to deliver or mail the ballot for you.

Absentee Ballot Receipt

If someone else delivers or mails your ballot, you may ask the person to give you a receipt. The person must deliver your ballot by the deadline (before the polls close on Election Day) or no later than 72 hours after picking it up. If someone else mails your ballot, it must be sent no later than 72 hours after picking it up or in time to have it postmarked before Election Day.