



Dear North Dakota Residents Living Outside the United States,  
 Hello, I'm Al Jaeger, North Dakota's Secretary of State and the state's chief election official.

Elections allow us to exercise one of democracy's fundamental rights – voting. Elections give us a voice in our governance, they encourage us to take an active interest in our schools and neighborhoods, and permit us to speak out on issues and causes of interest and importance.

In North Dakota, voting is made very easy through absentee voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register before voting.

I encourage uniformed service members and eligible family members to take advantage of the ease of voting in North Dakota during this election year!

**Al Jaeger**  
**North Dakota Secretary of State**

**Voter Qualifications**

In order to vote in North Dakota, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A resident of North Dakota; and
- A resident in the precinct for 30 days preceding the election.

Please note that a citizen of the United States who is eighteen years of age or older, has never lived in the United States, and whose parent is qualified to vote in North Dakota may vote absentee in this state for federal offices provided this individual has not registered to vote in any other state or territory of the U.S.

**Determining Residence**

Voting residence can be summed up simply by the following excerpt from an opinion issued by the North Dakota Attorney General in May of 1995. The opinion states, "The act of voting does not make a person a resident [of North Dakota]. Rather, a person must be a resident prior to voting."

For voting purposes, the terms "residence" and "voting residence" are the same in North Dakota. In determining residence, the following rules must be observed.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she refers to as "home";
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;
- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

**[Section 54-01-26 of the North Dakota Century Code]**

The law also states that an individual does not lose a voting residence by temporary assignment away from home.

**North Dakota...  
 The Only State Without Voter Registration**

North Dakota is the only state without voter registration. Therefore, there are no registration requirements for residents prior to voting.

**Voting Still an Option**

Even though duty calls many uniformed service members away from their home, their state of North Dakota, and sometimes their country, the right to vote is not diminished. It may be a greater challenge for the voter because the distances separating these individuals from their homes require the use of the absentee voting process.

In 2005, North Dakota lawmakers gave uniformed service members and their family stationed outside the United States the option to receive voting materials by fax or email in order to speed delivery of these important documents to North Dakota residents living far from home and often on the move. It was also determined that, as a last resort, voted ballots may be returned by these same methods provided the voter has access to the necessary technology required to do so. The preferable means of returning voted ballots is still, however, through the standard postal mail service.

Uniformed service members who have been stationed outside of North Dakota long enough that their children, who have never lived in North Dakota, have grown to the age of qualified voters, may wonder about their voting rights. When at least one parent has retained North Dakota residency, children may vote for North Dakota federal offices by virtue of that parent's residential status.

**Voting Absentee in North Dakota**

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters wishing to vote using an absentee ballot prior to the date of the election.

Absentee ballot applications may be found online at: <http://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn51468.pdf>. Election officials of the county, city, or school district may also furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors. A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by providing the following information to the proper election official:

- voter's name;
- voter's current or most recent ND residential address;
- voter's mailing address;
- voter's current contact telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- the voter's affirmation of residence in the precinct for at least thirty days immediately prior to the election;
- voter's signature;
- the voter's status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence, or a family member of the uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence;
- voter's birth date and year;
- voter's motor vehicle operator's license or non-driver identification number, if available
- voter's fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter's email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

Absentee ballot applications may be delivered to the appropriate county auditor by mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned

attachment to an email. Uniformed service members stationed away from home and citizens living outside the United States may also receive and return voted ballots by fax and email according to North Dakota law. For more information, please consult with your voting assistance officer, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office, or your county auditor.

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40<sup>th</sup> day before the election. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp on the envelope, email, or fax by the day before the election.

---

**Resources for ND Voters Living Outside the United States**

**Federal Voting Assistance Program**

**Toll Free** 800-438-8683  
**Web Site** [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)  
**E-mail** [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) administered by the Secretary of Defense has three distinct goals. These are to:

1. Inform and educate United States citizens worldwide of their right to vote;
2. Foster voting participation; and
3. Protect the integrity of, and at the same time enhance, the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels.

The FVAP web site contains helpful information on voting procedures in the various states and includes voter registration and absentee voting deadlines and forms for military personnel to complete and return.

**North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Division**

**Toll Free** 800-352-0867 ext. 8-4146  
**Web Site** [www.nd.gov/sos](http://www.nd.gov/sos)  
**E-mail** [soselect@nd.gov](mailto:soselect@nd.gov)

The North Dakota Secretary of State serves as North Dakota's chief election official. The Elections Division is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

As with the FVAP, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office also maintains a web site containing valuable information for voters, candidates, and the general public. The site also includes contact information for the state's 53 county election officials (County Auditors) along with absentee ballot applications and other useful election related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

**North Dakota's County Auditors**

North Dakota's 53 county auditors serve as the chief election officials of the various counties. For the most part, these are the officials to whom you apply for and receive absentee ballots. Contact information for North Dakota's county auditors may be obtained from the list included in this document, the Secretary of State's office at 800-352-0867 or the Secretary of State's web site, [www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/index.html).

---

**How to Vote by Absentee Ballot**

Whether you are stationed within the United States or overseas, voting by absentee ballot takes extra time. For this reason, please request your ballot as soon as you know that you will need to vote absentee. Applications to receive absentee ballots may be submitted at any time during an election year and voters may request absentee ballots for a single election all elections during that year. Therefore it is best to apply early.

**Regardless of your location:**

1. An absentee ballot application is available online at <http://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn51468.pdf>
2. Submit this application either by mail or fax to your county auditor. (ND county auditor contact information begins on the next page.)
3. If you are stationed away from your North Dakota home, you can provide your fax number or email address on the application for faster delivery.

Please note that the signature on the absentee ballot application will be compared with the signature accompanying the returned voted ballot as a voter security measure.

**Free Postage!**

Absentee ballots to and from uniformed service members stationed away from home and ND residents living outside the U.S. will be delivered free of postage costs provided the letter is deposited within the United States mail system. Instructions will be provided with voting materials delivered from the county auditor. Additional information can also be found at the FVAP website [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

---

**ND County Auditor's Contact Information**

The following is a listing of our 53 county auditors and their contact information. They want to help you to have a voice in government.

(see next page)

Adams County Auditor  
602 Adams Ave  
Box 589  
Hettinger ND 58639-0589  
701-567-4363 - phone  
701-567-2910 - fax  
[pcarroll@nd.gov](mailto:pcarroll@nd.gov)

Barnes County Auditor  
230 4th Street NW, Room 202  
Valley City ND 58072-2947  
701-845-8500 - phone  
701-845-8548 - fax  
[emcough@co.barnes.nd.us](mailto:emcough@co.barnes.nd.us)

Benson County Auditor  
311 B Ave S  
Box 206  
Minnewaukan ND 58351-0206  
701-473-5340 - phone  
701-473-5571 - fax  
[bserrickson@nd.gov](mailto:bserrickson@nd.gov)

Billings County Auditor  
Box 168  
Medora ND 58645-0168  
701-623-4377 - phone  
701-623-4761 - fax  
[jjurgens@nd.gov](mailto:jjurgens@nd.gov)

Bottineau County Auditor  
314 W 5th Street, Ste 10  
Bottineau ND 58318-1204  
701-228-2225 - phone  
701-228-5181 - fax  
[mstreich@nd.gov](mailto:mstreich@nd.gov)

Bowman County Auditor  
104 1st St NW, Ste 1  
Bowman ND 58623-0439  
701-523-3130 - phone  
701-523-4899 - fax  
[stivis@bowmancountynynd.gov](mailto:stivis@bowmancountynynd.gov)

Burke County Auditor  
103 Main St SE  
PO Box 310  
Bowbells ND 58721-0310  
701-377-2861 - phone  
701-377-2020 - fax  
[jsiensen@nd.gov](mailto:jsiensen@nd.gov)

Burleigh County Auditor  
221 N 5th St  
PO Box 5518  
Bismarck ND 58506-5518  
701-222-6718 - phone  
701-222-7528 - fax  
[kqlatt@nd.gov](mailto:kqlatt@nd.gov)

Cass County Auditor  
211 9th St S  
PO Box 2806  
Fargo ND 58108-2806  
701-241-5601 - phone  
701-241-5728 - fax  
[montplaisirm@casscountynynd.gov](mailto:montplaisirm@casscountynynd.gov)

Cavalier County Auditor  
901 3rd Street, Ste 15  
Langdon ND 58249-2457  
701-256-2229 - phone  
701-256-2546 - fax  
[droppel@nd.gov](mailto:droppel@nd.gov)

Dickey County Auditor  
309 N 2nd St  
Box 215  
Ellendale ND 58436-0215  
701-349-3249 ext. 3 - phone  
701-349-4639 - fax  
[bkuska@nd.gov](mailto:bkuska@nd.gov)

Divide County Auditor  
PO Box 49  
Crosby ND 58730-0049  
701-965-6351 - phone  
701-965-4370 - fax  
[gjastrze@nd.gov](mailto:gjastrze@nd.gov)

Dunn County Auditor  
PO Box 105  
Manning ND 58642-0105  
701-573-4448 - phone  
701-573-4323 - fax  
[rehauck@nd.gov](mailto:rehauck@nd.gov)

Eddy County Auditor  
524 Central Avenue, Ste 201  
New Rockford ND 58356-1698  
701-947-2434 ext. 2020 - phone  
701-947-2279 - fax  
[mripplin@nd.gov](mailto:mripplin@nd.gov)

Emmons County Auditor  
PO Box 129  
Linton ND 58552-0129  
701-254-4807 - phone  
701-254-4012 - fax  
[mohlhauser@nd.gov](mailto:mohlhauser@nd.gov)

Foster County Auditor  
474 10th Ave N  
Box 104  
Carrington ND 58421-0104  
701-652-2441 - phone  
701-652-2173 - fax  
[rschlotm@nd.gov](mailto:rschlotm@nd.gov)

Golden Valley County Auditor  
Box 67  
Beach ND 58621-0067  
701-872-4331 - phone  
701-872-4383 - fax  
[cstedman@midstate.net](mailto:cstedman@midstate.net)

Grand Forks County Auditor  
151 S 4th  
PO Box 5726  
Grand Forks ND 58206-5726  
701-780-8201 - phone  
701-780-8207 - fax  
[debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com](mailto:debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com)

Grant County Auditor  
Courthouse  
Box 227  
Carson ND 58529-0227  
701-622-3275 - phone  
701-622-3005 - fax  
kbachmeier@nd.gov

Griggs County Auditor  
808 Rollin Ave SW  
Box 511  
Cooperstown ND 58425-0511  
701-797-3117 - phone  
701-797-3587 - fax  
[cindy.anton@griggsnd.com](mailto:cindy.anton@griggsnd.com)

Hettinger County Auditor  
Box 668  
Mott ND 58646-0668  
701-824-2515 - phone  
701-824-2717 - fax  
[rsteiner@nd.gov](mailto:rsteiner@nd.gov)

Kidder County Auditor  
120 E Broadway  
PO Box 167  
Steele ND 58482-0167  
701-475-2632 ext 4 - phone  
701-475-2202 - fax  
[mkeily@nd.gov](mailto:mkeily@nd.gov)

LaMoure County Auditor  
Box 128  
Lamoure ND 58458-0128  
701-883-5301 ext. 203 - phone  
701-883-4220 - fax  
[mjohnso@nd.gov](mailto:mjohnso@nd.gov)

Logan County Auditor  
301 Broadway  
Napoleon ND 58561-7010  
701-754-2425 - phone  
701-754-2280 - fax  
[baschuma@nd.gov](mailto:baschuma@nd.gov)

McHenry County Auditor  
407 S Main S, Rm 201  
Townner ND 58788-0147  
701-537-5724 - phone  
701-537-5969 - fax  
[dcarpenter@nd.gov](mailto:dcarpenter@nd.gov)

McIntosh County Auditor  
PO Box 39  
Ashley ND 58413-0039  
701-288-3347 - phone  
701-288-3671 - fax  
[gketterl@nd.gov](mailto:gketterl@nd.gov)

McKenzie County Auditor  
201 5th St W  
Box 543  
Wattford City ND 58854-0543  
701-444-3616 Ext 132 - phone  
701-444-4113 - fax  
[folson@co.mckenzie.nd.us](mailto:folson@co.mckenzie.nd.us)

McLean County Auditor  
PO Box 1108  
Washburn ND 58577-1108  
701-462-8541 - phone  
701-462-3542 - fax  
[lkorgel@nd.gov](mailto:lkorgel@nd.gov)

Mercer County Auditor  
1021 Arthur St  
PO Box 39  
Stanton ND 58571-0039  
701-745-3292 - phone  
701-745-3793 - fax  
[merhardt@nd.gov](mailto:merhardt@nd.gov)

Morton County Auditor  
210 2nd Avenue NW  
Mandan ND 58554-3158  
701-667-3300 - phone  
701-667-3453 - fax  
[ptrauger@nd.gov](mailto:ptrauger@nd.gov)

Mountrail County Auditor  
PO Box 69  
Stanley ND 58784-0069  
701-628-2145 - phone  
701-628-2276 - fax  
[joanh@co.mountrail.nd.us](mailto:joanh@co.mountrail.nd.us)

Nelson County Auditor  
210 B Ave W Ste 201  
Lakota ND 58344-7410  
701-247-2463 - phone  
701-247-2754 - fax  
[wdavidso@nd.gov](mailto:wdavidso@nd.gov)

Oliver County Auditor  
115 West Main  
Box 188  
Center ND 58530-0188  
701-794-8721 - phone  
701-794-3476 - fax  
[b Fleming@nd.gov](mailto:b Fleming@nd.gov)

Pembina County Auditor  
301 Dakota Street West #1  
Cavalier ND 58220-4100  
701-265-4231 - phone  
701-265-4876 - fax  
[drobinso@nd.gov](mailto:drobinso@nd.gov)

Pierce County Auditor  
240 SE 2nd Street SE – Ste. 6  
Rugby ND 58368-1897  
701-776-5225 ext 1 - phone  
701-776-6942 - fax  
[kfursath@nd.gov](mailto:kfursath@nd.gov)

Ramsey County Auditor  
524 4th Avenue NE Unit 6  
Devils Lake ND 58301  
701-662-7007 - phone  
701-662-7049 - fax  
[befische@nd.gov](mailto:befische@nd.gov)

Ransom County Auditor  
PO Box 668  
Lisbon ND 58054-0668  
701-683-6113 - phone  
701-683-5827 - fax  
[cqilbert@nd.gov](mailto:cqilbert@nd.gov)

Renville County Auditor  
PO Box 68  
Mohall ND 58761-0068  
701-756-6301 - phone  
701-756-7158 - fax  
[lfisher@nd.gov](mailto:lfisher@nd.gov)

Richland County Auditor  
418 2nd Avenue N, Ofc 21  
Wahpeton ND 58075-4400  
701-642-7700 - phone  
701-642-7701 - fax  
[hbailey@co.richland.nd.us](mailto:hbailey@co.richland.nd.us)

Rolette County Auditor  
Box 939  
Rolla ND 58367-0939  
701-477-5665 - phone  
701-477-6339 - fax  
[vmcloud@nd.gov](mailto:vmcloud@nd.gov)

Sargent County Auditor  
355 Main St S Ste. 1  
Forman ND 58032-4149  
701-724-6241 ext. 101 - phone  
701-724-6244 - fax  
[sherry.hosford@co.sargent.nd.us](mailto:sherry.hosford@co.sargent.nd.us)

Sheridan County Auditor  
Box 439  
McClusky ND 58463-0439  
701-363-2205 - phone  
701-363-2953 - fax  
[smurray@nd.gov](mailto:smurray@nd.gov)

Sioux County Auditor  
Box L  
Fort Yates ND 58538-0529  
701-854-3481 - phone  
701-854-3854 - fax  
[bhettich@nd.gov](mailto:bhettich@nd.gov)

Slope County Auditor  
Box NN  
Amidon ND 58620-0449  
701-879-6276 - phone  
701-879-6278 - fax  
[lbuzalsky@nd.gov](mailto:lbuzalsky@nd.gov)

Stark County Auditor  
Box 130  
Dickinson ND 58602-0130  
701-456-7630 - phone  
701-456-7634 - fax  
[aschulz@starkcountynd.gov](mailto:aschulz@starkcountynd.gov)

Steele County Auditor  
Box 275  
Finley ND 58230-0275  
701-524-2110 - phone  
701-524-1715 - fax  
[leadbet@nd.gov](mailto:leadbet@nd.gov)

Stutsman County Auditor  
511 2nd Avenue SE, Room 102  
Jamestown ND 58401-4299  
701-252-9035 - phone  
701-251-6325 - fax  
[nojohnso@nd.gov](mailto:nojohnso@nd.gov)

Towner County Auditor  
315 2nd St  
PO Box 603  
Cando ND 58324-0603  
701-968-4340 ext 1 - phone  
701-968-4342 - fax  
[kmhaugen@nd.gov](mailto:kmhaugen@nd.gov)

Traill County Auditor  
114 W Caledonia  
Box 429  
Hillsboro ND 58045-0429  
701-636-4458 - phone  
701-636-5418 - fax  
[rebecca.braaten@co.trail.nd.us](mailto:rebecca.braaten@co.trail.nd.us)

Walsh County Auditor  
600 Cooper Avenue  
Grafton ND 58237-1535  
701-352-2851 - phone  
701-352-3340 - fax  
[skinsala@nd.gov](mailto:skinsala@nd.gov)

Ward County Auditor  
315 3rd Street SE  
PO Box 5005  
Minot ND 58702-5005  
701-857-6420 - phone  
701-857-6424 - fax  
[Devra.Smestad@co.ward.nd.us](mailto:Devra.Smestad@co.ward.nd.us)

Wells County Auditor  
700 Railway St N  
PO Box 37  
Fessenden ND 58438-0037  
701-547-3521 - phone  
701-547-3719 - fax  
[irudel@nd.gov](mailto:irudel@nd.gov)

Williams County Auditor  
205 E Broadway  
Box 2047  
Williston ND 58802-2047  
701-577-4500 - phone  
701-577-4510 - fax  
[bethi@co.williams.nd.us](mailto:bethi@co.williams.nd.us)

North Dakota Secretary of State  
Al Jaeger  
600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 108  
Bismarck ND 58505-0500

Elections Division  
800-352-0867 ext. 4146  
[www.nd.gov/sos/electvote](http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote)  
[soselect@nd.gov](mailto:soselect@nd.gov)