

To the Editor

I have been receiving a few phone calls regarding absentee voting for the upcoming Primary Election on June 2, 2020. I am joining Secretary of State Paul Pate and auditors across Iowa in encouraging voters to cast an absentee ballot by mail. During the COVID 19 pandemic, voting by mail is the safest option.

There will be only one polling location open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Ida Grove Recreation Center for in person voting, but I highly recommend **VOTE by MAIL** to limit the exposure to yourself as well as the poll workers.

Secretary Pate is sending absentee ballot request forms to every active registered voter in the state. The forms should arrive in your mailbox either this week or next week and will include pre-paid postage for returning them to my office.

Once voters receive their absentee ballot request form in the mail, they should fill it out and mail it promptly. The form can also be downloaded from the Iowa Secretary of State website- VoterReady.Iowa.gov or from the idacounty.org website. Once the request is received a ballot will be mailed to you. Requests must be received in my office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2020. By law, requests received after this date, can't be processed for ballot mailing. If you didn't receive the Secretary of State's form, watch the April 28th edition of the Ida County Reminder for a copy of an absentee ballot request form.

"We want all eligible citizens to participate in our elections and casting a ballot by mail is the best method during this pandemic," Secretary Pate said "Absentee voting has security measures in place to ensure the integrity of the ballot."

Primary elections are intended for members of the Republican and Democratic parties only. No Party voters who choose to request a party's ballot will have their voter registration officially changed to that political party.

For more information about the June 2 primary, visit VoterReady.Iowa.gov or the idacounty.org website.

Phone: 712-364-2626, Fax: 712-364-3929, email: lsteenbock@idacountyia.us .

PLEASE BE SAFE AND VOTE BY MAIL!!!

Sincerely, Lorna Steenbock, Ida County Auditor, 401 Moorehead St. Ida Grove, IA 51445