

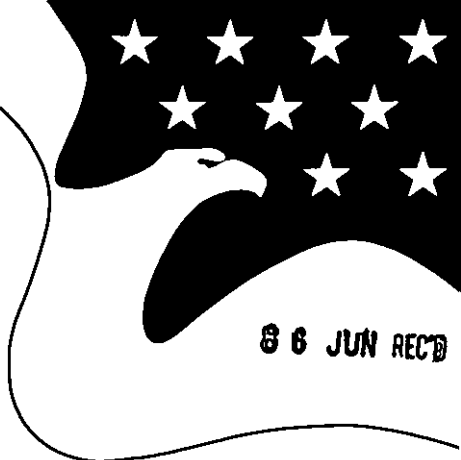
Date Printed: 06/11/2009

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JTS Box Number: IFES\_74  
Tab Number: 140  
Document Title: 1986 Voter information  
Document Date: 1986  
Document Country: United States --  
Nebraska  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE02372



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# 1986 Voter Information

**Steve Witala**  
**Election Commissioner**  
**Hall of Justice**  
**Omaha, Nebraska 68183**  
**(402) 444-7200**

**Polls open at 8:00 a.m. — close at 8:00 p.m.**

**Primary Election is Tuesday, May 13**  
**General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 4**

\* Distributed in cooperation with  
the League of Women Voters.

## **In 1986 Douglas County Voters will cast votes for the following:**

- \* Representative to 2nd District Congress
- \* Governor
- \* Lt. Governor
- \* Secretary of State
- \* Attorney General
- \* State Treasurer
- \* Auditor of Public Accounts
- \* County Commissioners (3)
- \* Clerk of the District Court
- \* County Attorney
- \* County Treasurer
- \* County Assessor
- \* Sheriff
- \* Surveyor
- \* Party Delegates to County Convention
- \* State Legislature (even numbered districts only)
- \* State Board of Education (district 8)
- \* Metropolitan Community College Board of Gov.
- \* OPPD Board of Directors (2)
- \* MUD Board of Directors (2)
- \* County Superintendent of Public Instruction
- \* Ralston City Council
- \* Ralston Library Board
- \* Elkhorn City Council
- \* Valley City Council
- \* Bennington Village Trustees
- \* Waterloo Village Trustees

### **BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

- \* Omaha Public Schools (odd numbered districts)
- \* School District #66
- \* Millard School District #17
- \* Ralston School District #54
- \* Elkhorn School District #10
- \* Bennington School District #59
- \* Valley School District #33
- \* Waterloo School District #11
- \* Fremont School District #1
- \* Gretna School District #37

### **Appearing On The General Election Ballot Only:**

- \* Papio Natural Resources District Directors
- \* Educational Service Unit #3 Board Members
- \* Retention of Judges: Certain members of the Supreme, Workman's Compensation, District and County Courts.

- Constitutional Amendments
- Statewide Referendums
- Possible city and village ordinances.

## **Voter Eligibility**

### **You are qualified to vote if:**

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least 18 years old on the day of the election at which you seek to vote.
- You have resided in Nebraska for at least one day and have registered to vote at least 10 days before the election.
- You are not under sentence for a felony.

### **How is residence determined?**

- By law your residence is that place at which you have established a home, where you are habitually present, and to which when you depart you intend to return. Leaving for temporary purposes, such as military service or school attendance, need not result in a change of residence for voting purposes. However, any permanent change in your residence or address will require you to re-register to vote.

### **Can a student vote from his school address?**

- Yes, if you regard that place as your residence. Otherwise, you must vote in your home community. The only exception would be if you have applied for an absentee ballot. (See information on absentee voting.)

## **Registration**

### **Does everyone have to be registered?**

- Yes. The only exception is for those who have recently moved to Nebraska or moved to another state after the registration deadline. During Presidential Elections, they are entitled to vote a Presidential Ballot only.

### **When can I register?**

- At any time up to 10 days before an election.

### **Where can I register?**

- At the Election Offices located in the Hall of Justice at 17th and Harney Streets and at the Westroads Mall (basement level).

- At any of the county branch offices located in South Omaha City Hall, Florence, and 74 Dodge Plaza (south of the Crossroads shopping center).
- At any one of the 10 Omaha Public Libraries.
- At the offices of the Urban League.
- At any of the offices of the Omaha Housing Authority.
- At any one of the satellite registration sites set up in 40 grocery stores two months before every statewide election.
- At the offices of the various city and village clerks located in Douglas County (Ralston, Elkhorn, Bennington, Valley, and Waterloo).
- You may register or re-register through the mail. (See form provided in this brochure.)

### **How can I register through the mail?**

- State law allows citizens to register by mail up to **30 days** before each election. You can either write or call the Election Office (444-7200) and request that registration forms be sent to your address. Your mail-in registration must be postmarked no later than **30 days** before an election.

### **Will I ever have to re-register?**

- No, unless you change your address, your name (i.e. marriage), or if you desire to change your party affiliation. Then you must re-register to vote.

### **Change of address?**

- If you are now registered and move, you must re-register before you are entitled to vote in any election.
- You may request that the Election Office mail you a **short form** that is used to re-register citizens who have moved within the county.
- You can also pick up **short forms** at any of the Post Offices, Omaha Public Libraries, at most banks, and at many savings and loan associations.

### **How will I know where my new polling place is?**

- Whenever you register or re-register to vote, the Election Commission will mail a postcard to your address at least a week before the election. The card not only informs you of the address of your polling place but also indicates the various voting districts in which you live.

### **Do I need a voting card in order to vote?**

- No! Before every primary election, the Election

Office will mail each registered voter a postcard indicating a person's polling place and voting districts. This card is for informational purposes only and need not be presented to election officials in order to vote.

## **Voting Procedures**

### **Where do I vote?**

- Each voter must cast his ballot at the polling place designated to serve the precinct in which he or she resides. If you are in doubt as to the location of this polling place, you should check with the election office (444-7200). At least a week before every statewide **general election** you will receive a postcard indicating your polling place and your voting districts. Anyone who registers or re-registers before a primary election will receive a similar postcard.

### **Then what?**

- The first step in casting a ballot involves stating your name and address to the Clerk serving as an election official. Your name and address will be checked against a computer list for that precinct. If you are registered in that precinct, you will be asked to sign your name in a voter book, and a Judge will give you the proper ballots.

### **Instructions for marking ballots.**

- You will be voting a paper ballot by simply marking an **X** in a proper square with a #2 lead pencil. **Do not erase any marks on a ballot.** If you have made a mistake in voting, ask the judge who issued you the ballot for another one. The reason for this procedure is that the ballots in Douglas County are electronically scanned and counted, and a pencil mark, even if it is erased, will be detected. After voting, return the ballot to the Judge.

### **Why should an election official place my ballot in the ballot box?**

- Nebraska state law requires this procedure to help insure that only the properly issued ballots are deposited in the ballot box.

### **Can voters receive assistance in voting?**

- Those voters who cannot read or are blind or have a physical handicap may request assistance in marking their ballots. One Judge and one Clerk, each of a different political party, will help.

These officials may not disclose any information about how a citizen voted.

- Those voters who suffer from paraplegia or blindness may request the assistance of a relative or friend (must be at least 16 years of age).

## **Primaries**

### **What is the difference between a primary and a general election?**

- In a primary election the members of each party nominate candidates for the general election. Some offices have non-partisan primaries in which the two candidates receiving the most votes for an office are nominated.

### **How do I establish which ballot I am entitled to vote in a primary election?**

- Nebraska has a "Closed Primary," which means that you are only allowed to vote the ballot of the party with which you are affiliated. If you did not affiliate with one of the parties when you registered, as an Independent you will be able to vote only the ballots that relate to non-partisan issues and non-partisan candidates.
- In a general election, all voters elect officials from the party nominees and independent candidates regardless of how they are affiliated.

## **Absentee Voting**

### **Who may apply for an absentee ballot? Any elector who:**

- Will be absent from the county on election day.
- Is physically unable to go to the polls.
- For religious reasons, cannot attend the polls.
- Is in the hospital.
- Is a law enforcement, election or fire-fighting official or emergency vehicle operator or attendant who expects to be on duty for more than 12 hours on election day.

### **Is it possible to request an absentee ballot and at the same time register to vote by mail?**

- Yes. You must be physically unable to go to the polls, or . . .
- legally blind, or . . .
- someone who is living outside of Douglas County, the State of Nebraska, or the United States who claims residence in Douglas County. (If you do not have an actual residence in Douglas County,

you must sign a special oath stating that you expect to return in the future.)

### **How do I apply?**

Write or go to the Election Offices (in the Hall of Justice, 17th and Harney, or at the County Branch Office in the Westroads Mall) and request absentee ballots, giving the following information:

- Your name and voting residence.
- Your reason for being absent from the polls on election day.
- Your party affiliation if the election is a primary.

### **Can the application be made in person?**

- Yes. Simply go to one of the election offices.

### **Can I have someone get an absentee ballot for me?**

- Anyone (agent) can apply for a ballot and/or pick a ballot up for another person.
- The application must be signed by the agent or the voter.
- Maximum of 2 applications per agent.
- No candidate or any person serving on a committee for a candidate shall act as an agent for any voter requesting a ballot.

### **When can I "apply" for an absentee ballot?**

- The election office can begin accepting applications 90 days before an election.

### **When can I actually vote an absentee ballot?**

- You may vote absentee ballots 35 days before an election.

## **1986 Absentee Voting Deadlines:**

### **Primary Election**

### **General Election**

- \* First day to accept applications for absentee ballots: **February 12**      **August 6**
- \* First day that a voter can vote an absentee ballot: **April 8**      **September 30**
- \* Last day to request an absentee ballot to be mailed: **May 9, 4:00 pm**      **Oct. 31, 4:00 pm**
- \* Last day to vote an absentee ballot in person: **May 12, 4:00 pm**      **Nov. 3, 4:00 pm**
- \* Last day for an agent to pick up an absentee ballot: **May 13, 12:00 noon**      **Nov. 4, 12:00 noon**
- \* An agent who picks up ballots must return them by: **May 13, 8:00 pm**      **Nov. 4, 8:00 pm**
- \* All absentee ballots returned by mail must be received: **May 15, 10:00 am**      **Nov. 6, 10:00 am**



# Voter Registration Deadlines:

## May 13, 1986 Primary Election:

- Mail-in registrations postmarked by April 13.
- In-person registrations: Deadline: May 2, 6 pm.

## November 4, 1986 General Election

- Mail-in registration postmarked by October 5.
- In-person registrations: Deadline: October 24, 6 pm.

## Will I receive notice that my mail-in registration has been accepted and processed?

- Yes, if you completed the form correctly and mailed it by the deadline.

## To register by mail, please use the following:

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### Request To Register By Mail

If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older, presently residing in Douglas County but are NOT registered to vote in Douglas County, you may request a Mail-In Registration Form by completing the information below and mailing this request form to the Election Commissioner no later than 40 days before an election. The Registration Form will be mailed to you and must be returned to the Election Commissioner postmarked at least 30 days before an election. (DEADLINE: April 13 for the Primary and October 5 for the General)

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Name:      first      initial      maiden      last

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Address:    number    street    apt#    city    zip

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Telephone:                    home                    work

I request that the Election Commissioner send to my home address a mail-in registration form.

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Signature:

**MAIL THIS REQUEST FORM TO:**  
**STEVE WIITALA**  
**ELECTION COMMISSIONER**  
Hall of Justice  
Omaha, Nebraska 68183