



**MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
BERNALILLO COUNTY CLERK**

**FAQ's – ABSENTEE VOTING
General Election 2008**

What are absentee ballots and how do I get one?

Absentee Voting is done by mail and on a paper ballot. Anyone may vote absentee as long as they are registered to vote in Bernalillo County.

A registered voter must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. An application can be requested from the office of the County Clerk at any time. The application will be applied towards the next election in which the voter is eligible to vote.

Absentee voting for the November 4, 2008 General Election will follow the following timeline:

Now – October 30, 2008

Absentee Ballot Applications requested, returned and processed by the County Clerk

October 7, 2008 – October 31, 2008

Ballots will be mailed to voters who have returned the absentee ballot application.

September 14, 2008 – November 4, 2008

Absentee registers will be available to third parties via request to County Clerk's office.

Applications Ballot Applications may be requested from the County Clerk via:

Phone:	(505) 468-1291
Email:	clerk@bernco.gov
Fax:	(505) 768-4631
In Person:	1 Civic Plaza, NW – 6 th Floor Albuquerque, NM 87102
Mail:	PO Box 542 Albuquerque, NM 87103-0542

Can a third party distribute applications for absentee ballots?

Yes. Pre-printed applications are available from the County Clerk in quantities of 10 per request. If more than 10 are required from a third party, the third party can contact the State Printer, Automated Election Services to request the quantity they desire.

Can a third party produce a mass mailing to voters with an application for absentee ballots?

Yes. A third party may produce a mailing to registered voters with an absentee application attached. The Secretary of State must prescribe and approve the form of such mailings prior to production.

Can a third party request an application for a registered voter on their behalf?

Yes. Anyone can request an absentee ballot application for a registered voter.*

**This policy is intended to assist individuals with requesting a ballot for immediate family, friends or individuals for whom that person is caring and with that person’s permission. It is not limited to one request per third party. However, this should not be construed to mean that an individual may make a wide-sweeping request for a political, geographic or economic voting bloc.*

If you have questions regarding what type of third party requests for applications will be honored, please contact Jaime Diaz, Election Administrator at 505-468-1291.

By when do I need to request an absentee ballot application?

The last day to mail absentee ballots to voters who have an accepted application is October 30, 2008. Applications will be processed through October 29, 2008. All applications need to be received in the County Clerk’s office by October 29, 2008.

By when do I need to return my voted absentee ballot?

The County Clerk must receive all ballots by 7:00pm November 4, 2008. A voter, caregiver to that voter or member of that voter’s immediate family may mail their ballot to the office of the County Clerk or it can be delivered (sealed within the proper envelope) in person to the Clerk’s office at any time prior to 7:00pm on November 4, 2008.

Can a voter return a voted absentee ballot to their polling place?

Yes. A voter may deliver their ballot (sealed within the proper envelope) in person to their assigned polling place on November 4, 2008.

Can a third party return a voted absentee ballot to the County Clerk?

Yes, with conditions. A voter, caregiver to that voter or member of that voter’s immediate family may return a voted absentee ballot to the County Clerk.

Is information made available to the public in regards to who has voted absentee?

Yes. The public can request this information from the County Clerk’s office. The County Clerk’s office can provide a roster of who has applied for an absentee ballot, when that application was returned and accepted/rejected, when the County Clerk mailed the absentee ballot and when that ballot was returned, This information will begin to be made available for the November 2008 Primary Election on September 14, 2008. The cost of this information is:

Hard Copy	Electronic Copy
\$1.00 for the first page	\$4.00 per thousand records
\$0.25 for each additional page	\$1.00 electronic transfer fee

Data will be made available in a variety of formats (including labels). For more information, or to be added to the distribution of data, please contact clerk@berncogov or (505) 468-1291.