

HARLAN COUNTY CLERK & ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER
Harlan County Courthouse 706 2ND STREET
ALMA, NE 68920-2092
308-928-2173

For immediate release:

April 30, 2024

Contact:

Harlan County Clerk's Office

308-928-2173

Harlan County Clerk's Office sending out corrected ballots following error

Early voters in Harlan County will be receiving new early voting ballots for the May 14th statewide primary election following an error with the first batch of ballots. This impacts the voters who were automatically sent a ballot because they live in the by-mail Rural Harlan precinct (outside the townships of Washington, Alma, and Prairie Dog). The County Clerk's initials were not printed on the first ballots, and therefore, cannot be used as is. Nebraska law requires the county's election official to initial each ballot before it's completed by the voter.

The Harlan County Clerk's Office started working immediately to resolve the issue once it was discovered. The clerk's office will be sending out new ballots to early voters this week. **County Clerk DaLynn Burgeson apologizes for the accidental error and for the inconvenience this has caused!**

The ballot error will not affect voters who vote at the polls on Election Day or who submit(ted) an early voting application in Alma Precinct.

Here's what voters need to know:

1. **The Harlan County Clerk's Office will be rejecting ballots that were already returned to the office.**
All early voters who live in the Rural Harlan by-mail precinct will be receiving new corrected ballots.
 - a. The Harlan County Clerk's Office will be contacting voters whose ballots are rejected.
2. **If a voter still has their incorrect ballot (without the initials), they have two options:**
 - a. If the voter has **not yet marked** their ballot, they can take their unmarked, incorrect ballot to the Harlan County Clerk's Office, and the clerk can sign it, which corrects the ballot and makes it acceptable for voting. The voter can then complete the ballot and return it, **OR**
 - b. The voter can destroy the incorrect ballot and wait for the second, corrected ballot to arrive in the mail. The voters should then return the corrected, completed ballot to the clerk's office.
3. **Ballots are due back to the Harlan County Clerk's Office by May 14th at 8 p.m.** Late ballots will not be accepted.
4. Nebraska voters can check the status of their ballots online at ne.gov/go/votercheck.

The Harlan County Clerk's Office is here to help voters with any concerns or questions. Please contact the office by phone at 308-928-2173 or email clerk@harlancountyne.com. The Clerk's office is located at 706 2nd Street, Alma, NE 68920.