Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether the voter registered to vote by checking the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website (https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine the voter’s proper polling place by checking the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website (http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/).

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question #6.
3. **What time do the polls open and close?**

Most polling places open at 7:00 a.m. and all must close at 8:00 p.m. In unorganized territories or towns with fewer than 500 inhabitants located outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area (i.e., outside of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington and Wright counties), polling places may not open until 10:00 a.m.¹ If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open by its required opening time, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

A voter in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.² If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line before 8:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. **When is/was the voter registration deadline?**

Minnesota has same-day Election Day registration, meaning that a voter can register to vote at their polling place on Election Day.³ More information about Election Day registration can be found in Question #18.

A person may also register to vote electronically, by mail or in person prior to Election Day by completing an application at least 21 days before the election will take place.⁴ For the August 11, 2020 primary election, the “pre-registration deadline” for a voter to mail in their application or submit it online is July 21, 2020. For the 2020 general election, the “pre-registration deadline” for a voter to mail in their application or submit it online, is Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Voter registration applications submitted by mail must be received by the election official by 5:00 p.m. on the pre-registration deadline to be processed for the upcoming election, and applications completed online must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the pre-registration deadline.⁵ If a voter misses the deadline, though, they can register at their polling place on Election Day.

More information about registering to vote prior to election day can be found on the Register to Vote page of the Secretary of State’s website.

5. **Can I vote without providing identification?**

Generally, yes. If a voter is already registered to vote, no identification is required at the polling place. An individual seeking to vote must sign a polling place roster or voter signature certificate which affirms the voter’s eligibility to vote. An elections judge may, before the voter signs, ask them to confirm their name, address and date of birth.⁶ If poll workers turn voters away for failing to provide ID, contact your hotline captain or command center immediately.

Only individuals who are registering to vote at their precinct on Election Day or have not voted in four years or more should be asked to show ID at the polls. Acceptable proof of identification includes:

- A government-issued ID with the voter’s current name and address (exhaustive list below):
  - A MN driver’s license, MN learner’s permit, or MN state ID card
  - A receipt for a MN driver’s license, learner’s permit, or state ID
  - A tribal ID card with the voter’s name, address, photo, and signature
• A photo ID and a document with the voter’s name and address. Note that 1. The photo ID can be expired and 2. the additional document with the voter’s name and address can be shown on an electronic device like a smartphone or tablet.
  o The acceptable photo IDs are:
    ▪ Driver’s license, state ID card or learner’s permit issued by any U.S. state
    ▪ U.S. passport
    ▪ U.S. military ID card
    ▪ Tribal ID card with the voter’s photo, name and signature
    ▪ Minnesota university, college or technical college ID card
    ▪ Minnesota high school ID card
  o The acceptable documents (which must be provided ALONG with one of the above photo IDs) are:
    ▪ A bill, account statement, or start of service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for: phone service (landline, cell, VOIP, etc.); TV (cable, satellite, etc.); Internet service; solid waste or sewer services; electric, gas or water; banking or credit card; or rent or mortgage payments
    ▪ Residential lease or rental agreement that is valid through Election Day
    ▪ Current student fee statement

• A registered voter from the individual’s precinct can go with the voter to the polling place to sign an oath confirming the voter’s address. A registered voter can vouch for up to eight others. A voter who registers by being vouched for cannot vouch for others.
• College students can use a student photo ID card (without providing additional documentation) if their college provided a student housing list to election officials.
• Valid registration in the same precinct – If a voter was previously registered in the precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, the voter only needs to tell the elections official their previous name or address — no additional documentation is needed.
• If an individual pre-registered to vote too close to Election Day, they may have received a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. This notice can be used to register at the polling place on Election Day.
• If an individual lives in a residential facility, a facility staff person can go with them to the polling place to confirm their address. The staff person must either be on a list provided by the facility before the election or be able to demonstrate employment at the facility.7

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

Yes. However, the way in which the voter does this depends on where the voter has moved to and by what method they intend to vote—absentee or in person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voting in person on Election Day</th>
<th>Moved within the same precinct</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The voter should go to the polling place assigned to their new address (which should be the same as the one for their old address, if they have moved within the precinct). There, the voter only needs to tell the elections official their previous name or address — no additional documentation is needed.8</td>
<td>The voter should go to the polling place assigned to their NEW address and follow the Election Day registration procedures, as outlined in Question #18. They will need to provide some proof of identity and residence, as described there.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voting early in-person

The voter only needs to tell the elections official their previous name or address — no additional documentation is needed. 10

A voter may be asked to complete a voter registration form and show proof of residence (see Question #5) before voting. 11

Voting by absentee ballot (aka by mail)

The voter may use their previous name or address — no additional documentation is needed. 12

A voter who requests an absentee ballot but is not currently registered to vote at their current address will be sent a voter registration application along with their ballot. The completed application must be submitted along with the absentee ballot. 13

The voter is required to show one of the acceptable proofs of residence described in Question #5 to the witness that signs the absentee ballot envelope. 14

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7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down. However, paper ballots are used throughout Minnesota and machines are only used to assist individuals with disabilities in marking their paper ballots and to count all the ballots. 15 Therefore, even if a machine breaks down, most voters should be able to continue voting and the ballots should be placed in a secure, backup storage container while the ballot counter (aka optical scanner) is not functioning or is being repaired.

If voting equipment is not functional, you should contact your hotline captain or command center.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

Verify that the voter is registered to vote at https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx or by calling 866-OUR-VOTE.

- If the voter IS registered to vote and at the correct precinct and polling place, instruct them to ask the election judge to double check the voter rolls and if they are still not found to call the county elections office to confirm the voter’s registration status. While the voter can also utilize Election Day registration, this may take additional time and require additional documentation. 16

- If the voter IS registered to vote but not at the correct precinct and polling place, provide them with information about where their correct polling place is, as they should go there to cast a ballot.

- If the voter IS NOT registered to vote, find the correct polling place for their residence at http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/.

  - If the voter is in the correct place, provide them with information about Election Day registration (see Question #18).
  - If the voter is not in the correct place, provide them with information about where their correct polling place is and with information about how to register to vote once they get there (see Question #18). 17

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters — could it have been removed?

A voter’s name can only be removed from the list of registered voters by written request, a felony conviction, death, if the individual is under guardianship (and the court revokes the individual’s right to
vote), if the individual is found to be legally incompetent, or in connection with a voter registration list maintenance program. Any voter whose name was removed in one of the above ways and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in advance or on Election Day in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.

In addition, at the end of a calendar year, the Secretary of State may change the status of any individual who has not voted in the previous four years to “inactive.” Individuals whose status is “inactive” must re-register in order to vote—but this may be done at their polling place on Election Day.

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Maybe. In Minnesota, a person with a felony conviction’s right to vote is automatically restored after completion of their sentence—meaning after their term of incarceration, parole and/or probation are all completed (including a federal sentence or sentence from another state). If the entire felony sentence, including probation and parole, is complete, the voter may re-register and vote a regular ballot.

*Note: There is currently a case pending before the MN Supreme Court regarding the restoration of voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals. Even if we receive a positive ruling before the 8/11/2020 election, it will NOT apply to people voting in the 8/11/2020 election.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Not applicable. Minnesota does not have provisional ballots because they allow Election Day registration.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. College students who meet the registration requirements may register to vote. Students may choose to vote either at the precinct where their parent’s home is located or in the precinct where they live while attending school, depending on which they consider their residence. An individual can only vote from one precinct in each election. Even if they haven’t registered in advance, college students can use Same Day Registration and have some additional ID options such as their student ID (see Question #18).

13. I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. Minnesota law requires that each polling place be accessible to voters with physical disabilities and provide a ballot-marking device that is accessible to individuals with disabilities. The ballot marking device should provide individuals who are blind or visually impaired the opportunity to vote privately and independently.

If a voter is unable to enter a polling place where paper ballots or an electronic voting system are used, they may register to vote and may vote without leaving a motor vehicle. Two election judges who are members of different major political parties shall assist the voter to register and to complete a voter’s certificate and shall provide the necessary ballots.

Also in all polling places, two election judges will assist a voter with disabilities to enter the polling place and go through the registration and voting lines.

14. I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?
Yes. Voters who require assistance to vote because of blindness, disability or inability to read or write in English may have a person of the voter’s choice—other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union or a candidate for election—to make the voter’s choices as directed by the voter, or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. In addition, a voter may obtain the aid of two election judges who are members of different major political parties. The election judges shall mark the ballot as directed by the voter and in as secret a manner as circumstances permit.  

15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. There should be a “Demonstration Judge” poll worker at each polling place, who can show a voter how to use the equipment.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Absentee voting allows voters to vote by mail or in-person before Election Day. There are three types of voting before Election Day in Minnesota:

1) **Absentee voting by mail:** This type of absentee voting allows a voter to request that an absentee ballot be sent to the voter by mail. Any Minnesotan can request a mail-in absentee ballot—even if they are not registered to vote. No special circumstances are necessary. Voters can apply for an absentee ballot online (https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx) or by downloading, printing, and filling out an application and submitting it to their local election official by mail, fax, or e-mail (http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2444/english-regular-absentee-ballot-application.pdf).

   - **NOTE:** MN typically requires absentee voters to obtain the signature of a qualified witness on their completed ballot. However, per a recent set of consent decrees, the witness requirement will NOT be in effect for the August and November elections for voters who are already registered when they request an absentee ballot. Any prospective voter can request an absentee ballot. But, those who are not already registered prior to requesting an absentee ballot will be required to get a witness signature on their completed ballot. Encourage voters to check their registration status before requesting an absentee ballot. If they are not already registered, encourage them to register first, then request a ballot so as to avoid the witness requirement.

There is no specific deadline to apply for an absentee ballot. However, if an individual applies for a ballot too close to Election Day, the ballot may not arrive in the mail in time, or they may not have time to complete and return it by Election Day. Due to changes in USPS processing, encourage the voter to send the materials in as soon as possible. If the election is less than a week away, ask if in-person absentee voting might be an option.

The voter may vote the ballot and return it to the county election office. **The deadline to return an absentee ballot depends on the method by which it is submitted:**

   - By mail: If the voter mails their ballot, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the county election office before the county canvass. **It is recommended that it be received by Monday, November 2, 2020 for the general election.** Note that
the voter should not have to affix postage to the ballot. It is pre-paid by
the election official.\textsuperscript{30}

- In person or by another person: If another person hand delivers the
voter’s ballot to the county election office, that individual must do so
by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day.\textsuperscript{31}

2) In-person absentee voting (a voter may call this “early voting”): Minnesotans may go in person to
their local elections office (or additional absentee voting locations that are provided) to vote an
absentee ballot.

One-stop absentee voting is conducted starting 46 days before the election—June 26, 2020 for the
primary election\textsuperscript{32}; and Friday, September 18, 2020 for the general election—and ends at 5:00 p.m.
the day before the election.\textsuperscript{33} To find locations and hours available for in-person absentee voting,
check the website (http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/cities-and-towns-
with-in-person-absentee-voting/) or call the county election office. Note that an individual does NOT
have to be registered to vote to utilize in-person absentee voting—if an individual is not registered to
vote, they will need to complete a voter registration form and show proof of residence at the elections
office before voting absentee.

3) Military-Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting: Absent uniformed service members (and their eligible
dependents) and U.S. citizens living outside of the United States may request an absentee ballot under
the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The voter can get step-by-
step assistance and forms at http://www.fvap.gov/.

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has not already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, the voter
should be allowed to vote in person by regular ballot.\textsuperscript{34} Make sure to tell the election judge that you want
to cancel your absentee ballot and vote by regular ballot.

18. Does my state have Same-Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

An individual can register to vote on Election Day at their correct polling place, or while in-person
absentee voting or requesting a mail-in absentee ballot. For Same-Day Registration options before
Election Day, see Question #16.

If a voter needs to register to vote on Election Day, confirm that they are eligible:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence

Then direct the voter to their correct polling place based on their residential address. Once there, the voter
will be able to register to vote and cast their ballot after showing proof of identification. Acceptable proof
of identification includes:

- A government-issued ID with the voter’s current name and address (exhaustive list below):
  - A MN driver’s license, MN learner’s permit, MN state ID card
  - A receipt for a MN driver’s license, learner’s permit or state ID
• A tribal ID card with the voter’s name, address, photo, and signature
• A photo ID and a document with the voter’s name and address. Note that the photo ID can be expired and the document can be shown on an electronic device like a smartphone or tablet.
  o The acceptable photo IDs are:
    ▪ Driver’s license, state ID card or learner’s permit issued by any U.S. state
    ▪ U.S. passport
    ▪ U.S. military ID card
    ▪ Tribal ID card with the voter’s photo, name and signature
    ▪ Minnesota university, college or technical college ID card
    ▪ Minnesota high school ID card
  o The acceptable documents (which must be provided ALONG with one of the above photo IDs) are:
    ▪ A bill, account statement or start of service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for: phone service (landline, cell, VOIP, etc.); TV (cable, satellite, etc.); Internet service; solid waste or sewer services; electric, gas or water; banking or credit card; or rent or mortgage payments
    ▪ Residential lease or rental agreement that is valid through Election Day
    ▪ Current student fee statement
• A registered voter from the individual's precinct can go with them to the polling place to sign an oath confirming the voter’s address. A registered voter can vouch for up to eight others. A voter who registers by being vouched for cannot vouch for others.
• College students can use a student photo ID card (without providing additional documentation) if their college provided a student housing list to election officials.
• If a voter was previously registered in the same precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, the voter only needs to tell the elections official their previous name or address — no additional documentation is needed.
• If an individual pre-registered to vote too close to Election Day, they may have received a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. This notice can be used to register at the polling place on Election Day.
• If an individual lives in a residential facility, a facility staff person can go with them to the polling place to confirm their address. The staff person must either be on a list provided by the facility before the election or be able to demonstrate employment at the facility.35

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

The voter has the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence their vote. With very few exceptions, no person is allowed to approach a voter and no person is allowed to campaign inside the polling place or within 100 feet of the building. 36

If the polling place is on public property, no one can campaign anywhere on the property, even beyond 100 feet. However, the prohibition of signs and campaign materials within 100 feet does not apply to adjacent private property. 37
In the polling place, no person is allowed to display campaign t-shirts, buttons, or literature which relate to specific candidates, official political parties, or ballot questions on the ballot that day. A person in violation will need to either cover up or remove these items while in the polling place.  

The following people are allowed near a polling place: 

Voters have the right to go to and from the polling place without having anyone interfere with them. No one other than the voter can stand within 100 feet of the building where the polling place is located except the following:
1. an election official (representatives of the secretary of state's office, the county auditor's office, and the municipal or school district clerk's office; election judges; sergeants-at-arms and peace officers)
2. an individual who is waiting to register or to vote;
3. an individual who is conducting exit polling;
4. individuals representing the news media.

The following people are allowed inside the polling place: 
1. Representatives of the secretary of state's office, the county auditor's office, and the municipal or school district clerk's office.
2. Election Judges
3. Sergeants-at-arms and Peace Officers
4. Challengers
5. Individuals voting or registering to vote, providing proof of residence for an individual who is registering to vote, or assisting a disabled voter or a voter who is unable to read English.
6. Teachers and elementary or secondary school students participating in an educational activity authorized by section 204B.27, subdivision 7.
5. News media (only to observe the voting process).

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Generally, if an election judge determines that a voter eligibility challenge is valid, the challenged voter must either respond to questions from the election judge related to the challenge OR sign a polling place roster or voter signature certificate. Otherwise, an election judge may determine that a challenged voter is not permitted to vote.

In Minnesota, challengers (i.e., election judges; eligible voters from the same precinct as the voter being challenged; or appointed challengers) are permitted to challenge a voter’s eligibility in writing, but only if they have personal knowledge of that voter’s ineligibility. Suspicion is not a basis for making a challenge. The challenger must personally know that a specific person is not eligible to vote for a specific reason.

See Question #5 and/or Question #16 for responding to challenges based on residency. See Question #10 for responding to challenges based on a felony conviction.

Note that an appointed challenger cannot speak to the voter; be disruptive; handle or inspect voter registration applications, files, or lists; make lists of who did or did not vote; attempt to influence voting; or compile lists of voters to challenge on the basis of mail sent by a political party that was returned as undeliverable or if receipt by the intended recipient was not acknowledged in the case of registered mail.
21. Can I vote in the primary election?

A voter is not required to provide evidence of membership in a political party in order to receive and cast a party’s ballot. However, before being provided a ballot, every voter will be required to read and agree, by signature, to the following statement: “I am in general agreement with the principles of the party for whose candidate I intend to vote.” A voter who refuses to indicate a major political party or who refuses to sign the polling place roster—including the statement indicated above—will not be permitted to cast a ballot.49

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary race (starting on July 21, 2020 for the 2020 election).50 The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.51 One can register to vote the day of the election or when they submit their absentee vote.

A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice.52 If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.53 A voter’s choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.54

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1 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.05
2 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.05
3 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.054
4 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061(a)
5 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061(a)(2)
6 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.10
7 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
9 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
12 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061; Minn. R. 8210.0500
13 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 203B.04 Subd. 4
14 Minn. R. 8210.0500
15 Minn. R. 8250.1810; http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/get-help-voting/
16 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
17 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
18 Minn. Stat. § 201.014; Minn. Stat. § 201.171
19 Minn. Stat. § 201.171
20 Minn. Stat. § 201.171
21 Minn. Stat. § 201.145; Minn. Stat. §609.165
23 Minn. Stat. § 201.054; Minn. Stat. §200.031
24 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 206.57 subd. 5
25 Minn. Stat. § 204C.15 subd. 2
26 Minn. Stat. § 204C.15 subd. 2 & 3
27 Section 208 of Voting Rights Act; Minn. Stat. § 204C.15
28 http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2090/election-judge-guide.pdf
30 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 203B.07
31 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 203B.08
33 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
34 http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2090/election-judge-guide.pdf
37 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 211B.11, subd. 1; https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/
38 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 211B.11, subd. 1; https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/
39 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 1
40 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 8
41 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 2
42 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 5 & 6
44 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 8
45 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12, subd. 2 & 4
48 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07
49 Minn. R. 8215.0300; https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/mnpresprim.pdf at 6
50 https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/presidential-primary/
51 https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/presidential-primary/
53 Minn. R. 8215.0300 subpart 3 (2018)
54 https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/presidential-primary/