

Absentee Ballot Tracking Program

In 2009, federal legislation was passed requiring state election officials to provide a mechanism for military and overseas voters to determine the status of a requested absentee ballot. Secretary Mauro decided to make this process available for all absentee voters in Iowa.

Beginning in April 2010, each absentee voter will be able to look up the status of their ballot on the Secretary of State's Website to see if their absentee ballot request has been received, to see if their absentee ballot has been sent and to verify their absentee ballot has been received by the county auditor. This tracking feature will be available for all primary and general elections.

Special Elections

Legislation passed in 2008 limiting the dates on which special elections can be held. The new law became effective in January, 2009. The number of special elections held throughout each year has been significantly reduced. The chart below shows special elections data for the last three years.

	# of Dates	# of Elections
2007	44	182
2008	33	128
2009	23	90

IOWA is Number One!

The SOS Office received first place honors in the following election-related categories during 2009:

- Iowa is #1 in the nation for the best elections website named by the Pew Center
- Iowa is #1 in the nation for ease of requesting and receiving absentee ballots by military and overseas voters according to a report published by the Overseas Vote Foundation
- Iowa is #1 in the nation for the percentage of young voter participation as recognized by U.S. Census Bureau