

IMPORTANT TERMS & DEFINITIONS:

Acceptable form of photo ID: An ID that meets the requirements for the purposes of voting. The ID must display the voter's name and photo and include those issued by:

- The federal government, including a U.S. passport or military ID;
- The State of Nebraska such as a driver's license or state ID;
- A postsecondary institution in Nebraska;
- Local governments in Nebraska, such as a county-issued ID, including jail IDs, such as a jail wristband, if it shows the voter's name and photo;
- Native American tribes; or
- Patient records with photos from a nursing home, assisted-living facility, or hospital.

Acceptable forms of photo IDs can be used for the purpose of voting even if they are expired.

Bail: Temporary release of an individual accused of committing a crime while awaiting trial. The release is typically done on the condition that a sum of money be deposited with the court as a guarantee of their appearance in court.

Convicted/Conviction: A final judgment by the court imposing a sentence after a person has been found to be legally responsible for a crime through a verdict of guilty, a plea of guilty, or a plea of no contest.

Disenfranchise: To deprive a person of the right to vote.

Early Voting Ballot/Vote-By-Mail/ Absentee Ballot: A ballot mailed to a voter before Election Day and then completed by the voter and returned to the Election Commissioner/Office by mail or drop box. This is a common form of voting for incarcerated people.

Expungement/Expunge: When an individual's felony arrest is removed or erased from law enforcement and court records, often because the arrest or conviction was due to a law enforcement agency's error. This is not an option in Nebraska but may apply to out-of-state convictions that have been expunged.

Felony: A crime that may be punished by a year or more of incarceration. In Nebraska, certain felonies that are considered less serious, such as property offenses or other non-violent offenses, may result in probation sentences or incarceration in county jail, while felonies that are considered more serious may result in incarceration in prison. The two-year waiting period applies to all felonies (any state or federal) regardless of where you are serving your sentence or what your sentence is: probation or time in prison/ jail.

Misdemeanor: A crime not punishable by more than a year in jail. Misdemeanor convictions, regardless of the sentence, do not affect the right to vote. (i.e. disturbing the peace, criminal mischief). Individuals otherwise eligible (see TO BE ELIGIBLE) to vote who have been convicted of a misdemeanor do not have to wait two years from the completion of their sentence to vote.

Pardon: A proclamation issued by the Nebraska Board of Pardons restoring civil rights lost due to a felony conviction, including the right to vote.

Parole: A period of supervision in the community by a parole officer after release from state prison. Individuals are not eligible to vote while they are on parole but may vote two years after they complete their prison and parole terms.

Pre-trial Electronic Monitoring: An electronic system which may include a phone line and ankle bracelet used by the court to monitor the individual accused of a crime while out on bail. Even if an individual is subject to electronic monitoring, they have the right to vote as long as they have not been convicted of a felony.

Prison: “State prison” refers to a system of detention facilities, operated by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS), that incarcerate people who have been convicted of certain felonies. “Federal prison” refers to a system of detention facilities, operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, that incarcerate people convicted of a felony under federal law. Nebraskans lose their voting rights while they are in either state or federal prison up until two years after they complete their sentence including any parole, mandatory supervision, or probation term.

Reasonable Impediment Certification: If a voter cannot obtain or present an acceptable form of photo ID for the purposes of voting due to religious objection of being photographed, disability or illness, or lack of birth certificate or other documents to obtain an ID, the voter can complete a “reasonable impediment certification” form to present with their ballot instead of an ID.

Sealed: Court records of cases that do not result in a criminal conviction are sealed, which means they are removed from the public record, cannot be disclosed to the public by court officials, and are only available to law enforcement. Criminal charges that did not result in a conviction do not prevent voting regardless of whether the criminal record has been sealed or not.

Set-Aside: A set-aside is an order removing the civil disabilities and disqualifications resulting from a conviction. However, a set-aside does not remove the conviction from a criminal record nor automatically restores the right to vote as a result of the conviction.