

INSIDE THE POLLS

Polk County Election Official Newsletter



Upcoming Events

September 10

Special Election Training
11 AM Admin Bldg.

Oct 4 — Oct 10

Satellite Officials
River Place

Oct 15 — Oct 19

Captain Training
Administration Bldg.

Oct 22 — Oct 26

Captain Training
Administration Bldg.

Oct 29 — Nov 1

Poll Worker Training
River Place

November 1

Double Precincts

Captain Training
6 PM—8 PM
River Place

November 2

Single Precincts

Captain Training
River Place

November 6

General Election

Verify the Address First!

Using the Address Library (Blue Book) to verify that a voter is in the correct precinct is easy with a little practice.

Have the voter sit in the provisional processing area of your polling place and get the voters address. At this stage, the verbal address doesn't need to match the ID. We first must verify the voter is in the correct precinct before further processing.

Reminder: The voter must cast their ballot at their home precinct

Open the blue address library book. Search on street name first, than suffix, prefix and street type. Next, check the address range, pay attention to "ODD" "EVEN" and "ALL". Note... streets are usually used as precinct boundaries. Finally, check the precinct column for the address range. If the font is small to read, you can use the magnifiers that are in your supply bag.

3 options when using the address library

- 1) If the voter's address is not in the library. Have the voter call our office 286-3247
- 2) If the voter's address is in the library but it's not in your precinct. Send the voter to the correct precinct.
- 3) If the voter's address is in your precinct. Process change of address COA (play # 1) if the voter was in your precinct's register book and the move

did not require changing precincts. If voter is not in your precinct's register book use the applicable provisional play (3, 4, 5 or 6) depending on what forms of ID / proof of residency, if any the voter provides.

Help spread the word!

Important dates for the 2018 General Election. **October 8** is "Opening Day" for early voting at the election office.



First day early voting 2014. Photo courtesy of Todd Copley

October 27 is the pre-registration deadline for the 2018 General Election. This is the cut off date for the black register book at the polls.

"If you've moved, get in the groove. It's the same game if your name has changed."

Avoid the frustration by updating your voter registration."

GENERAL ELECTION CHANGE NOTICE:

A Tribal ID from a federally-recognized tribe or nation has been added to the valid form of identification in Iowa for registration and voting.



Precinct Captains

Help Wanted! \$14.00 / hr
We're looking for a new Precinct Captain at DM 55 (The election office)
Contact Steve if you're interested (515) 286-3253

INSIDE THE POLLS

What is a Precinct?

A Precinct is a geographical unit based on census population and census blocks. A census block is the smallest polygon unit where demographic data is available to the public.

Polk County is responsible for updating unincorporated precincts every ten years, in the year following the census.

One of the rules associated reprecincting is that the total population of the precinct may not exceed 3,500 people at the time of redistricting.

Example; from 2001 – 2011 Polk City and Madison was a combined Town and Country Precinct. When the 2010 census population figures were released, the population exceeded 3,500 population limit (Polk City was at 3,418) and caused a separate Madison Township precinct with only 127 people. In 2021, look for two Polk City Precincts plus Madison Twp.

Another rule that caused a small Polk County precinct is, “the precinct must lie within one legislative district rule”. Example; during the State redistricting process the City of Granger was approved with a different State Senate and State House district than Jefferson Township. This rule caused Granger-1 to be a standalone precinct with a total population of 212.

The rule precincts must be contiguous caused Delaware 1 and Delaware 2 (with only 678 people)

Town and Country precincts are created as cities annex unincorporated area, which we clean up during reprecincting.

Non-English Speaking Voters



We received several informative responses. Thank you for the feedback. While English is the dominate de facto language, the United States has no official language.

We'll all agree the best practice is for the non-English / limited English speaking voter to bring someone to assist them. One of the best suggestions from Precinct Election Officials was to use your smart phone as an interpreter. Google Translate or another application can, in a pinch can be very helpful.

The possibility of encountering a voter who has limited English speaking ability is increasing in Polk County and Iowa. According to the US Census – Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years +, 2012 – 2016 was 12.4% for Polk County compared to 7.5% for Iowa

As precinct election officials we should be as prepared as possible for a scenario where there is a communication gap. We can not expect to have an interpreter at every polling place. Call our office if you need assistance with this or any other scenario.

2018 Absentee Ballot Requests Forms

Absentee ballot request forms are being accepted for poll workers who will be stationed outside of their home precinct. Ballots will be mailed beginning October 8, 2018. October 27th is the deadline to request one to be mailed to your home. You can also in person at the Election Office October 8–November 5.

http://auditor.co.polk.ia.us/pdf/election/absenteeballot8_1_18.pdf