

Fair and free elections are a hallmark of American democracy. South Dakota citizen's confidence in the value of their vote is principally reliant on the security and resilience of the people and infrastructure that makes the state's elections possible. Accordingly, a safe and secure election process is the Secretary of State's, County Auditor's, CISA and our industry partner's highest priorities.

The right to a free and fair election is the foundation of our democracy in our nation. My number one job as Chief Election Officer is to ensure that we conduct fair and accurate elections for the citizens of South Dakota. Our office will continue to focus our resources on the protection of our election systems and overall election security. We remain committed and proud of our involvement at the forefront of election security planning and the start of post-election auditing.

- *Monae L. Johnson,*
SECRETARY OF STATE



SOUTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY of STATE
Monae L. Johnson

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A Guide To Understanding

Secure Elections

IN SOUTH DAKOTA



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SECRETARY of STATE
Monae L. Johnson

Electoral Integrity

*Our Accountable, Secure Processes
Ensure a Fair Outcome*

Polls Open and Close

The polls are open from 7am to 7pm (Local Time).

Ballot Security

“By using paper ballots, not connecting tabulating machines to the internet, requiring photo ID, conducting post-election audits, and encouraging South Dakota citizens to volunteer as poll watchers and work as election workers helps to ensure that South Dakota has safe and secure elections.”

- Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State

South Dakota uses paper ballots – **NO Online Voting!**

- Marked Ballots are placed into a sealed and secure locked ballot box that is delivered by two poll workers of different political parties to the County Auditor’s office after the polls are closed.
 - Opening of the sealed ballot box is done in public view.
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No Internet Connections While Voting

Paper ballots are removed from the ballot box in public view and put into the tabulating machine which **is NOT connected to the Internet.**

- Once the tabulation of the paper ballots has been completed, the County Auditor enters the results into the statewide voter registration system using a secure computer and a unique username, password, and authentication key. The County Auditor reviews the precinct level results, submits them, which then posts them to our live election results page.
- The cross check, or statewide canvass is completed once the County Commission signs off for each county, and that canvass report is submitted to the state for the statewide canvass.
- **South Dakota does not have any Internet-based voting systems.**

Safeguards to Register to Vote

In order to ensure the integrity of the elections, there is no Online Voter Registration. In South Dakota, we review information when a citizen registers to vote and before their registration is official.

- Every evening, all new and updated registrations go through a background check through the Social Security Administration.
 - The Unified Judicial System checks to see if the application is currently serving a felony sentence and does a felony background check.
 - The State Vital Records check against death certificates.
 - South Dakota conducts voter list maintenance on a regular basis and recent law changes and partnerships help us ensure the cleanest voter rolls possible.
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Voter ID Requirements to Vote

South Dakota ensures election security on Election Day or Absentee Voting by following state Voter ID laws.

- Voters must be verified before casting a ballot. South Dakota requires photo ID at the polls and on absentee ballot request forms.
 - You must present one of the allowable photo ID’s: such as a SD drivers license, a state issued non-drivers license ID, tribal ID, passport, university photo ID, current high school photo ID.
 - If you do not have an acceptable form of ID, you must be given the option to sign a personal affidavit that you will sign under the penalty of perjury in which you state you are the person you have declared.
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Poll Watchers

“Poll watchers are an important part of the election process. We encourage citizens to become involved in their local elections to ensure the process is fair, transparent, and secure. Consider being a Poll Watcher or Poll Observer.”

- Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State

If at the polls, you feel that you were incorrectly prevented from voting, you may call the County Auditor or the Secretary of State at 888-703-5328 or your County State’s Attorney. Be sure to make that phone call before leaving the polling place.

*For the most accurate information, visit
SDSOS.GOV or call **(605) 773-3537.***