This election cycle, I would like to receive news about the following:

**VOTING METHODS & SUPPORTS**
- Is your voter registration current?
- Is there a new address where you may need help determining the timing of elections, understanding procedures for requesting a ballot and obtaining access to a polling place, the Internet or the mail in order to request and return the ballot on time. On the other hand, if you prefer to vote at the polls on Election Day, you may need help with the timing of the voting process and voting options and accessing reliable, unbiased information about the issues and candidates on the ballot.

**DEVELOPING A VOTING ASSISTANCE PLAN**
A voting assistance plan is a great tool to assist residents and tenants in long-term care facilities keep track of and remember deadlines associated with voting. The plan can also help facility staff and caregivers vote on behalf of residents. This informs the types of media he/she wishes to consume or avoid; and whether the person is interested in participating in voting—consult the Iowa Secretary of State’s office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman strongly supports the right of residents and tenants to vote. We advocate on behalf of those in long-term care and investigate their complaints to protect their health, safety, welfare and rights—including voting rights. Our work is never partisan and we do not directly assist individual voters with registering or voting by mail. Our role is to educate the public and raise awareness of systemic issues among residents, facilities, advocates and others, with the goal of helping those in long-term care facilities exercise their right to vote.

**THINGS TO DO BEFORE ELECTION DAY:**
- **VOTER’S CHECKLIST**
  - Check into tools or assistance available to aid if you have declining vision or a disability.
  - Know where your polling precinct or early voting satellite station is located and how to get there.
  - Familiarize yourself with the voting devices used in your county.
  - Check into tools or assistance available to aid if you have declining vision or a disability.
  - Know where the polls open and close.
  - Vote more than 14 days before Election Day by checking the dates/deadlines for early voting.
  - Contact the county auditor directly to request an absentee ballot.
  - Understand the voting process and voting options and accessing reliable, unbiased information about the issues and candidates on the ballot.
  - If you are in charge of the decisions related to voting.
  - You may need help with the timing of the voting process and voting options and accessing reliable, unbiased information about the issues and candidates on the ballot.
  - A voting assistance plan can help you identify areas where you may need help and ensure those supports are in place for you to get there. A voting assistance plan can help you identify areas where you may need help and ensure those supports are in place for you to get there.
  - If you are in charge of the decisions related to voting.
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  - If you are in charge of the decisions related to voting.

**ELECTION INFORMATION & HELPFUL RESOURCES**
BE AN INFORMED VOTER
One of our most influential powers as citizens is exercising our right to vote, but with the power comes a responsibility to consider our options and make informed decisions.

In today’s fast-paced society, it can be difficult to keep up with issues and current events without spending hours sifting through articles, news reports and websites to find the most accurate information. For residents and tenants in long-term care, there are often additional obstacles related to the process of voting, including finding documents for voter registration, understanding the voting process and voting options and accessing reliable, unbiased information about the issues and candidates on the ballot.

While I would like assurance finding a satellite station.

Is anyone allowed to assist me with the process of voting? Yes, but only with your permission and in your presence. Voting is not a health care or financial decision, which means an individual can assist just as anyone else would, though. Generally, if a voter’s unable to fill out their own form, he can use a rubber stamp or mark to sign—or ask someone else to complete the information and sign the voter’s name—as long as it is done in the voter’s presence, with the voter’s permission.

Who determines whether I am "mentally competent" to vote? No. A power of attorney (POA) is only designated to make health care or financial decisions. A POA is not designated to make the right to vote. Unless specifically noted in guardianship papers, you are in charge of the decision to vote.

Does Iowa require an ID to vote? No law requires registered voters to show ID to vote; however, residents of long-term care facilities are exempt from this rule if voting at the polling place. If a resident is unable to go to a polling place to vote, he or she will need to show identification. In 2018, a voter may sign an oath of identification in lieu of showing ID.

- **Advising YOU: YOUR VOTE, YOUR CHOICE**
- **FOR YOUR RIGHTS**
- **USING THIS GUIDE**
- **Ombudsman**

Established within the Iowa Department on Aging
530 10th Street, Suite 400, Iowa City, IA 52245, 515-281-6600
www.iowasga.org

Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative funds were used for the creation and distribution of this guide.
UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS
Your voter registration must reflect your current address. The process for updating your registration depends on where you moved.

- If you moved to a different county in Iowa:
  You may need to update your voter registration. Contact your county auditor for assistance verifying your registration.

- If you moved within the same county in Iowa:
  You may need to update your voter registration. Contact your county auditor for assistance verifying your registration.

Three Ways to Register

Pre-Register to Vote by Mail
In order to register to vote by mail, a voter must complete the Iowa Official Voter Registration Form. The form is available to download on the Secretary of State’s website or you can get a copy by calling (800) 776-4852. If a voter is not physically able to sign the form, he/she may put a mark or stamp or may ask someone to sign his/her name. Another person may only sign for the registered voter if the form is mailed in and the signature section is signed.

Pre-Register to Vote Online
In order to pre-register to vote online, a voter must have an Iowa driver’s license or non-operator ID. Registration occurs through the Iowa Department of Transportation website, and there is a link that the voter can follow on the Iowa Secretary of State website at https://iowavotes.gov.

Iowa has special provisions for voting by absentee ballot for individuals who
are currently residing in a health care facility or who are currently residing in a hospital. If you choose to vote by absentee ballot, you must complete a completed absentee ballot request form to your county auditor’s office.

If you are admitted to a health care facility or hospital on the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before Election Day, contact your county auditor’s office directly to request an absentee ballot.

Under Iowa law, a bipartisan team of election officials must deliver the absentee ballot to voters in facilities. The county auditor will notify you when the team will be delivering the ballot. If you will not be available, you may request a more convenient time.

When the officials arrive with your absentee ballot, they must verify who you are before you can sign the ballot envelope to receive the ballot. The officials will then explain the process to you and you’ll be able to see the ballot before you sign the ballot envelope to receive the ballot. The officials will then explain the process to you and you’ll be able to see the ballot before you sign the ballot envelope.

Other people must be present while you mark your ballot, if you choose. If you need help marking your ballot, you may choose to have someone else, including the election officials. You may choose anyone other than your employer or an official agent of your union. You will be asked to sign or mark a form showing you asked for help.

Early Voting (In Person)
In addition to voting by mail or at designated precinct polling sites on Election Day, Iowans can also vote by absentee ballot in facilities within the county. In the county in which you reside. To find your polling place, call your county auditor or use the Secretary of State’s online tool. The location is also printed on your voter acknowledgment notice. It may not be double-check before arranging for transportation or leaving for your polling place.

Election Day Voting (at Your Precinct)
Premier election officials must deliver the absentee ballot to voters in facilities. The county auditor will notify you when the team will be delivering the ballot. If you will not be available, you may request a more convenient time.

When the officials arrive with your absentee ballot, they must verify who you are before you can sign the ballot envelope to receive the ballot. The officials will then explain the process to you and you’ll be able to see the ballot before you sign the ballot envelope.

Other people must be present while you mark your ballot, if you choose. If you need help marking your ballot, you may choose to have someone else, including the election officials. You may choose anyone other than your employer or an official agent of your union. You will be asked to sign or mark a form showing you asked for help.

PLANNING TIPS
If different than residence)
Mailing Address
Phone
Email Address
Current Address
Past Addresses
Voter Assistance and Supports Available

- Iowa law requires all polling places to be accessible to all voters. This includes the voting area for the accessible voting units, walkways and building entrances.

- Each polling place has an ADA-compliant ballot marking device. This device is available to those who need assistance in marking a ballot. To mark their ballots, voters use features on the device, such as selectable language, an audio component and/or a touch-and-push element to select candidates. The device will then compile the votes on the ballot. It also has voter review and voter-verifiable mark-

- Cards delivered directly to the Secretary of State’s office.

- Castle voting is available at each polling place. If a physical disability makes it difficult to enter the building. Two precinct election officials, and from each political party in partisan elections, will bring voting materials to your

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Additional Information:
For more information or assistance ensuring your right and ability to vote, please contact the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman at (866) 236-1430.

HELPFUL RESOURCES
COUNTY AUDITOR PHONE NUMBER: SECRETARY OF STATE OF IOWA: www.sos.iowa.gov/ios/1-888-VOTES-2803

VOTER HOTLINE: 1-888-SOS-VOTE (777-8803)

Contact Information:
Resident/Tenant Name
Current Address (where you vote)

Email Address
Phone
Making Address for registration, ballot, etc.

Planning Tips:
When planning to vote and participate in the political process, remember that you may ask someone to assist you in voting your registration form and ballot request form (or sign on your behalf) as long as it is in your presence and with your permission. This is your voter – their role is to protect and honor your right to vote. Remember; you can change your mind later if you want to vote in a different fashion. Making a plan just ensures you don’t miss important deadlines for each option.

2018 ELECTION DATES & DETAILS:
Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018
Polling Hours: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Absentee Voting in Iowa: Begins Monday, Oct. 8, 2018 (Satellite voting locations will vary by county. Contact your county auditor after Sept. 20 for details.)

ADOPTED INFORMATION: