

721—21.75(49) Voting centers for certain elections. The commissioner may establish voting centers for the regular city election, city primary election, city runoff election, regular school election, and special elections.

21.75(1) Definition.

“*Voting center*” means a location established by the commissioner for the purpose of providing ballots to all registered voters who are qualified to vote in a particular jurisdiction for a regular city election, city primary election, city runoff election, regular school election, or special election.

21.75(2) Minimum requirements.

a. Establishment. One or more voting centers may be established in lieu of precinct polling places for the elections at which the use of voting centers is permitted. Regular polling place sites that are accessible to people with disabilities may be used as voting centers for any election at which the use of voting centers is permitted. Other suitable locations may also be used.

b. Location of voting centers. If voting centers are established for an election, at least one voting center must be located within the boundaries of the political subdivision for which the election is being conducted. At the commissioner’s discretion, additional vote centers may be established as long as the voting center is located within the boundaries of the political subdivision for which the election is being conducted.

c. Accessibility. A voting center is subject to the requirements of Iowa Code section 49.21 relating to accessibility to persons who are elderly and persons with disabilities and relating to the posting of signs.

21.75(3) Hours. Voting center hours shall be the same as permitted for an election pursuant to Iowa Code section 49.73.

21.75(4) Publications. The location of each voting center shall be published in the notice of election by the commissioner in the same manner as the location of polling places is required to be published. The notice of election shall also include a description of the voting center in substantially the following form:

For the _____ election to be held on [date], voting centers will be available. Any registered voter of [jurisdiction name] may vote at any of the following places in this election:

[List addresses of voting centers.]

21.75(5) Posting notices at regular polling places on election day. If voting centers are established in lieu of regular polling places for an election, the commissioner shall post a notice of voting center locations, not later than the hour at which the polls open on the day of the election, on each door to the usual polling place in the precinct. The notice shall remain posted until the polls have closed.

21.75(6) I-Voters use prohibited. The commissioner shall not provide direct access from voting centers to the I-Voters system on election day.

21.75(7) Determining ballot rotations. For the purposes of determining ballot rotations pursuant to Iowa Code section 49.31 in an election for which the commissioner has established voting centers, the commissioner may use either precincts established pursuant to Iowa Code sections 49.3 to 49.5 or consolidated precincts established pursuant to Iowa Code section 49.11, subsection 3, paragraph “a.” If the commissioner uses consolidated precincts established pursuant to Iowa Code section 49.11, subsection 3, paragraph “a,” the commissioner shall use the same consolidated precincts used in the last regularly scheduled election conducted for the political subdivision in which voting centers were not used.

21.75(8) Operation of voting centers.

a. Election registers and voter lists. Each voting center shall have an election register containing the names, addresses and voter statuses of all registered voters who are eligible to vote in that election. The election register may be a paper list or may be available on computers in an electronic format, rather than as an interactive connection to I-Voters.

b. Election day registration at voting centers. A person who needs to register to vote may register and vote at a voting center provided that the person has appropriate identification and is a resident of the jurisdiction served by the voting center.

c. Voters reporting address changes at voting centers. Any person who is already registered in the county and updates the person’s voter registration address at a voting center shall show identification listed in Iowa Code section 48A.8. Persons unable to provide requested identification shall be offered a provisional ballot pursuant to Iowa Code section 49.81.

d. Ballots. Each voting center shall have all ballot styles necessary to provide a ballot to any voter who is eligible to vote in the election for the jurisdiction served by the voting center.

e. Precinct election officials. Voting centers shall be administered by a minimum of three precinct election officials selected pursuant to Iowa Code sections 49.12 to 49.16. These officials shall be trained before each election and shall have specific instructions regarding the differences between voting centers and polling places.

f. Ballot boxes used with optical scan voting equipment at voting centers. The commissioner may instruct two precinct election officials not of the same political party to open the ballot box periodically throughout election day to ensure the ballots are stacking evenly in the ballot box to prevent a voting equipment malfunction. The precinct election officials charged with inspecting the ballot box shall ensure the ballot box is locked and secured at all times. As an alternative to this procedure, the commissioner may supply any voting center with additional ballot boxes and the precinct election officials may move the optical scan voting equipment to a new ballot box if necessary. All ballot boxes containing voted ballots shall be locked and secured by the precinct election officials at all times.

21.75(9) *Postelection review of voter participation.*

a. Within 45 days after the election, the commissioner shall review the signed declarations of eligibility or the signed election registers from each voting center, and if any person is found to have voted in more than one voting center in the election, the commissioner shall immediately notify the county attorney.

b. The notice to the county attorney shall include a copy of the person's voter registration record and copies of the declarations of eligibility signed by the voter. The notice shall also include a reference to Iowa Code sections 39A.2(2) and 49.11(3) "b."

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 49.9 and 49.11.

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