Can my Political Committee collect Absentee Ballot Request forms (ABRs)?
Yes— if you give the voter a receipt. Per Iowa Code (53.3), when a candidate committee, ballot issue committee, or political party collects a completed absentee ballot request form from a voter, the agent of the committee must issue a receipt to the voter. See below for a link to the ABR form with receipt, and for the deadlines for submission to the County Auditor’s office.

Can my Non-Partisan Organization collect Absentee Ballot Request forms (ABRs)?
Yes. While only political committees are required by law to do so, it is best practice for anyone who does not have a personal relationship with the voter to issue a receipt when collecting an ABR. That way, if there is any question about the submission of the form, s/he will know who to contact.

Could we hand out ABR forms for voters to complete and submit themselves?
Yes. If voters will be returning their own forms, there is no need for the receipt.
(Best practice: before making copies, write the mailing address of the County Auditor’s office in the “for office use” space, and pre-mark the election for which you are distributing the ABR forms.)

Where do we get Absentee Ballot Request Forms?
Linn County Election Services will provide up to 10 (ten) Absentee Ballot Request Forms (with or without Receipt, as appropriate) to any individual or organization that sends a representative to pick them up from our office in the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center (935 2nd St SW, C.R.).

Online for individuals to return: print the Iowa Absentee Ballot Request Form from: https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf

Online for Campaigns and Organizations to collect: print the ABR Form with Receipt from: https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapprec.pdf

Can we pre-fill the Absentee Ballot Request Form, or assist the voter in filling it?
Partially. The voter absolutely must sign their own form, and as of January 1, 2018 the voter must also fill in their own voter verification (identification / PIN) number.* Campaigns, organizations or other individuals may pre-fill the other fields for the voter.

* If a person is unable to sign or make a mark (or write their ID/PIN number) they may:
   ♦ Use a rubber stamp or reproduction of their signature
   ♦ Ask another person to sign their name or affix their stamp (and their ID / PIN number).

IMPORTANT: This must be done IN THE PRESENCE and AT THE REQUEST of the voter.
NOTE: Power of Attorney is not relevant in this circumstance; POA may assist, but not as POA.

Questions? Contact Linn County Election Services at:
Phone: 319-892-5300, ext. 1, Email: elections@linncounty.org
www.LinnCountyElections.org
There are a few fields on the form that voters often don’t fully understand:

- **Residential Address**: Where the voter is currently registered to vote OR the ABR form may be used for a change of address WITHIN THE SAME COUNTY.
- **Where your Absentee Ballot Should be Mailed**: Fill in only if the voter wants the ballot mailed to an address OTHER than their residential address.
- **Election Type or Date**: □ General = November of even numbered years (2018, 2020, etc.)
  □ Primary = June of even numbered years (2018, 2020, etc.)
  □ City/School = November of odd numbered years (2019, 2021, etc.)
  □ Special = any election other than the three listed above.
- **Party Affiliation**: should be filled out for Primary elections ONLY (June of even numbered years).

How long do we have to turn in the forms?

- Completed Absentee Ballot Request Forms collected by representatives of campaigns and organizations must be submitted to the County Auditor’s office **within 72 hours**, or by the ABR deadline, whichever is sooner.
- If your organization collects any ABR forms AFTER the ABR deadline, those must be submitted to the County Auditor’s office **within 24 hours**, so the Auditor’s office can contact the Voter to advise them that it is too late to mail a ballot and to discuss the remaining options for voting.

When is the Absentee Ballot Request Deadline?
As of January 1, 2018, Absentee Ballot Request forms must be received in the County Auditor’s office **by 5 pm on the Friday 11 days before most elections**, and the Saturday 10 days before General elections (in November of even-numbered years). (The same day as the pre-registration deadline)

Where do we submit the completed Absentee Ballot Request forms?
To the County Auditor of the county in which the registrant lives.

⇒ For **LINN County** voters, mail or bring completed forms in person to:
  Linn County Auditor - Election Services, 935 Second St SW, Cedar Rapids 52404-2100
⇒ For voters from **other counties**, a list of county auditor addresses may be found at:

Can we go back and collect voted absentee ballots from the voters?
Yes— **if you give the voter a receipt**. The instruction page the voter receives with their Absentee Ballot includes a “Receipt for Absentee Ballot” section. When a representative of your campaign picks up the ballot, they must fill out that receipt and leave it with the voter.

♦ Be sure the voter has **signed and sealed** the affidavit envelope before taking it from them.
♦ **Ballots must be submitted within 72 hours** of collection, and no later than the deadline.
  ◇ **Postmark** deadline is Monday the day before the election.
  ◇ **Hand delivery** to the Auditor’s office deadline is by close of polls on Election Day.

Can we get lists of voters who have requested / returned Absentee Ballots?
Yes. For genuine political purposes, and for a modest fee, you may request a list of voters who have voted absentee in the past, and/or who have requested/returned Absentee Ballots in the current election. You may also request regular updates to the absentee list for the current election. For more information on this and other voter list requests, visit [www.linncounty.org/863](http://www.linncounty.org/863) and (in Linn County) call Eric Loecher, Election Systems Administrator at 319-892-5305.

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To see if there have been recent updates from the Secretary of State, And to see information about collecting **Voter Registration Forms**, visit:

[https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/candidates/solicitforms.html](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/candidates/solicitforms.html)