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**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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## REGISTERING TO VOTE

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### 1. STATUS: 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. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

You can register to vote on Election Day at your polling location (see Question 4 for more information). However, the Minnesota Secretary of State encourages voters to register before Election Day to save time at the polling place.

The deadline to register before Election Day is 21 days before the election. If you register online, you must submit your registration by 11:59 p.m. on October 13, 2020. If you register on paper you must submit your registration by 5 p.m. on October 13, 2020. Paper registration forms can be mailed or dropped off to the county election office or to the Secretary of State.

Electronic and paper voter registration forms are available online (<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>). If you do not have access to a computer or a printer, you can get a voter registration form from your county election office.

### 3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

If an individual registers to vote before Election Day, the individual must fill out an application. That application requires the individual to attest that they are a U.S. citizen and they will be at least 18 years of age by the next election. The individual must also provide their residential address and must mark one of several boxes:

- I have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card number [fill in]
- I do not have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card. The last four digits of my Social Security Number are [fill in]
- I do not have a MN-issued driver's license, a MN-issued ID card, or a Social Security Number.

If an individual is registering on Election Day at their polling place, then the individual must provide proof of ID. 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
- Or . . . 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.** CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- 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
- 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
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . College students can use a student photo ID card (without providing additional documentation) if their college provided a student housing list to election officials and they are on the list.
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . If an individual pre-registered to vote too close to Election Day (within 20 days of election), 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.
- Or . . . 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.<sup>i</sup>

**4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?**

Minnesota has same-day Election Day registration, meaning that a voter can register to vote at their polling place on Election Day.<sup>ii</sup> More information about Election Day registration can be found in Question 5.

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.<sup>iii</sup> For the 2020 general election, the “pre-registration deadline” for paper or online applications is Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Paper applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2020. Online applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the pre-registration deadline.<sup>iv</sup> If a voter misses the pre-registration deadline, the voter may still 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. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?**

Minnesotans 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 4.

A person must be eligible to vote to register on Election Day; the individual must be...

- A U.S. citizen,
- At least 18 years old on Election Day,
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days, and
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence (including probation or parole)

An eligible person can register to vote and cast a ballot at their correct polling place, once the voter has shown 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
- Or . . . 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.**
  - 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
  - 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

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- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . College students can use a student photo ID card (without providing additional documentation) if their college provided a student housing list to election officials and they are on the list.
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . If an individual pre-registered to vote too close to Election Day (within 20 days of the election), 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.
- Or . . . 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.<sup>v</sup>

**6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?**

Refer to the table below. The answer to this question depends on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

<b>Moved within the same precinct</b>	<b>Moved within the state (but not within the same precinct)</b>	<b>Moved from a different state</b>
The voter should go to the polling place assigned to their new address (which should be the same as the location for their prior address, if they moved within the precinct). The voter only needs to tell the election official their previous name or address – no additional documentation is required. <sup>vi</sup>	The voter should proceed to the polling place assigned to the new address. The voter will be able to register and vote at the new polling place on Election Day. For more information about same day registration, please see Question 5.	If you have lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days before Election Day, you can register to vote on Election Day.  If you have lived in Minnesota for fewer than 20 days before Election Day, you cannot vote in Minnesota for that election. However, you will be able to cast a presidential absentee ballot.

**7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?**

If a voter is only temporarily living in Minnesota, the voter cannot vote in Minnesota. However, the voter can vote in their home state. For more information, please visit <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote>

If a Minnesotan is temporarily living outside Minnesota, then they can vote in Minnesota either in person or by absentee ballot. For more information on absentee voting, please see Question 19.

**8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?**

To vote in Minnesota, a person must be a resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days. Paying out-of-state tuition or having a driver's license from another state does not mean an individual cannot vote in Minnesota. A college student should vote from the address the student considers home. For most students, that is either their parent's home or a school address. Wherever your "home" is, that is where you should vote. If an individual decides that their Minnesota college address is their home, the individual may use Same Day Registration to register and cast a vote from that address.

An individual who is taking classes remotely must determine where they are a "resident." An individual whose schooling is fully remote will have a hard time defining their residence as the campus if they are not physically there.

**9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?**

If you are living abroad or serving in the military, you can have an absentee ballot sent to you wherever you are in the world, AND that absentee ballot application *also* serves as a voter registration application. The following are eligible: military members serving outside their home precinct, citizens living abroad temporarily or indefinitely, or spouses and dependents of military members.

Individuals can apply for an absentee ballot online or on paper. There is no final date to request the ballot. However, voters must request their ballots with adequate time for the ballot to be sent to the voter, completed, postmarked by Election Day (November 3, 2020), and received by county election officials no later than November 10, 2020. The Minnesota Secretary of State recommends requesting an absentee ballot no later than Friday, August 28; they recommend mailing the ballot back no later than Friday, October 2, 2020.

**10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?**

A criminal record *does not affect* an individual's right to vote *unless* the individual is currently serving a felony conviction sentence (including probation, parole, and/or supervised release).

An individual who has had a felony conviction may vote after finishing all parts of the sentence, including probation, parole, and/or supervised release.

Once an individual finishes all parts of the sentence (i.e. once an individual is "off paper"), they can vote. The individual will need to register to vote. The Minnesota Secretary of State recommends pre-registering, but the individual may register on Election Day.

### **11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?**

You can vote after you finish all parts of your **felony** sentence, including any probation, parole, or supervised release. As soon as you finish (once you are 'off-paper'), you can vote. You will need to re-register to vote. It is best to register before Election Day, but you can do same-day registration on Election Day.

You **can** vote if...

- you were charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.
- you are in jail, but are not currently serving a felony sentence.
- you have been charged with a felony, but you haven't been convicted.
- you have been given a stay of adjudication.
- you finished all parts of your felony sentence.

You **cannot** vote if...

- you are currently serving a felony sentence.
- your stay of adjudication was revoked and you are currently serving a felony sentence.

### **12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?**

Yes. Double check registration 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, the voter should ask the election judge to double check the voter rolls. If the voter still is not on the rolls, the voter should call the county election office to confirm their registration status. Note, voters *can* alternatively utilize Election Day registration, but this may take additional time and require additional documentation.<sup>vii</sup>
- If the voter IS registered to vote but not at the correct precinct and polling place, the voter should go to their correct polling place and cast a ballot there.
- If the voter IS NOT registered to vote, find the correct polling place for their residence at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. Once the voter is at the correct polling place, the voter can use same day registration and cast a ballot.

### **13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?**

A voter's name can only be removed from the list of registered voters by written request, a felony conviction, death, the individual being placed under guardianship (after the court revokes the individual's right to vote), the individual is found legally incompetent, or pursuant to a voter registration list maintenance program.<sup>viii</sup> 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.<sup>ix</sup> CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

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; this may be done at the voter’s polling place on Election Day.<sup>x</sup>

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## HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

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### 14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?

YES! You can vote early via absentee voting in person or by mail.

**In Person** – One-stop absentee voting is conducted starting 46 days before the election (Friday, September 18, 2020) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election (Monday, November 2, 2020). For locations and hours available for in-person absentee voting, check <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, which can be found by accessing <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>.

Note that you do 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.

**By Mail** – Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, voters are encouraged to vote by mail-in absentee ballot. You can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you at any time during the year, except the day of the election by accessing <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. Voters should submit an absentee ballot request as soon as possible for an upcoming election to leave time for election officials to mail the ballot and for the voter to return it. An absentee ballot will not count if it is received after the deadline. The ballot must be received before or on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ballots can be dropped off in person until 3 PM on November 3<sup>rd</sup> or received by mail by 8 PM on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

After you vote on the ballot, return it to the county election office, either by mail or in person. The deadline to return an absentee ballot depends on the method by which it is submitted:

- **By mail:** If you mail your ballot, it will not count if it is received after the deadline. Your ballot must be received by 8 PM on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anything received after November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 PM will not be counted. Note you do not have to affix postage to the ballot. It is pre-paid by the election official.
- **In person:** If you hand deliver your own ballot to the county election office that sent you the ballot, you must do so by 3 p.m. on Election Day.
- **In person by another person:** If another person hand delivers your ballot to the county election office, that individual must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day. This individual can drop off their own ballot and ballots for up to three other voters. This individual will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else.

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- **Agent delivery:** In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. See requirements here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

**\*\*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 November election for voters who are already registered when they request an absentee ballot. Any prospective voter can request an absentee ballot. 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.

If the person requesting an absentee ballot is already registered to vote they don't need to have witness with new voter registration form UNLESS they need to make an update on their original voter registration, ex. they got married/divorced and their name and/or address is different. If the info on the absentee ballot is not EXACTLY the same as what they have on their original voter registration record, the ballot will NOT be counted.

In the event that a voter has already mailed back their ballot but has not received a receipt, they should contact the county elections office (or city if the city runs ABs, e.g. Minneapolis) to ask for the status of their absentee ballot at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>. If the ballot has been accepted, no further action is needed. If not, the person should vote in person.

NOTE: The system will not allow a voter to vote twice. When voting early in person, the site will confirm the voter is eligible to vote early (has not turned in a ballot already), and at the polling place, the roster will reflect if the voter has had an absentee accepted already. For absentee ballots received on Election Day, the county will contact the polling place to confirm that the voter has not voted in person, accept the absentee, and instruct the Roster Judge to mark an absentee ballot next to the voter's name (or update the E-Poll Book).

**15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?**

No.

**16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?**

For most elections, absentee voting locations must be open during their normal business hours starting 46 days before the election. Early voting in person began on September 18, 2020. In addition, locations offering absentee ballots must be open the last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and the day before Election Day (until 5 p.m.). Some local jurisdictions provide additional absentee voting days and hours. For more information, contact local election officials <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>

**17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?**

You can vote at your county election office (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>). Some cities offer additional locations. Check with your city for details.

**18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?**

If you are already registered, you do not need identification to vote early. If you are not registered, you will need 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

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- Or . . . 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.**
  - The acceptable photo IDs are:
    - Driver's license, state ID card or learner's permit issued by any U.S. state; or
    - U.S. passport; or
    - U.S. military ID card; or
    - Tribal ID card with the voter's photo, name and signature; or
    - Minnesota university, college or technical college ID card; or
    - Minnesota high school ID card
  - 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
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . College students can use a student photo ID card (without providing additional documentation) if their college provided a student housing list to election officials and they are on the list.
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . 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.<sup>xi</sup>

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## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

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### 19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

Voters will not automatically receive an absentee ballot. Voters must request an absentee ballot. You can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you at *any time* during the year, except the day of the election by accessing <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx> or by contacting your county election office.

### 20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

You can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you at *any time* during the year, except the day of the election by accessing <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx> or by contacting your county election office.

However, you should submit an absentee ballot request as soon as possible to leave time for election officials to mail the ballot and for the voter to return it.

An absentee ballot will not count if it is received after the deadline. The deadline depends on how you submit your ballot:

- **By mail:** If you mail your ballot, it will not count if it is received after the deadline. Your ballot must be received by 8 PM on Election day, November 3rd. Anything received after November 3rd at 8 PM will not be counted. Note you do not have to affix postage to the ballot. It is pre-paid by the election official.
- **In person:** If you hand deliver your own ballot to the county election office that sent you the ballot, you must do so by 3 p.m. on Election Day.
- **In person by another person:** If another person hand delivers your ballot to the county election office, that individual must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day. This individual can drop off their own ballot and ballots for up to three other voters. This individual will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else.
- **Agent delivery:** In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. See requirements here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

In the event that a voter has already mailed back their ballot but has not received a receipt, they should contact the county elections office (or city if the city runs ABs, e.g. Minneapolis) to ask for the status of their absentee ballot at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>. If the ballot has been accepted, no further action is needed. If not, the person should vote in person.

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**\*\*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 November election for voters who are already registered when they request an absentee ballot. Any prospective voter can request an absentee ballot. 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.

If the person requesting an absentee ballot is already registered to vote they don't need to have witness with new voter registration form UNLESS they need to make an update on their original voter registration, ex. they got married/divorced and their name and/or address is different. If the info on the absentee ballot is not EXACTLY the same as what they have on their original voter registration record, the ballot will NOT be counted.

## **21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?**

After you vote on the ballot, return it to the county election office, either by mail or in person. The deadline to return an absentee ballot depends on the method by which it is submitted:

- **By mail:** If you mail your ballot, it will not count if it is received after the deadline. Your ballot must be received by 8 PM on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anything received after November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 PM will not be counted. Note you do not have to affix postage to the ballot. It is pre-paid by the election official.
- **In person:** If you hand deliver your own ballot to the county election office that sent you the ballot, you must do so by 3 p.m. on Election Day.
- **In person by another person:** If another person hand delivers your ballot to the county election office, that individual must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day. This individual can drop off their own ballot and ballots for up to three other voters. This individual will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else.
- **Agent delivery:** In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. See requirements here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

In the event that a voter has already mailed back their ballot but has not received a receipt, they should contact the county elections office (or city if the city runs ABs, e.g. Minneapolis) to ask for the status of their absentee ballot at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>. If the ballot has been accepted, no further action is needed. If not, the person should vote in person.

**\*\*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 November election for voters who are already registered when they request an absentee ballot. Any prospective voter can request an absentee ballot. However, 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.

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If the person requesting an absentee ballot is already registered to vote they don't need to have witness with new voter registration form UNLESS they need to make an update on their original voter registration, ex. they got married/divorced and their name and/or address is different. If the info on the absentee ballot is not EXACTLY the same as what they have on their original voter registration record, the ballot will NOT be counted.

**22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?**

If your ballot never arrived or if it is damaged contact your county election office (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>). On the other hand, if you did not request your ballot in time to receive it and send it back, or if you received your ballot but decided you don't want to vote absentee, you can still vote in person at your polling location on Election Day.

**23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?**

No. Minnesota offers no-excuse absentee voting.

**24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?**

You can check the status of your application and/or track your absentee ballot online (<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>) or by calling your county election office.

**25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?**

If your absentee ballot application was rejected, contact your local election office to resolve the issue. As for your ballot, local election officials must check that you (and your witness, if one was required) filled out the signature envelope correctly. If you did not fill out the signature envelope correctly, election officials will mail you replacement materials, including an explanation for why your signature envelope was rejected. Or, if there are fewer than five days before Election Day, election officials will try to contact you. In this case, you can vote in person at your local election office or at your polling place on Election Day.

**26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?**

If you are already registered, you do not need identification to vote absentee.

If you are not already registered, a voter registration form will be provided along with your absentee ballot. To complete the registration form, you will need one of the following:

- A Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota ID card [you provide the number],
- The last four digits of your Social Security number, **or**
- You will indicate you have neither of the above and a county election official will require additional documentation.

**27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?**

If your ballot never arrived or if it is damaged contact your county election office (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>). You may need to vote in person if there is insufficient time for the error to be remedied.

**28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?**

If your ballot never arrived or if it is damaged contact your county election office (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>). You may need to vote in person if the error cannot be remedied in time.

**29. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?**

As long as your absentee ballot hasn't been counted by your election officials, you may still cast a ballot in person by voting in [your polling place](#) on Election Day or at your local early voting location. You can [track the status of your absentee ballot](#) to see when it is sent to you and when it is received by election officials.

After voting in person, the unique ballot ID number on your original absentee ballot will be invalidated, so that if it is returned to the election office, the officials will not count it. If you plan on voting in person, please do not bring your absentee ballot with you. Your election official will provide you with a new ballot to complete that day.

**30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?**

The deadline to return an absentee ballot depends on the method by which it is submitted:

- **By mail:** If you mail your ballot, it will not count if it is received after the deadline. Your ballot must be received by 8 PM on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anything received after November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 PM will not be counted. Note you do not have to affix postage to the ballot. It is pre-paid by the election official.
- **In person:** If you hand deliver your own ballot to the county election office that sent you the ballot, you must do so by 3 p.m. on Election Day.
- **In person by another person:** If another person hand delivers your ballot to the county election office, that individual must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day. This individual can drop off their own ballot and ballots for up to three other voters. This individual will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else.
- **Agent delivery:** In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. See requirements here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

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**\*\*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 November election for voters who are already registered when they request an absentee ballot. Any prospective voter can request an absentee ballot. However, 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.

If the person requesting an absentee ballot is already registered to vote they don't need to have witness with new voter registration form UNLESS they need to make an update on their original voter registration, ex. they got married/divorced and their name and/or address is different. If the info on the absentee ballot is not EXACTLY the same as what they have on their original voter registration record, the ballot will NOT be counted.

**31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?**

You can return your ballot in person no later than 3 p.m. on [Election Day](#) to the election office that sent your ballot. You can drop off ballots for up to three other voters. You will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else. You may *not* drop your ballot off at your polling place on Election Day.

**32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?**

In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. See requirements here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

**33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?**

You can vote in-person absentee beginning 46 days before the election (Friday, September 18, 2020) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election (Monday, November 2, 2020). You may vote at your local election office. Some cities also offer in-person absentee locations. For more options, check <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, which can be found by accessing <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>.

Note that you do 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.

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## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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### 34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

All polling places open at 7:00 a.m. and all must close at 8:00 p.m. unless in an 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), then polling places may not open until 10:00 a.m.<sup>xii</sup> **\*Note to hotline and field volunteers:** If 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.<sup>xiii</sup> **\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by 8:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

### 35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

<https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions #6 and 7](#).

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

### 36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

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.<sup>xiv</sup> 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, 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

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- Or . . . 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.**
  - 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
  - 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
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . College students can use a student photo ID card (without providing additional documentation) if their college provided a student housing list to election officials and they are on the list.
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . 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.
- Or . . . 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.<sup>xv</sup>

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## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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### 37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

**Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

Instruct the voter to stay at the polling location. Double check that the location is correct and has not been moved (<https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>). Contact the county election office.

**38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?**

In either situation, instruct the voter to stay at the polling location.

See [Question 34](#) for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

**39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?**

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

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.<sup>xvi</sup> 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.

**40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?**

MN has a mask mandate, and election judges are empowered to ask voters to wear a mask before entering the polling place. The election judge cannot prevent anyone refusing to wear a mask from voting, but they can ask that individual to wait to vote until the polling place is less crowded.

**41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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.<sup>xvii</sup>

**42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: 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.<sup>xviii</sup>

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.<sup>xix</sup>

Also, in all polling places, two election judges who are members of different major political parties will assist a voter with disabilities to enter the polling place and go through the registration and voting lines.<sup>xx</sup>

**43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, physically disabled, 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.<sup>xxi</sup>

**44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?**

If you cannot easily leave your vehicle to enter the polling place, you can ask to have a ballot brought out to you. This is known as 'curbside voting.'

You can request curbside voting in advance by contacting your local election office or you may request it when you arrive. Two election judges from different major political parties will bring out a ballot to your vehicle. If you need to register or update your registration, they will bring you an application as well. When you are finished voting, election judges will bring your ballot inside for you and put it in the ballot box.

**45. CAMPAIGNING: 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.<sup>xxii</sup>

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.<sup>xxiii</sup>

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.<sup>xxiv</sup>

The following people are allowed near a polling place:<sup>xxv</sup>

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<sup>xxvi</sup>

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The following people are allowed inside the polling place:<sup>xxvii</sup>

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 (if appointed/requested by an election judge to keep the peace)
4. Peace Officers (only when summoned by an election judge to restore the peace or when voting or registering to vote; otherwise, no peace officer shall enter or remain in a polling place or stand within 50 feet of the entrance of a polling place)<sup>xxviii</sup>
5. Challengers<sup>xxix</sup>
6. 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.
7. Teachers and elementary or secondary school students participating in an educational activity authorized by section 204B.27, subdivision 7.
8. News media (only to observe the voting process)<sup>xxx</sup>

#### **46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my 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.<sup>xxxi</sup>

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In Minnesota, challengers (i.e., election judges; eligible voters from the same precinct as the voter; or appointed challengers<sup>xxxii</sup>) 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.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

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.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

#### **47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?**

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

Except when (1) summoned by an election judge to restore the peace, (2) voting, or (3) registering to vote, no police officer shall enter or remain in a polling place or stand within 50 feet of the entrance of a polling place.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Members of the military, like the general public, may remain inside the polling place during voting hours only while 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.

**48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: 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.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

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## QUESTIONS

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**49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?**

There are several places to look for help.

Most voter issues can be fixed by local election officials. Contacts for local election officials are available here (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>).

The Minnesota Secretary of State offers answers to several questions via their website (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>) or by phone (1-877-600-VOTE).

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- i Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
  - ii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.054
  - iii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061(a)
  - iv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061(a)(2)
  - v Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
  - vi Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061; Minn. R. 8200.5100 subpart 1.B (2016)
  - vii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
  - viii Minn. Stat. § 201.014; Minn. Stat. § 201.171
  - ix Minn. Stat. § 201.171
  - x Minn. Stat. § 201.171
  - xi Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
  - xii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.05
  - xiii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.05
  - xiv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.10
  - xv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.061
  - xvi Minn. R. 8250.1810; <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/get-help-voting/>
  - xvii <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2090/election-judge-guide.pdf>
  - xviii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 206.57 subd. 5
  - xix Minn. Stat. § 204C.15 subd. 2
  - xx Minn. Stat. § 204C.15 subd. 2 & 3
  - xxi Section 208 of Voting Rights Act; Minn. Stat. § 204C.15
  - xxii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 211B.11; <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>
  - xxiii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 211B.11, subd. 1; <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>
  - xxiv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 211B.11, subd. 1; <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>
  - xxv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 1
  - xxvi Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 8
  - xxvii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 2
  - xxviii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 5 & 6
  - xxix Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 2; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12
  - xxx Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 8
  - xxxi Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12, subd. 2 & 4
  - xxxii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12
  - xxxiii Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12
  - xxxiv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07
  - xxxv Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 5 & 6
  - xxxvi 52 U.S.C.A. § 20503; 52 U.S.C.A. § 21082