



Lake County Auditor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 04.15.2026

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Absentee Ballots Not Available at Start of Voting Period for June 2 Primary

Lake County, SD — The Lake County Auditor's Office is notifying voters that absentee ballots for the upcoming **June 2nd 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, which is April 17, 2026. However, the candidate petition filing deadline was March 31, as established in SDCL 12-6-4, which determines the final list of candidates to appear on the ballot. Because ballots cannot be finalized until after the petition filing deadline has passed and candidate eligibility is confirmed, additional time is required for ballot preparation, including certification, layout, programming, proofing, and printing. This statutory timing results in a brief delay between the start of the absentee voting period and the availability of ballots.

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

- Ballots will be mailed immediately to voters who have submitted absentee ballot 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

Voters are encouraged to:

- Submit absentee ballot applications early
- Verify voter registration information at <https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx>. The deadline to register for the June 2nd election is Monday, May 18, 2026 @ 5 p.m.
- Monitor official county communications for updates

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

For more information, please contact the Lake County Auditor's Office at 605-256-7600 or email at lakeauditor@lake.sd.gov.