

# Absentee Voting – Drop Boxes Not Permitted

---

2. a. The commissioner shall enclose with the absentee ballot a statement informing the applicant that the sealed return envelope may be mailed to the commissioner by the registered voter or the voter's designee or may be personally delivered to the commissioner's office by the registered voter or the voter's designee. The statement shall also inform the voter that the voter may request that the voter's designee complete a receipt when retrieving the ballot from the voter. A blank receipt shall be enclosed with the absentee ballot.

Iowa Code §53.8(2)(a)

securely sealed. The sealed return envelope shall be returned to the commissioner by one of the following methods:

a. The sealed return envelope may be delivered by the registered voter, by the voter's designee, or by the special precinct election officials designated pursuant to [section 53.22, subsection 2](#), to the commissioner's office no later than the time the polls are closed on election day. However, if delivered by the voter's designee, the envelope shall be delivered within seventy-two hours of retrieving it from the voter or before the closing of the polls on election day, whichever is earlier.

Iowa Code §53.17(1)

b. The sealed return envelope may be mailed to the commissioner by the registered voter or by the voter's designee. If mailed by the voter's designee, the envelope must be mailed within seventy-two hours of retrieving it from the voter or within time to be postmarked or, if applicable, to have the postal service barcode traced to a date of entry into the federal mail system not later than the day before the election, as provided in [section 53.17A](#), whichever is earlier.

# Absentee Voting – Drop Boxes Not Permitted

---

Iowa law provides that absentee ballot may be returned to the County Auditor in 1 of 3 ways:

1. Via the USPS
2. Delivered to the County Auditor's Office by the voter
3. Delivered to the County Auditor's Office by the voter's designee

Because the Legislature has been specific about who and how voted ballot may be returned, a County Auditor does not have the authority to establish drop box system in their county

# Absentee Voting – Drop Boxes Not Permitted

---

In summary, voters who are voting absentee-by-mail have 3 options to return their voted ballot:

1. Via the USPS
2. By delivering it to the County Auditor's Office themselves
3. Having a third party deliver it to the County Auditor's Office

Voters who are voting absentee in-person obviously only have one option, which is turning it returning it immediately after marking it