



# HARDIN COUNTY

## Auditor's Office

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& COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

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## Absentee Voting in the Primary Strongly Encouraged instead of in-person voting due to COVID-19

ELDORA – Hardin County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections Jessica Lara is encouraging those wishing to vote in the June 2 Primary Election to vote absentee by mail due to the recent concerns with coronavirus and COVID-19.

“I am requesting Hardin County voters utilize absentee ballots via mail for the June Primary Election instead of voting in person on Election Day as much as possible. I am concerned for the safety of our voters and polling location workers and want to minimize as many potential exposures to the virus as possible.”

Voting by mail does not bring an end to in-person voting on Election Day. Polling locations will be open for voting on June 2, however the precincts in Hardin County will be temporarily combined into two polling locations, which is fewer than normal for a Primary Election. Lara added, “The two polling locations will be in Iowa Falls and Eldora. Our County is divided into two House districts, and this puts one location in each of those House districts. The temporary combination will allow us to adequately staff polling sites and yet not have to recruit 45-60 poll workers at a time when we are all encouraged to stay home.”

“I don’t want to encourage people to not participate in the election; I simply want to change the manner and method in which they cast their ballots. By making the move to absentee rather than in-person, we can mitigate the dangers of in-person exposure as well as the potential lack of poll workers on Election Day due to safety precautions or illness with COVID-19,” Lara explained.

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing. Because of COVID-19, all households with registered voters will be receiving two forms mailed from the Secretary of State during the last week of April. Absentee Request Forms are also available on the Hardin County website as well as the Secretary of State website [www.sos.iowa.gov](http://www.sos.iowa.gov). Absentee ballot requests may also be obtained by calling the Hardin County Auditor’s Office and requesting one be sent. The Hardin County Auditor’s Office phone number is 641.939.8108.

Absentee requests to vote by mail must be received in the Auditor’s Office by 5 p.m. May 22.

Voters are reminded that for the Primary Election they must choose a political party on the request form in order to receive the correct ballot.

Absentee voters are also reminded they are required to provide a personal identification number (PIN) when voting absentee either in person or by mail. That PIN will most likely be your Iowa driver’s license number or your Iowa non-operator’s ID number. If you do not have a driver’s license or ID, you should have received a PIN card by the Iowa Secretary of State.