



Dear Members of the Armed Forces,

Hello, I'm Al Jaeger, North Dakota's Secretary of State and the state's chief election official.

Elections allow us to exercise one of our most fundamental rights – the right to vote. Elections give us a voice in our state and national politics, they encourage us to take an active interest in our schools and neighborhoods, and permit us to speak out on issues and causes of interest and importance.

In North Dakota, voting is made very easy through absentee voting and early voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register before voting.

I encourage members of our armed forces to take advantage of the ease of voting in North Dakota during this election year! And, for those members who are not residents of North Dakota, I encourage you to participate in your home state through the absentee voting process.

**Al Jaeger**  
**North Dakota Secretary of State**

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### Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in North Dakota, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A resident of North Dakota; and
- A resident in the precinct for 30 days preceding the election.

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### Determining Residence

Voting residence can be summed up simply by the following excerpt from an opinion issued by the North Dakota Attorney General in May of 1995. The opinion states, "The act of voting does not make a person a resident [of North Dakota]. Rather, a person must be a resident prior to voting."

For the purpose of voting, the term residence and voting residence are synonymous in North Dakota. They are one and the same. Every person has in law a residence. In determining the place of residence, the following rules must be observed.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she returns in seasons of repose;
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;
- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

[Section 54-01-26 of the North Dakota Century Code]

### Choosing to Vote in North Dakota

By voting, military personnel stationed in North Dakota are indicating that they are residents of the state of North Dakota. Therefore, military personnel who wish to vote in North Dakota elections should be aware of the above residency requirements and the implications and obligations that may follow prior to voting. Among these implications and obligations may be a change in the military personnel's home state of record or the need to file North Dakota State Income Taxes. Military personnel who have questions about voting in North Dakota are encouraged to contact the voting assistance officer assigned to their unit or base for more information about voting in North Dakota.

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### North Dakota...The Only State Without Voter Registration

North Dakota is the only state in the nation without some form of voter registration. Therefore, North Dakota voters have no pre-election day registration requirements prior to voting.

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### Voting in North Dakota

A large percentage of precincts in North Dakota maintain a list of voters who have voted in previous elections. When a voter approaches a polling location to vote, the election board attempts to find the voter's name on the voting list. If the voter's name is on the list, the voter's name and address are verified and the voter is then allowed to vote. In precincts that do not maintain a list of voters the election board begins each Election Day with a blank poll book. As each voter's name and address are verified, a member of the election board enters the information into the poll book.

If the voter is not on the list, either because the voter is new to the precinct or for some other reason, or if the voter is suspected of not being a qualified elector of the precinct, the voter may be challenged. As part of the challenge, the voter is asked to sign an affidavit swearing to the fact that he or she is a qualified elector of the precinct and therefore qualified to vote in the precinct. If the voter agrees to sign the affidavit, the voter must be allowed to vote. If the voter refuses to sign the affidavit, the voter may be denied the right to vote.

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### Challenging Voters

Any member of the election board may challenge the right of an individual to vote if the election board member has knowledge or has reason to believe the individual is not a qualified elector. A poll challenger may request members of the election board to challenge the right of an individual to vote if the poll challenger has knowledge or has reason to believe the individual is not a qualified elector of the precinct. A challenge may be based upon any one of the following:

1. The individual offering to vote does not meet the age or citizenship requirements.
2. The individual offering to vote has never voted in the precinct before, the name of the individual offering to vote does not appear in the pollbook generated from the central voter file, and the individual fails to provide reasonable evidence of residency in the precinct.
3. Except as provided in section 16.1-01-05, the individual offering to vote physically resides outside of the precinct.
4. The individual offering to vote does not meet the residency requirements provided in section 16.1-01-04.
5. The individual offering to vote fails or refuses to provide an appropriate form of identification as requested under subsection 3.

If after an election board member has requested that the individual offering to vote provide an appropriate form of identification to address any of the voting eligibility concerns listed above. And the

identification is not provided or does not adequately confirm the eligibility of the challenged individual, the challenged individual may not vote unless the challenged individual executes an affidavit, known as a Voter's Affidavit, acknowledged before the election inspector, that the challenged individual is a legally qualified elector of the precinct.

If a voter refuses to sign an affidavit, and is therefore denied the right to vote, as a practical matter he or she may attempt to prove his or her qualifications by providing additional information (e.g. ID, phone bill, tax record, support of a qualified elector, etc.)

Falsely swearing to be a qualified elector is a class A misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment, a fine of \$2,000, or both. When completing the affidavit, a voter is made aware of these penalties along with the fact that affidavits are subject to review by the County Auditor and County State's Attorney for further investigation.

Military personnel stationed in North Dakota who are residents of the state and choose to vote in North Dakota should not be alarmed if they are challenged at the polls. The challenge process is not intended to be a threatening encounter or a form of intimidation. Rather, the challenge process is a normal component of the Election Day process in North Dakota. Absent voter registration, the challenge process is the only safeguard election boards can rely upon to screen persons wishing to vote in North Dakota.

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## Voting Absentee in North Dakota

Absentee voting is also very easy in North Dakota. Absentee ballots may be made available to those who:

- are qualified electors wishing to vote absentee prior to the date of the election;
- are members of the armed forces of the United States;
- are members of the merchant marine;
- are physically disabled.

To apply for an absentee ballot an applicant must apply for an absent voter's ballot on a blank furnished by the proper officer of the county, city, or school district that the applicant is an elector, or on any blank containing the following information:

- the applicant's name;
- the applicant's voting address;
- the applicant's mailing address;
- the applicant's current home telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- an affirmation that the applicant has resided in the precinct for at least thirty days;
- the applicant's signature.
- voter's precinct or voting location if known

Qualified electors are no longer required to provide a reason for voting absentee in North Dakota.

Applications for absentee ballots may be delivered to the appropriate county auditor by mail, in person, or by fax. Certain overseas military personnel and citizens may also receive and return voted ballots by fax according to North Dakota law. For more information, please consult with your voting assistance officer, the Secretary of State's office, or your county auditor.

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40<sup>th</sup> day before the election. Absentee ballots must be returned and postmarked by the day before the election. Absentee ballots may not be issued on the day of the election.

Military personnel interested in voting absentee in another state should contact the voting assistance officer assigned to their unit or base to learn about voter registration and absentee voting laws, procedures, deadlines, and forms in the other states and territories.

Revised December 2003

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## Sources and Contacts for Military Voters

Members of the armed services stationed in North Dakota who have questions about voting have many resources to look to for guidance.

### Voting Assistance Officers

The best and most accessible resource concerning voting available to military personnel is the voting assistance officers assigned to each unit or base. These individuals are trained to respond to the many voting and residency related questions that arise.

### Federal Voting Assistance Program

**Toll Free** 1-800-438-8683  
**Web Site** [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)  
**E-mail** [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Another valuable resource for all military personnel is the Federal Voting Assistance Program administered by the Secretary of Defense. The FVAP has three distinct goals. These are to:

1. Inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote;
1. Foster voting participation; and
2. Protect the integrity of, and simultaneously enhance, the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels.

The FVAP's web site is especially helpful for military voters. The site contains information on voting procedures in the various states and includes voter registration and absentee voting deadlines and forms for military personnel to complete and return.

### North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Division

**Toll Free** 1-800-352-0867  
**Web Site** [www.state.nd.us/sec](http://www.state.nd.us/sec)  
**E-mail** [soselect@state.nd.us](mailto:soselect@state.nd.us)

The North Dakota Secretary of State serves as North Dakota's chief election official. The Elections Division is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

As with the FVAP, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office also maintains a web site containing valuable information for voters, candidates, and the general public. The site also includes contact information for the state's 53 county election officials (County Auditors) along with absentee ballot applications and other useful election related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

### North Dakota's County Auditors

North Dakota's 53 county auditors serve as the chief election officials of the various counties. For the most part, these are the officials that you apply for and receive absentee ballots from. Contact information for North Dakota's county auditors may be obtained from the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-352-0867 or the Secretary of State's web site at [www.state.nd.us/sec](http://www.state.nd.us/sec).

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## How to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Whether you are stationed within the United States or overseas, voting by absentee ballot involves extra time. For this reason, please request your ballot as soon as you know that you will need to vote absentee.

### Stationed within the United States

1. If you are stationed within the United States, please fill out the absent voter's ballot application provided at the following site location [www.state.nd.us/sec/pdf/51468.pdf](http://www.state.nd.us/sec/pdf/51468.pdf).
2. Send this application either by mail or fax to your county auditor. (ND county auditor contact information is included with this document. Please see next page.)

## Stationed Overseas

1. North Dakota residents living or stationed outside the United States need only to inform their county auditor that they would like to receive an absentee ballot. (ND county auditor contact information is included with this document. Please see next page.) When requesting the ballot, please include the following:

- your current mailing address

Adams County Auditor  
Patricia (Pat) Carroll  
602 Adams Ave  
Box 589  
Hettinger ND 58639-0589  
Phone # 701-567-4363  
Fax # 701-567-2910  
pcarroll@state.nd.us

Barnes County Auditor  
Edward McGough  
230 4th Street NW, Room 202  
Valley City ND 58072-2947  
Phone # 701-845-8500  
Fax # 701-845-8548  
emcgough@co.barnes.nd.us

Benson County Auditor  
Bonnie (Howard) Erickson  
311 B Ave S  
Box 206  
Minnewaukan ND 58351-0206  
Phone # 701-473-5340  
Fax # 701-473-5571  
bs Erickson@state.nd.us

Billings County Auditor  
Sydney Hegge  
Box 168  
Medora ND 58645-0168  
Phone # 701-623-4377  
Fax # 701-623-4896  
auditor@midstate.net

Bottineau County Auditor  
Mae Streich  
314 W 5th Street  
Bottineau ND 58318-1204  
Phone # 701-228-2225  
Fax # 701-228-3658  
mstreich@state.nd.us

Bowman County Auditor  
Sandi Tivis  
104 1st St NW  
Box 439  
Bowman ND 58623-0439  
Phone # 701-523-3130  
Fax # 701-523-5443  
stivis@state.nd.us

Burke County Auditor  
Teri Baumann  
103 Main St SE  
PO Box 310  
Bowbells ND 58721-0310  
Phone # 701-377-2861  
Fax # 701-377-2020  
tbaumann@state.nd.us

Burleigh County Auditor  
Kevin Glatt  
221 N 5th St  
PO Box 5518  
Bismarck ND 58506-5518  
Phone # 701-222-6718  
Fax # 701-222-7528  
kglatt@state.nd.us

Cass County Auditor  
Michael Montplaisir  
211 9th St S  
PO Box 2806  
 Fargo ND 58108-2806  
Phone # 701-241-5601  
Fax # 701-241-5728  
montplaisir@co.cass.nd.us

Cavalier County Auditor  
Dawn Roppel  
901 3rd Street, Ste 15  
Langdon ND 58249-2457  
Phone # 701-256-2229  
Fax # 701-256-2546  
droppel@state.nd.us

Dickey County Auditor  
Larry Hoffman  
309 N 2nd St  
Box 215  
Ellendale ND 58436-0215  
Phone # 701-349-3249 ext. 3  
Fax # 701-349-4639  
lhoffman@state.nd.us

Divide County Auditor  
Gayle Jastrzebski  
PO Box 49  
Crosby ND 58730-0049  
Phone # 701-965-6351  
Fax # 701-965-6943  
dcaudtr@ncray.com

Dunn County Auditor  
Reinhard Hauck  
PO Box 105  
Manning ND 58642-0105  
Phone # 701-573-4448  
Fax # 701-573-4444  
rehauck@state.nd.us

Eddy County Auditor  
Darlene Haugen  
524 Central Avenue  
New Rockford ND 58356-1698  
Phone # 701-947-2434  
Fax # 701-947-2279  
dyhaugen@state.nd.us

Emmons County Auditor  
Anna Mary Dockter  
PO Box 129  
Linton ND 58552-0129  
Phone # 701-254-4807  
Fax # 701-254-4012  
amdockte@state.nd.us

Foster County Auditor  
Roger Schlotman  
474 10th Ave N  
Box 104  
Carrington ND 58421-0104  
Phone # 701-652-2441  
Fax # 701-652-2173  
rschlotm@state.nd.us

- your North Dakota residential address



## ND County Auditor's Contact Information

The following is a listing of our 53 county auditors and their contact information. They want to help you to have a voice in government.

Golden Valley County Auditor  
Cecilia Stedman  
Box 67  
Beach ND 58621-0067  
Phone # 701-872-4331  
Fax # 701-872-4383  
cstedman@midstate.net

Grand Forks County Auditor  
Debbie Nelson  
151 S 4th  
PO Box 5726  
Grand Forks ND 58206-5726  
Phone # 701-780-8200  
Fax # 701-780-8207  
debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com

Grant County Auditor  
Audrey Diehl  
Courthouse  
Box 227  
Carson ND 58529-0227  
Phone # 701-622-3275  
Fax # 701-622-3005  
adiehl@state.nd.us

Griggs County Auditor  
Cindy Anton  
808 Rollin Ave SW  
Box 511  
Cooperstown ND 58425-0511  
Phone # 701-797-3117  
Fax # 701-797-3587  
canton@state.nd.us

Hettinger County Auditor  
Roy Steiner  
Box 668  
Mott ND 58646-0668  
Phone # 701-824-2515  
Fax # 701-824-2717  
rsteiner@state.nd.us

Kidder County Auditor  
Ruth Graf  
120 E Broadway  
PO Box 167  
Steele ND 58482-0167  
Phone # 701-475-2632  
Fax # 701-475-2202  
rgraf@state.nd.us

LaMoure County Auditor  
Michial Johnson  
Box 128  
Lamoure ND 58458-0128  
Phone # 701-883-5301  
Fax # 701-883-5304  
mjohnso@state.nd.us

Logan County Auditor  
Blanche Schumacher  
301 Broadway  
Napoleon ND 58561-7010  
Phone # 701-754-2425  
Fax # 701-754-2280  
baschuma@state.nd.us

McHenry County Auditor  
Darlene Koble  
407 S Main  
Box 147  
Towner ND 58788-0147  
Phone # 701-537-5724  
Fax # 701-537-5969  
dkoble@state.nd.us

McIntosh County Auditor  
Gina Ketterling  
112 1st NE  
PO Box D  
Ashley ND 58413-0019  
Phone # 701-288-3347  
Fax # 701-288-3671  
gketterl@state.nd.us

McKenzie County Auditor  
Frances Olson  
201 5th St W  
Box 543  
Watford City ND 58854-0543  
Phone # 701-444-3616  
Fax # 701-444-4113  
folson@4eyes.net

McLean County Auditor  
Marian Hvinden  
PO Box 1108  
Washburn ND 58577-1108  
Phone # 701-462-8541  
Fax # 701-462-3542  
mcleanco@washburn.ctctel.com

Mercer County Auditor  
Sandy Bohrer  
1021 Arthur St  
PO Box 39  
Stanton ND 58571-0039  
Phone # 701-745-3292  
Fax # 701-745-3793  
sbohrer@state.nd.us

Morton County Auditor  
Paul Trauger  
210 2nd Avenue NW  
Mandan ND 58554-3158  
Phone # 701-667-3300  
Fax # 701-667-3453  
ptrauger@state.nd.us

Mountrail County Auditor  
Karen Eliason  
PO Box 69  
Stanley ND 58784-0069  
Phone # 701-628-2145  
Fax # 701-628-3975  
karene@co.mountrail.nd.us

Nelson County Auditor  
Jack Davidson  
210 B Ave W Ste 201  
Lakota ND 58344-7410  
Phone # 701-247-2463  
Fax # 701-247-2754  
wdavidso@state.nd.us

Oliver County Auditor  
Barbara Fleming  
115 West Main  
Box 188  
Center ND 58530-0188  
Phone # 701-794-8721  
Fax # 701-794-3476  
bfleming@state.nd.us

Pembina County Auditor  
Dorothy Robinson  
301 Dakota Street West #1  
Cavalier ND 58220-4100  
Phone # 701-265-4231  
Fax # 701-265-4876  
drobinso@state.nd.us

Pierce County Auditor  
Karin Fursather  
240 SE 2nd Street  
Rugby ND 58368-1897  
Phone # 701-776-5225  
Fax # 701-776-5707  
kfursath@state.nd.us

Ramsey County Auditor  
Elizabeth Fischer  
524 4th Avenue Unit 6  
Devils Lake ND 58301  
Phone # 701-662-7007  
Fax # 701-662-7049  
befische@state.nd.us

Ransom County Auditor  
Connie Gilbert  
PO Box 668  
Lisbon ND 58054-0668  
Phone # 701-683-5823  
Fax # 701-683-5827  
cgilbert@state.nd.us

Renville County Auditor  
Susan Ritter  
PO Box 68  
Mohall ND 58761-0068  
Phone # 701-756-6301  
Fax # 701-756-7158  
ritter@state.nd.us

Richland County Auditor  
Harris Bailey  
418 2nd Avenue N  
Wahpeton ND 58075-4400  
Phone # 701-642-7700  
Fax # 701-642-7701  
hbailey@state.nd.us

Rolette County Auditor  
Val McCloud  
Box 939  
Rolla ND 58367-0939  
Phone # 701-477-5665  
Fax # 701-477-6339  
vmcccloud@state.nd.us

Sargent County Auditor  
Sherry Hosford  
Box 177  
Forman ND 58032-0177  
Phone # 701-724-6241  
Fax # 701-724-6244  
shosford@state.nd.us

Sheridan County Auditor  
Shirley Murray  
Box 439  
McClusky ND 58463-0439  
Phone # 701-363-2205  
Fax # 701-363-2953  
smurray@state.nd.us

Sioux County Auditor  
Barbara Hettich  
Box L  
Fort Yates ND 58538-0529  
Phone # 701-854-3481  
Fax # 701-854-3854  
bhettich@state.nd.us

Slope County Auditor  
Renita Braun  
Box NN  
Amidon ND 58620-0449  
Phone # 701-879-6276  
Fax # 701-879-6278  
rbraun@state.nd.us

Stark County Auditor  
Alice Schulz  
Box 130  
Dickinson ND 58602-0130  
Phone # 701-456-7630  
Fax # 701-456-7634  
aschulz@state.nd.us

Steele County Auditor  
Linda Leadbetter  
Box 275  
Finley ND 58230-0275  
Phone # 701-524-2110  
Fax # 701-524-1715  
lleadbet@state.nd.us

Stutsman County Auditor  
Lary Olson  
511 2nd Avenue SE  
Jamestown ND 58401-4299  
Phone # 701-252-9035  
Fax # 701-251-1603  
ljonson@state.nd.us

Towner County Auditor  
Verna Martz  
315 2nd St  
PO Box 603  
Cando ND 58324-0603  
Phone # 701-968-4340  
Fax # 701-968-4342  
vmartz@state.nd.us

Traill County Auditor  
Rebecca Braaten  
114 W Caledonia  
Box 429  
Hillsboro ND 58045-0429  
Phone # 701-636-4458  
Fax # 701-636-5418  
rbraaten@state.nd.us

Walsh County Auditor  
Sharon Kinsala  
600 Cooper Avenue  
Grafton ND 58237-1535  
Phone # 701-352-2851  
Fax # 701-352-1104  
skinsala@state.nd.us

Ward County Auditor  
Dave Senger  
315 3rd Street SE  
PO Box 5005  
Minot ND 58702-5005  
Phone # 701-857-6420  
Fax # 701-857-6424  
auditor@www.co.ward.nd.us

Wells County Auditor  
Janell Rudel  
700 Railway St N  
PO Box 37  
Fessenden ND 58438-0037  
Phone # 701-547-3521  
Fax # 701-547-3719  
jrudel@state.nd.us

Williams County Auditor  
Beth Innis  
205 E Broadway  
Box 2047  
Williston ND 58802-2047  
Phone # 701-577-4500  
Fax # 701-577-4510  
bethi@co.williams.nd.us