

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 237

Introduced by Cavanaugh, M., 6.

Read first time January 14, 2025

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to elections; to amend section 32-960, Revised
- 2 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to permit counties to conduct
- 3 elections by mail; and to repeal the original section.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 32-960, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2024, is amended to read:

3 32-960 (1) ~~The election commissioner or In any county with less than~~
4 ~~ten thousand inhabitants,~~ the county clerk may apply to the Secretary of
5 State to mail ballots for all elections held after approval of the
6 application to registered voters of any or all of the precincts in the
7 county. The application shall include a written plan for the conduct of
8 the election which complies with this section, including a timetable for
9 the conduct of the election and provisions for the notice of election to
10 be published and for the application for ballots for early voting
11 notwithstanding other statutory provisions regarding the content and
12 publication of a notice of election or the application for ballots for
13 early voting. If the Secretary of State approves such application for one
14 or more precincts in the county, the election commissioner or county
15 clerk shall follow the applicable procedures in sections 32-953 to 32-959
16 for conducting elections by mail, except that the deadline for receipt of
17 the ballots shall be the deadline specified in subsection (2) of section
18 32-908.

19 (2) The election commissioner or county clerk of a county that has
20 an approved application pursuant to subsection (1) of this section:

21 (a) Shall allow a voter to return the ballot by hand-delivering it
22 to the office of the election commissioner or county clerk;

23 (b) Shall maintain at least one secure ballot drop-box available for
24 voters to deposit completed ballots twenty-four hours per day, starting
25 at least ten days before the election through the deadline provided in
26 subsection (1) of this section for the receipt of ballots;

27 (c) Shall maintain at least one in-person voting location at the
28 office of the election commissioner or county clerk at which a voter in a
29 precinct subject to a plan under this section approved by the Secretary
30 of State may receive and cast a ballot which shall be open on the day of
31 the election from the time for opening the polls pursuant to section

1 32-908 through the deadline provided in subsection (1) of this section
2 for the receipt of ballots;

3 (d) Shall maintain in-person early voting opportunities as described
4 in section 32-942; and

5 (e) May provide additional secure ballot drop-boxes and in-person
6 voting locations that need not be open according to the requirements of
7 subdivisions (b) and (c) of this subsection.

8 **Sec. 2.** Original section 32-960, Revised Statutes Cumulative
9 Supplement, 2024, is repealed.