



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA ELECTION 2006

C I T I Z E N R I G H T S A N D R E S P O N S I B I L I T I E S

As a citizen of the United States and a resident of Nebraska, you have a right to participate in the election process. This election season, Nebraskans need to be aware of new legislation that impacts this process and of their rights and responsibilities. Voting is a powerful way to influence your own future and the future of democracy.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

New Federal legislation, The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed by Congress and signed into law on October 29, 2002. HAVA was designed to simplify and streamline the voting process across the nation. Among its many reforms, it mandates that state and localities replace outdated voting equipment, create statewide voter registration lists, and provide provisional ballots to ensure that eligible voters are not turned away from the polls. In addition, HAVA makes it easier for persons with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

YOUR CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Register – in Nebraska you are required to register to vote and to declare a party affiliation. Check the Nonpartisan box if you want to be an independent.
- Be an informed voter – learn about the candidates and issues; listen to candidates, compare what they say with what is important to you; discuss the issues with your friends and family.
- VOTE! – voting is the foundation of our democracy; you can make a difference only if you vote; encourage your family and friends to do so also.

YOUR VOTER RIGHTS:

- You have the right to vote early in person or by mail – no excuses needed.
- You have the right to privacy – only you will know how you voted.
- You have the right to equal treatment at the polls regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender or disability.
- You have the right to take time off work to vote.
- You have the right to ask for another ballot if you make a mistake or “over vote”.
- You have the right to ask for assistance if there is something on the ballot you do not understand.
- You have the right to ask for a provisional ballot if there is an issue with your registration. Never walk away from your polling place having not voted.
- You have the right to vote if you are an ex-felon and it has been at least two years since you completed your sentence, including parole.

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C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N : 1- 877-LWV VOTE (1-877-598-8683)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEBRASKA: www.lwvne.org | NEBRASKA SECRETARY OF STATE: www.sos.state.ne.us

TIPS FOR VOTERS - TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

- Fill in the oval completely on your ballot
- Use black or blue ink or #2 pencil
- Sign the oath that is on the outside of your mail-in ballots
- Sample ballots and signs are posted to assist you at the polls

V O T I N G Q U E S T I O N S A N D I N F O R M A T I O N

WHO CAN VOTE?

Registering to vote is required in Nebraska to be eligible to vote. To register you must:

- Be a United States citizen and a resident of Nebraska.
- Be 18 years of age on or before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- Have not been convicted of a felony, or if convicted at least two years have passed since the completion of your sentence including parole term.
- Have not been officially found to be mentally incompetent.

WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION PROCESS?

You may register in person or by mail. Your mail-in registration form must be postmarked on or before the third Friday before an election. You may register in person at your election office or outside registration sites up to 10 days before an election.

A voter confirmation card will be mailed to you with your polling site and election information. You do not need to show the card at the polls to receive your ballot. You will need to re-register if you change your name, address or party affiliation.

WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

Any voter may request an early vote ballot. Early voting begins 35 days before a statewide election and 15 days before a city or special election. Early voting can be in person or by mail.

WHAT VOTING EQUIPMENT IS USED IN NEBRASKA?

Paper ballots that are optically scanned are used throughout the state. An AutoMARK® ballot-marking system is available at each polling site to allow independent and private voting by anyone who wishes to use it.

WHAT ARE PROVISIONAL BALLOTS?

If an issue arises with your voter registration, such as your name not being on the list, you are entitled to request a provisional ballot. Your ballot will be kept separate until your registration can be verified. You will need to complete a form to update your registration. After the election, you can check your provisional vote status at www.sos.ne.us.

HOW CAN I CHECK MY VOTER REGISTRATION?

The Nebraska Secretary of State has developed a statewide voter registration database. To check your status at www.sos.ne.us, click on Election Information to see if you are registered and the location of your polling place.

INVEST IN DEMOCRACY – BE AN ELECTION POLL WORKER

Our elections depend upon citizen involvement. To participate as a poll worker, contact your local election office and volunteer. You will be trained and receive payment. Your employer must allow you time off to do this without penalties.

New legislation in Nebraska allows 16 and 17 year olds to serve on county election receiving boards at polling places across the state. This offers young citizens an opportunity to learn about our election process.