

## Minnehaha County Auditor's Office

Leah G. Anderson, Auditor

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Absentee Ballots Will Not Be Available at the Start of the Voting Period for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary

Minnehaha County, SD — The Minnehaha County Auditor's Office is notifying voters that absentee ballots for the upcoming **June 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election** will **not be available on the first day of the absentee voting period.**

Under South Dakota law, absentee voting is scheduled to begin **46 days prior to an election** pursuant to **SDCL 12-19-1.2**. However, the **candidate petition filing deadline was March 31<sup>st</sup>**, as established in **SDCL 12-6-4**, which determines the final list of candidates to appear on the ballot. This statutory timing results in a brief delay between the start of the absentee voting period and the availability of ballots. Ballot preparation includes certification, layout, programming, proofing, and printing. Because ballots cannot be finalized until after the petition filing deadline has passed and candidate eligibility is confirmed, additional time is required.

**The Auditor's Office is working diligently to complete this process as quickly as possible. Once ballots are available:**

- Absentee ballots will be **mailed immediately** to voters who have submitted applications
- In-person absentee voting will begin at the Auditor's Office
- Updates will be shared through the county website, local media, and official communication channels

"This delay is a function of state law timelines that require final candidate filings before ballots can be prepared," said Leah Anderson, Minnehaha County Auditor. "Our office is committed to ensuring ballots are accurate and available as soon as possible."

**Voters are encouraged to:**

- Submit absentee ballot applications early
- Verify voter registration information
- Monitor official county communications or call our office for updates on ballot availability

The deadline to request an absentee ballot remains **5:00 p.m. the day before the election**, pursuant to **SDCL 12-19-2**.

**For more information, please contact the Minnehaha County Auditor's Office at 605-367-4220 or visit [www.minnehahacounty.gov](http://www.minnehahacounty.gov).**



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