



Interchange Newsletter

Fall 2020

Are You Prepared to Vote?

Gabe Kramer, Director, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service.

By the time you have received this newsletter it will only be a month until the election. With that in mind, I thought this would be a great time to review the services provided by the state of Nebraska for those with special needs.

Voter registration will continue to be available online at sos.nebraska.gov. Eligible citizens also can register when renewing their drivers licenses, or by mail, or in person at the DMV offices that remain open, or with DHHS and the Nebraska Department of Education when applying for programs. The deadline to register to vote is Friday, October 16th.

According to the Nebraska Secretary of State's office, Nebraska is a "no-excuse" state, meaning any registered voter may request an early-voting (absentee) ballot, and is not required to provide a reason. October 23rd is the last day to request an early voting ballot to be mailed to you. For those of you still practicing social distancing because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this is a great way to make your voice heard.

If you plan to vote in-person on November 3rd, voters with disabilities have certain rights.

Services Available in Nebraska to Voters with Special Needs

The State of Nebraska has made groundbreaking efforts to increase ballot accessibility for all voters, including elderly voters, voters with disabilities, voters who do not read or speak English, voters residing in assisted living centers, long-term facilities or who are hospitalized. State law provides that all polling places must meet strict accessibility standards.

Jennifer Hammond, Elections Specialist II with the Nebraska Secretary of State's office says there are a few options for those with visual impairments.

1. A voter may choose anybody they wish to help them fill out their ballot.
2. A team of two poll workers of different political parties can assist them with filling out their ballot. For more information see [Nebraska Revised Statute §32-918](#).

She also states that all polling places have been equipped with an Express Vote for use by voters with disabilities. Her description of the machine is such: "a voter can place their ballot into the ballot marking device and have it read to them so they can vote privately and independently. The machine does not record their votes; it just marks the paper ballot. Once finished voting, the ballot can be removed and placed in the ballot box with the rest of the ballots to be read by an optical scanner. If a voter wants to double-check their ballot before casting it, they can also put in their completed ballot into the ExpressVote and it will read it back to them. There are headphones and tactile buttons along with a privacy mode where the screen goes blank while the voter is voting. The voter can also zoom and change the screen contrast. Instructions on how to use the ExpressVote are available in braille. The ExpressVote is also available at every county election office during early voting."

For more information contact Nebraska's Secretary of State's office:

- Phone: (402) 471-2555
- Email: sos.elect@nebraska.gov

Magazines from Our Studios

The Talking Book and Braille Service records a wide variety of magazines. Here is just a small sampling of what we offer.

Game and Fish Midwest is for the fishing and hunting enthusiast. It describes fishing and hunting hotspots in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota; along with fishing and hunting gear reviews. 10 issues per year.

Living Well a quarterly magazine from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging features general topics, programs, issues, and activities concerning the older population, their families, and community organizations.

Reminisce and Reminisce Extra are published in alternating months. The magazine articles are reader written and feature reminiscences of the “good ol’ days.”

Order Form and Mailing Instructions

Mark the books and magazines you wish to order, then put this page into an envelope and mail to:

Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service

1200 N Street, Suite #120, The Atrium

Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

Or call (402) 471-4038 or 800-742-7691. You can also order online by going to <https://forms.gle/qgAu6TfLrATMiGUi7>

Magazines from Our Studios

- Game and Fish Midwest
- Living Well
- Reminisce
- Reminisce Extra

Talking Book and Braille Service
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium • 1200 N St.
Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
34-00-11

**Free Matter
For the
Blind or
Handicapped**