

# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

## Voter Guide for North Dakota Residents and Tenants of Long-Term Care Facilities

### **GET READY TO VOTE:**

The General Election will be held November 3, 2020. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a U.S. Citizen, have a valid form of ID, and reside in his or her voting precinct for at least 30 days. **That means if you moved to a long term care facility since you last voted you will need to update your address in the voter file, or use a Long Term Care Identification Certificate issued by your facility.**

### **WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?**

**Q:** Do I still have the right to vote?

**A:** Voting is a civil right. That means if you are a citizen of the United States you have the right to vote regardless of where you live.

**Q:** Who determines whether I am “mentally competent” to vote?

**A:** Only a court has the authority to decide you are not competent to vote. If you have a guardian, the guardianship order should clearly state whether your right to vote has been taken away.

As long as a judge did not restrict your right to vote through court order, you have the right to vote when:

- you are under guardianship
- you are under conservatorship
- you gave someone power of attorney
- you have a brain injury
- you have a developmental disability
- you have a cognitive impairment
- you experience memory loss

**Q.** Can my power of attorney or guardian decide whether or how I vote?

**A.** No. You decide how you want to vote. You can ask other people to assist in marking your ballot, in explaining what a measure on the ballot means, or to review the ballot before sending it in to make sure you haven't missed anything. You don't need to vote on everything on the ballot – you can choose what you want to vote for.

**Q.** Do I need a valid ID to vote?

**A.** Yes. A valid ID can be a driver's license, non-driver's ID card, Tribal ID card, or a long-term care certificate and must include your name, ND residential address, and date of birth.

**Q.** Does a long-term care certificate count as a form of ID?

**A.** Yes, this can be provided by your long-term care facility.

**Q.** Can the staff at my facility or a family member help me vote?

**A.** Yes, you can choose anyone you trust to help you vote.

*Note: If the applicant does not have a valid form of ID, the application requires the signature of an “attester,” such as a family member or trusted staff person assisting the applicant. The attester must also include his or her ID number in the “Applicant Without ID” section of the application. Include a link to sample LT care identification certificate.*

## **HOW CAN I VOTE?**

There are two methods to vote from which you can choose:

### ***Voting in person during the early voting period or on Election Day -***

For voting in person, you will need a valid form of ID like a driver's license, a non-driver's ID issued by the state, or a Long Term-Care Identification Certificate provided by your facility.

### ***Voting absentee -***

Absentee voters must request an absentee ballot from their county auditor or use the online form available <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/absentee>

### **i What long-term care facility staff CAN do to assist residents vote:**

- Ask family members if they are willing to support their loved one to vote
- Provide transportation to and from the polls during early voting or on election day
- Assist residents in completing a ballot in person or a mail-in absentee ballot by explaining instructions, reading the ballot choices, checking the ballot to ensure it accurately reflects the resident's choices, and reviewing the ballot for any choices that may have been missed
- Assist residents to either mail or drop ballot off at county drop box

### **i What a resident CAN do:**

- Ask for assistance from your relative or the facility to verify your address is current and you have a current form of ID
- Request an application for an absentee ballot and assistance in completing and mailing the request form
- Ask for assistance from your relative or the facility to complete the absentee ballot
- Ask for assistance from the workers at a polling place to help you with your ballot

### **i What a family member CAN do:**

- Provide a mail-in ballot application if requested and assistance in filling it out
- Provide transportation to the polls during early voting
- Inform the facility that you will be assisting your loved one in voting
- Know where your loved one's form of ID is located

***Note: Each facility has slightly different policies and procedures. They may vary for a variety of reasons. If you are a resident, and wish to vote, notify the administrator at your facility.***



Call: 1-800-352-0867 and Dial 6  
vote.nd.gov



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

9.24.2020 - First day voters can cast absentee ballots  
11.2.2020 - Deadline for absentee ballots to be postmarked  
11.3.2020 - General Election