



## County Auditor Cerro Gordo County Courthouse

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MEDIA RELEASE: Absentee voting and planning for Primary Election in response to COVID-19**

MASON CITY – Cerro Gordo County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections Adam Wedmore is encouraging those wishing to vote in the June 2 Primary Election to vote absentee by mail due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Because of the concerns regarding COVID-19 and the evolving nature of this pandemic I am asking our voters to consider voting absentee by mail for the June 2 Primary Election” Wedmore said. “We are reminding voters they have the option to vote absentee by mail for their safety, the safety of our poll workers, and out of convenience for the voters.”

Wedmore said the June 2, 2020 Primary Election will occur and polling locations will be open for voting, however there may be changes such as fewer polling locations than normal or process changes to meet social distancing guidelines. The Auditor’s Office is working to determine what changes will need to be made and how those changes will be implemented.

“We cannot predict what the situation will be when Election Day arrives therefore, we have developed multiple plans to ensure the Primary Election can occur, and can be done safely,” Wedmore explained. “Our planning is focused on making polling locations operational on election day, ensuring we have enough poll workers, and ensuring voters have access to polling locations all while maintaining the security and integrity of the election process.”

To encourage absentee voting the Cerro Gordo County Auditor’s Office will mail absentee ballot request forms to all households of registered Cerro Gordo County voters. Voters can expect to receive their absentee request in late April but may complete and return an absentee request form now. Forms are currently available on the Auditor website at <https://www.cgcounty.org/departments/auditor> or may be obtained by calling the Cerro Gordo County Auditor’s Office at 641-421-3041.

Absentee ballot requests must be received in the Auditor’s Office by 5 pm May 22. Requests will be processed and a ballot with instructions will be mailed to the voter. Voters will be provided with a pre-paid return envelope to mail their completed ballot back. Absentee ballots will be mailed beginning Thursday, April 23, the earliest date allowed by law. In-person absentee voting at the Auditor’s Office will begin Monday, May 4.

Voters are reminded for the Primary Election they must choose a political party on the request form in order to receive the correct ballot. For more information visit the Cerro Gordo County Auditor’s website, Facebook page, or call 641-421-3041.