

# IOWA 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key provisions found within Title 2 of the Iowa Code and other relevant sections.

- Preventing or attempting to prevent a public officer or employee from performing their duties is a misdemeanor.
- Intimidating, threatening, or coercing a voter, or attempting to do so, is a felony.
- Behaving in a disorderly manner or breaching the peace at the polls, or abusing election officials is unlawful.

## VOTING HOURS

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## 2024 ELECTION DATES

**Primary Election:** June 4

**General Election:** November 5

**For more election dates:**

[sos.iowa.gov/elections/  
electioninfo/3yrelectioncal.html](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/3yrelectioncal.html)

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

**Your local election official:**

[sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/  
auditorslist.html](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html)

**IA Secretary of State:**

1-888-SOS-VOTE (1-888-767-8683)

[sos@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:sos@sos.iowa.gov)

**For more information:**

[sos.iowa.gov/elections/  
voterinformation/electionday.html](https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/electionday.html)



## Harassment of public officers and employees.

IA Code § 718.4

Any person who willfully prevents or attempts to prevent any public officer or employee from performing the officer's or employee's duty commits a simple misdemeanor.

## Duress.

IA Code § 39A.2 (1) (c)

A person commits the crime of election misconduct in the first degree if the person willfully commits any of the following acts:

Intimidates, threatens, or coerces, or attempts to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, a person to do or to refrain from doing any of the following:

- (1) To register to vote, to vote, or to attempt to register to vote.
- (2) To urge or aid a person to register to vote, to vote, or to attempt to register to vote.
- (3) To sign a petition nominating a candidate for public office or a petition requesting an election for which a petition may legally be submitted.
- (4) To exercise a right under chapters 39 through 53.

*Violating this subsection is a class "D" felony.*

## **Voting equipment tampering.**

IA Code § 39A.2 (1) (f)

A person commits the crime of election misconduct in the first degree if the person willfully commits any of the following acts:

Intentionally alters or damages any computer software or any physical part of voting equipment, automatic tabulating equipment, or any other part of a voting system.

*Violating this subsection is a class "D" felony.*

## **Ordering arrest.**

IA Code § 49.105

Any precinct election official shall order the arrest of any person who behaves in a noisy, riotous, tumultuous or disorderly manner at or about the polls, so as to disturb the election, or insults or abuses the officials, or commits a breach of the peace, or violates any of the provisions of this chapter. If the person so arrested is a registered voter of the precinct which that polling place serves, and has not yet voted, the person shall be permitted to do so before being removed from the polling place.

## **Willful disturbance.**

IA Code § 718.3

Any person who willfully disturbs any deliberative body or agency of the state, or subdivision thereof, with the purpose of disrupting the functioning of such body or agency by tumultuous behavior, or coercing by force or the threat of force any official conduct or proceeding, commits a serious misdemeanor.

## Election day acts.

IA Code § 39A.4 (1) (a)

A person commits the crime of election misconduct in the third degree if the person willfully commits any of the following acts:

Any of the following on election day:

- (1) Loitering, congregating, electioneering, posting signs, treating voters, or soliciting votes, during the receiving of the ballots, either on the premises of a polling place or within three hundred feet of an outside door of a building affording access to a room where the polls are held, or of an outside door of a building affording access to a hallway, corridor, stairway, or other means of reaching the room where the polls are held. This subparagraph does not apply to the posting of signs on private property not a polling place, except that the placement of a sign that is more than ninety square inches in size on a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, or its attachment to a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer parked on public property within three hundred feet of a polling place is prohibited.
- (2) Interrupting, hindering, or opposing a voter while in or approaching the polling place for the purpose of voting.
- (3) As a voter, submitting a false statement as to the voter's ability to mark a ballot.
- (4) Interfering or attempting to interfere with a voter when the voter is inside the enclosed voting space, or when the voter is marking a ballot.
- (5) Endeavoring to induce a voter to show how the voter marks or has marked a ballot.

(6) Marking, or causing in any manner to be marked, on a ballot, any character for the purpose of identifying such ballot.

*Violating this subsection is a serious misdemeanor.*

**Persons permitted at polling places.** IA Code § 49.104 (1) (d)

1. The following persons shall be permitted to be present at and in the immediate vicinity of the polling places, provided they do not solicit votes:

d. Any peace officer assigned or called upon to keep order or maintain compliance with the provisions of this chapter, upon request of the commissioner or of the chairperson of the precinct election board.

**Carrying firearms on school grounds — penalty — exceptions.** IA Code § 724.4B

1. A person who goes armed with, carries, or transports a firearm of any kind, whether

concealed or not, on the grounds of a school commits a class "D" felony. For the purposes of

this section, "school" means a public or nonpublic school as defined in section 280.2.

[Pursuant to § 724.4B (2), exceptions to this section include peace officers, federal officers, members of the U.S. armed forces and national guard in connection with official duties, and other individuals specifically authorized by the school to carry for any lawful purpose.]

## **Failure to perform duties.**

IA Code § 39A.2 (1) (g)

A person commits the crime of election misconduct in the first degree if the person willfully commits any of the following acts:

As an election official, fails to perform duties prescribed by [relevant Iowa election law]... or fails to follow or implement guidance issued pursuant to section 47.1, or performs those duties and responsibilities in such a way as to hinder or disregard the object of the law.

*Violating this subsection is a class "D" felony.*

## **Improper acts.**

IA Code § 39A.2 (1) (b)

A person commits the crime of election misconduct in the first degree if the person willfully commits any of the following acts:

- (1) Destroys, delivers, or handles an application for a ballot or an absentee ballot with the intent of interfering with the voter's right to vote.
- (2) Produces, procures, submits, or accepts a ballot or an absentee ballot, or produces, procures, casts, accepts, or tabulates a ballot that is known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, forged, or fraudulent.
- (3) Votes or attempts to vote more than once at the same election, or votes or attempts to vote at an election knowing oneself not to be qualified.
- (4) Makes a false or untrue statement in an application for an absentee ballot or makes or signs a false certification or affidavit in connection with an absentee ballot.

(5) Otherwise deprives, defrauds, or attempts to deprive or defraud the citizens of this state of a fair and impartially conducted election process.

*Violating this subsection is a class "D" felony.*

### **Interference with validity of election.**

IA Code § 39A.3 (1) (a)

A person commits the crime of election misconduct in the second degree if the person willfully commits any of the following acts:

- (1) Possesses an official ballot outside of the voting room unless the person is an election official or other person authorized by law to possess such a ballot.
- (2) Makes or possesses a counterfeit of an official election ballot.
- (3) Solicits or encourages a person to vote in an election knowing that person is not qualified to vote in the election.
- (4) Files a challenge containing false information under section 48A.14 or 49.79.
- (5) Falsely or fraudulently signs nomination papers on behalf of another person.

*Violating this subsection is an aggravated misdemeanor.*



Committee for

**SAFE AND SECURE  
ELECTIONS**

