



Frequently Asked Questions

Minnesota – General Election 2022

Last Updated: September 21, 2022

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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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?¹

Individuals can register to vote if they are:

- 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

Individuals can also register to vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked their right to vote. However, individuals cannot register to vote if a court has ruled them legally incompetent.

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?²

Yes, individuals can vote in the primary election (August 9, 2022) as long as they qualify for the eligibility which is listed in Question 1.

Individuals do not have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary. In Minnesota, there is no political party registration, voters decide when they vote which party they will vote for.

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

To check if an individual is registered to vote, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website (<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>).

¹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>

² <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/primary-election/>

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?³

Individuals can register to vote by completing an application [online](#) or by mail at least 21 days before the election will take place (October 18, 2022). Individuals can also register to vote on Election Day at their [polling location, with proof of residence](#).

If a voter misses the pre-registration deadline, the voter may still register at their polling place on Election Day. Electronic and paper voter registration forms are available online (<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>).

If individuals do not have access to a computer or a printer, they can get a voter registration form from their [county election office](#).

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

If an individual’s voter registration is current and active (meaning the voter was successfully registered at least 21 days before Election Day and has not moved or changed names since), the voter does [not need to bring identification](#).

Individuals who need to register to vote or update their voter registration will need to show proof of residence before voting. Acceptable [proof of identification includes](#):

1. Government-issued ID with current name and address
 1. A MN driver’s license, MN learner’s permit, MN state ID card
 2. A receipt for a MN driver’s license, learner’s permit or state ID
 3. A tribal ID card with the voter’s name, address, photo, and signature
2. Photo ID **PLUS** a document with current name and address

Approved Photo IDs <i>Choose one. Note: can be expired</i>	Approved Documents <i>Choose one. Can be shown on electronic device.</i>
Driver’s license, state ID or learner’s permit issued by any state	Bill, account or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phone, TV or internet ● Solid waste, sewer, ● electric, gas or water ● Banking or credit card ● Rent or mortgage
U.S. Passport	Residential lease or rent agreement valid through Election Day

³ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>

U.S. Military or Veteran ID	Current student fee statement
Tribal ID with name, signature and photo	
Minnesota university, college or technical college ID	
Minnesota high school ID	

3. Registered voter who can confirm the voter’s address
 - A registered voter from your precinct can go with you to the polling place to sign an oath confirming your address. This is known as ‘vouching.’ A registered voter can vouch for up to eight voters. You cannot vouch for others if someone vouched for you.
4. College student id with housing list
 - Colleges and universities send election officials a student housing list. If a voter is on the list, the voter can show their college photo ID to complete the registration.
5. Valid registration in the precinct
 - If a voter is already registered in the precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, the voter only needs to tell the election judge their previous name or address.
6. Notice of late registration
 - If a voter registered to vote within 20 days of the election, they may get a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. The voter should bring that with them and use it as their proof of residence.
7. Staff person of a residential facility
 - If a voter lives in a residential facility, a staff person can go with the voter to the polling place to confirm the voter’s address. This is known as “vouching” and a staff person can vouch for all eligible voters living in the facility.

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

The voter registration deadline for people who register online or by mail is 21 days before Election Day (October 18, 2022).⁴

Otherwise, voters may register in person, up to and on Election Day.

7. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

Yes, Minnesota has Same Day Registration.

⁴ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/registration-faqs/>

For a person to be able to vote on Election Day, the individual must meet the eligibility requirements in Question 1, arrive at the correct polling place⁵ and prove residence using the identifications listed in #5:

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

[Voters must re-register](#)

each time they change address, change names, or do not vote at least once during a four-year period. However, as long as a voter has lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days before Election Day, the voter **can** register to vote, and cast a ballot, on Election Day.⁶

9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How 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 by returning to their [polling place](#) to vote or by absentee ballot. For more information on absentee voting, please [see Section: HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE](#).

10. **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?⁷

To vote in Minnesota, a person must be a U.S. Citizen, at least 18 years old on Election Day, and a resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days.

A college student should vote **from the address the student considers home**. For most students, that is likely either their parent's home or a school address.

Wherever the voter's "home" is, that is where they 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.

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

If the voter is living abroad or serving in the military, they can have an absentee ballot sent to them wherever they are in the world, AND that absentee ballot application also serves as a voter registration application. The following individuals are eligible:

- military members serving outside their home precinct,
- citizens living abroad temporarily or indefinitely, or
- spouses and dependents of military members.⁸

⁵ To locate the correct polling place, visit <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

⁶

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/im-moving-on-or-close-to-election-day/?searchTerm=moved>

⁷ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/im-a-college-student/>

⁸ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-from-military-or-abroad/>

Individuals can apply for an absentee ballot online or on paper. There is no final date to request the ballot but voters must request their ballots with adequate time for the ballot to be sent to the voter, completed, postmarked by Election Day **and received by county election officials no later than Election Day.**

Voters [can track the status](#) of their ballot and confirm that it was received and counted.

The Minnesota Secretary of State recommends the following deadlines for the 2022 General Election:⁹

<u>Key Dates for Military and Overseas Voters</u>	<u>General Election</u>
Recommended you apply for a mail-in ballot before	Friday, September 2
Ballots sent starting	Friday, September 23
Recommended you mail ballot back before	Friday, October 7
To be counted, ballot must be received by	Election Day: Tuesday, November 8

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?¹⁰

A criminal record does not affect an individual’s right to vote in Minnesota 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.

Individuals **can** vote if:

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

13. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?¹¹

Individuals who are in jail, but not currently serving a felony sentence, **can** register to vote.

Incarcerated individuals **can** vote if...

- they were charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.
- they are in jail, but are not currently serving a felony sentence.

⁹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-from-military-or-abroad/>

¹⁰ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/i-have-a-criminal-record/>

¹¹ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 201.014; <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/i-have-a-criminal-record/>

- they have been charged with a felony, but haven't been convicted.
- they have been given a stay of adjudication.
- they finished all parts of their felony sentence.

In the case that an individual is currently incarcerated with a felony sentence, once the felony sentence is completed, they can vote after they finish all parts of the sentence, including any probation, parole, or supervised release. As soon as they finish (once they are "off-paper"), they can vote. The individual will need to re-register to vote. It is best to register before Election Day, but they can do same-day registration on Election Day.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

14. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

Polling places are usually open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.¹²

State and federal elections
7 a.m.* - 8 p.m.

*In state and federal elections, towns with less than 500 registered voters are not required to open until 10 a.m. but most choose to open at 7 a.m.

City, town and school-only elections
7 a.m.* - 8 p.m.

*In elections that are only for cities, towns, and/or school districts, polling places located in the metropolitan area do not have to open until 10 a.m. Those outside the metropolitan area do not have to open until 5 p.m. However, most choose to open at 7 a.m.

The metropolitan area is defined as the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright.

15. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?

To locate where to vote on Election Day, visit: <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

16. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?

As long as the voter was in line by 8 p.m., they can vote, even if they do not reach the front of the line until after 8 p.m.¹³

17. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?

¹² <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/voting-hours/>

¹³ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/voting-hours/>

See #5, pasted below:

If an individual’s voter registration is current and active (meaning the voter was successfully registered at least 21 days before Election Day and has not moved or changed names since), the voter does [not need to bring identification](#).

Individuals who need to register to vote or update their voter registration will need to show proof of residence before voting. Acceptable [proof of identification includes](#):

1. Government-issued ID with current name and address
 1. A MN driver’s license, MN learner’s permit, MN state ID card
 2. A receipt for a MN driver’s license, learner’s permit or state ID
 3. A tribal ID card with the voter’s name, address, photo, and signature
2. Photo ID **PLUS** a document with current name and address

Approved Photo IDs <i>Choose one. Can be expired</i>	Approved Documents <i>Choose one. Can be shown on electronic device.</i>
Driver’s license, state ID or learner’s permit issued by any state	Bill, account or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phone, TV or internet ● Solid waste, sewer, ● electric, gas or water ● Banking or credit card ● Rent or mortgage
U.S. Passport	Residential lease or rent agreement valid through Election Day
U.S. Military or Veteran ID	Current student fee statement
Tribal ID with name, signature and photo	
Minnesota university, college or technical college ID	
Minnesota high school ID	

3. Registered voter who can confirm the voter’s address
 - A registered voter from your precinct can go with you to the polling place to sign an oath confirming your address. This is known as ‘vouching.’ A registered voter can vouch for up to eight voters. You cannot vouch for others if someone vouched for you.
4. College student id with housing list

- Colleges and universities send election officials a student housing list. If a voter is on the list, the voter can show their college photo ID to complete the registration.
5. Valid registration in the precinct
 - If a voter is already registered in the precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, the voter only needs to tell the election judge their previous name or address.
 6. Notice of late registration
 - If a voter registered to vote within 20 days of the election, they may get a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. The voter should bring that with them and use it as their proof of residence.
 7. Staff person of a residential facility
 - If a voter lives in a residential facility, a staff person can go with the voter to the polling place to confirm the voter's address. This is known as "vouching" and a staff person can vouch for all eligible voters living in the facility.

18. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

If an individual's voter registration is current and active (meaning the voter was successfully registered at least 21 days before Election Day and has not moved or changed names since), the voter does not need to bring identification.

Individuals who need to register to vote or update their voter registration will need to show proof of residence before voting.

19. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

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. (check for possible mistakes in hyphenated names, reversed first and last names, misspellings, etc.) If the voter still is not found, 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.

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.

20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

Not applicable. Minnesota does not have provisional ballots because they allow Election Day registration.¹⁴

¹⁴ 52 U.S.C.A. § 20503; 52 U.S.C.A. § 21082

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

(in some states called “in-person absentee”)

21. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Yes, all voters can vote early via absentee voting in person or by mail.¹⁵

All voters have at least one location where they can vote early in person with an absentee ballot – the county election office. Voters may also be able to vote at their city’s office.

Some cities and towns have in-person absentee voting. Voters can check the Secretary of State’s website [here](#) to see if this option is available.

Note that voters do NOT have to be already registered to vote to utilize in-person absentee voting—just complete a voter registration form and show proof of residence at the elections office before voting absentee.

After the voter completes the ballot, they must return it to the county election office, either by mail or in person.

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

No. Minnesota offers no-excuse absentee voting.

23. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

One-stop absentee voting is conducted starting 46 days before the election (Friday, September 23, 2022) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election (Monday, November 7, 2022).¹⁶ For locations and hours available for in-person absentee voting call the county election office, which can be found by accessing <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>.

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

By mail: If voters mail their ballot, it must be received by 8:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022. Note voters do not have to affix postage to the ballot. It is pre-paid by the election official.

In person: If voters hand deliver their own ballot to the county election office that sent the ballot, they must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, 2022.

24. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

¹⁵ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

¹⁶ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-in-person/>

Individuals may vote in person or by mail. For in person locations and hours available for in-person absentee voting call the county election office, which can be found by accessing <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>.

By Mail – Individuals can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to them 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 8. Ballots can be dropped off in person until 3:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022 or received by mail by 8:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022.

25. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?¹⁷

To complete the application for an absentee ballot, a person must:

- Be eligible to register and vote in Minnesota
- Provide an email address
- Provide their identification number: Minnesota-issued driver's license, Minnesota ID card or last 4 digits of Social Security Number.

If an individual does not have an email address and does not have one of the identification numbers above, they cannot apply for their absentee ballot online. Individuals may apply with a paper form by clicking this link, selecting their preferred language, and printing out the [paper absentee ballot application](#).

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

26. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

Voters will not automatically receive an absentee ballot. Voters must request an absentee ballot.

Voters can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to them 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 their county election office.

27. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No.

¹⁷ <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>

28. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

Voters can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to them 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 their county election office.

However, voters 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.¹⁸

29. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Voters may submit their mail-in ballot application online or by returning the completed paper application to their [local election office](#) by mail, fax, or email.

30. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

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

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

- a Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota ID card (voters provide the number),
- the last four digits of voter's Social Security number, or
- voter will indicate they have neither of the above and a county election official will require additional documentation.

Voter will need a witness when they vote and complete your ballot. The witness can be either a registered Minnesota voter or a notary. The witness must sign the signature envelope and list their address. Notaries should write their name and title, sign the signature envelope, and affix their notary stamp.¹⁹

31. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

The absentee ballot application includes a line (#6) for the address to which absentee ballots should be sent.

¹⁸ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

¹⁹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

Voters who are homeless can register to vote using the location of where they sleep as their address, but may not be able to vote early by mail.²⁰

32. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: [What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?](#)

If voters did not request your mail-in ballot by the deadline, they can still vote in person at their polling location on Election Day.

33. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?](#)

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

34. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: [I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)

If an individual's absentee ballot application was rejected, they should contact their local election office to resolve the issue. As for their ballot, local election officials must check that they (and their witness, if one was required) filled out the signature envelope correctly.

If a voter's mail-in ballot is rejected before October 29, the voter will be mailed a replacement ballot along with an explanation of why your ballot was rejected. If your ballot is rejected within 5 days of the election, election officials will attempt to contact you to let you know.²¹

35. COMPLETING BALLOT: [How do I complete the mail-in ballot?](#)²²

1. Vote
 - Show the voter's witness the voter's blank ballot,
 - Mark the voter's votes in private.
 - Follow the instructions on the ballot.
 - Do not write the voter's name or ID number anywhere on the ballot.
2. Do not vote for more candidates than allowed. If the voter does, their votes for that office will not count. Seal ballot in the tan ballot envelope
 - Do not write on the tan envelope
3. Put the tan ballot envelope into the white signature envelope
4. Fill out the white signature envelope completely
 - If there is no label, print name and Minnesota address.
 - Print Minnesota driver's license number, Minnesota ID card number, or the last four

²⁰ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/im-homeless/>

²¹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/absentee-ballot-process/>

²² <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2315/absentee-ballot-instructions-for-registered-voters.pdf>

- digits of Social Security number.
 - **Be sure to use one of same numbers that was provided on the absentee ballot application.**
 - If the voter does not have any of these numbers, check the box.
 - Read and sign the oath.
 - Ask the witness to print their name and Minnesota street address, including city
 - (not a P.O. Box), and sign their name.
 - If the witness is an official or notary, they must print their title instead of an address.
 - Notaries must also affix their stamp.
 - Seal the envelope.
5. Put the signature envelope in the larger white return envelope to protect private information from view
- Seal the envelope
6. Return the ballot **by Election Day to the address on the return envelope**
- Ballots may not be delivered to the polling place.**

Voters have three options:

- Send it so it arrives by Election Day, using U.S. mail or a package delivery service,
- Deliver it in person before Election Day or by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day, or
- Ask someone to deliver it by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day.
 - This person cannot deliver more than 3 ballots.

See Question 36 for special instructions if the voter has a disability.

36. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)²³

There are many ways to get help voting. A voter can bring someone to help, ask an election judge, use a machine to help mark the ballot or even vote from their car.

Help from family, friends or neighbors

- **Voters can bring a family member, friend, neighbor or anyone they choose to help you vote.** The only exception is that a voter **can't** get help from someone **from your employer or from your union.**
- The voter's assistant can **help in all parts of the voting process**, including in the voting booth. Voters can show your ballot privately to an election judge to check that it is correctly marked.
- Helpers are not allowed to influence a vote or share how someone voted with others.

Help from ballot marking machine

- Most polling places have a ballot marking machine that can mark a ballot for voters. It gives voters privacy if they cannot (or choose not) to vote using a pen.

²³ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/get-help-voting/>

- The machine has a screen that displays the ballot in large print or with a high-contrast background. It can also read the ballot to a voter through headphones.
- Voters can fill out their ballot using a Braille keypad, touchscreen or sip-and-puff device. After the voter makes their choices, it prints the completed ballot.

Help from election judges

- Election judges are there to help voters through the entire process of voting.
- If a voter need help marking your ballot, two election judges from different political parties can assist. They are not allowed to influence a voter’s choices or tell others how someone voted.

37. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

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

By mail: If mailing a ballot, it will not count if the ballot is received after the deadline. **The ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, 2022.** Anything received after November 8, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. will not be counted.²⁴

In person: If the voter hand delivers their own ballot to the county election office that sent the ballot, they must do so by **3:00 p.m. on Election Day.**²⁵

In person by another person: If another person hand delivers the 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.

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

Individuals can return their ballot in person no later than 3:00 p.m. on Election Day to the election office that sent their ballot. Individuals can drop off ballots for up to three other voters.

Individuals may not drop their ballot off at their polling place.

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

Yes, a voter can submit up to three ballots for other voters (must show ID). In special situations, voters may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for them. See requirements here:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

40. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?²⁶

²⁴ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

²⁵ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

²⁶ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

If a voter made a mistake:

Voters can ask the election office that sent their ballot for a replacement ballot. If there is not enough time to get a new ballot, the voter should completely cross out the name of the candidate accidentally marked, then mark the candidate they prefer. The voter should not initial their corrections.

If a ballot has not arrived, is lost, or damaged

Voters should contact your county election office. Voters can receive a replacement ballot in person or by mail. The election official will cancel the original ballot. Voters should not return your original ballot, even if it is eventually found or received it; only return the replacement ballot.

41. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Voters should contact your county election office. Voters can receive a replacement ballot in person or by mail. The election official will cancel the original ballot. Voters should not return your original ballot, even if it is eventually found or received it; only return the replacement ballot.

42. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day? ²⁷

As long as the voter's absentee ballot hasn't been counted by election officials, they may still cast a ballot in person by voting in their polling place on Election Day or at their local early voting location. Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot to see when it is sent and when it is received by election officials.

After voting in person, the unique ballot ID number on voters' original absentee ballot will be invalidated, so that if it is returned to the election office, the officials will not count it. If voters plan on voting in person, they should not bring their absentee ballot with them. Voters' election officials will provide them with a new ballot to complete that day.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

43. ELIGIBILITY: Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

Individuals are eligible to request an absentee ballot if:

The voter:

- Is eligible to register and vote in Minnesota
- Can provide an email address

²⁷ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

- Can provide their identification number: Minnesota-issued driver's license, Minnesota ID card or last 4 digits of Social Security Number.

If an individual does not have an email address and one of the identification numbers above, they cannot apply for their absentee ballot online. They may apply with a paper form by clicking this link, selecting their preferred language, and printing out the paper absentee ballot application.

44. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?²⁸

Voters can submit a request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to them 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 their county election office.

However, voters 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.

45. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

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

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

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

Voters will need a witness when they vote and complete their ballot. The witness can be either a registered Minnesota voter or a notary. The witness must sign the signature envelope and list their address. Notaries should write their name and title, sign the signature envelope, and affix their notary stamp.

46. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Minnesota does not have an emergency absentee ballot.

47. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?²⁹

²⁸ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

²⁹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

Voters have three options:

- By mail: Send it so it **arrives by Election Day**, using U.S. mail or a package delivery service,
- In person: Deliver it in person before Election Day or by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day, or
- 3rd Person: Ask someone to deliver it by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day (This person cannot deliver more than 3 ballots).

48. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?](#)

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

49. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: [I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)³⁰

If an individual's absentee ballot application was rejected, they should contact their local election office to resolve the issue. As for their ballot, local election officials must check that they (and their witness, if one was required) filled out the signature envelope correctly.

If the individual did not fill out the signature envelope correctly, election officials will mail replacement materials, including an explanation for why the signature envelope was rejected. Or, if there are fewer than five days before Election Day, election officials will try to contact the individual. In this case, the individual can vote in person at their local election office or at their polling place on Election Day.

50. COMPLETING BALLOT: [How do I complete the absentee ballot?](#)

Vote

- Show the voter's witness the voter's blank ballot,
- Mark the voter's votes in private.
- Follow the instructions on the ballot.
- Do not write the voter's name or ID number anywhere on the ballot.

Do not vote for more candidates than allowed. If the voter does, their votes for that office will not count. Seal ballot in the tan ballot envelope

- Do not write on the tan envelope

Put the tan ballot envelope into the white signature envelope

Fill out the white signature envelope completely

- If there is no label, print name and Minnesota address.
- Print Minnesota driver's license number, Minnesota ID card number, or the last four
- digits of Social Security number.

³⁰ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

- **Be sure to use one of same numbers that was provided on the absentee ballot application.**
 - If the voter does not have any of these numbers, check the box.
- Read and sign the oath.
- Ask the witness to print their name and Minnesota street address, including city
- (not a P.O. Box), and sign their name.
 - If the witness is an official or notary, they must print their title instead of an address.
 - Notaries must also affix their stamp.
- Seal the envelope.

Put the signature envelope in the larger white return envelope to protect private information from view

- Seal the envelope

See Question 36 for special instructions if voter has a disability.

51. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: *Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?*

Yes. Voters who require assistance to vote 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.

If voter has a disability or cannot mark their ballot, the witness may assist by marking the ballot at voter's direction, assembling the materials, and filling out the forms for them.

52. BALLOT DEADLINES: *What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?³¹*

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 will not count if it is received after the deadline. The ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 8, 2022. Anything received after November 8, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. will not be counted.

In person: If the voter hand delivers their own ballot to the county election office that sent the ballot, they must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day.

In person 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. 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.

53. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: *Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?*

³¹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>

Voters can return their ballot in person no later than 3:00 p.m. on Election Day to the election office that sent the ballot. Voters can drop off ballots for up to three other voters.

Voters may not drop ballot off at their polling place.

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

Yes, a voter can submit up to three ballots for other voters (must show ID). In special situations, voters may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for them. See requirements here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

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

If a voter's ballot never arrived or if it is damaged, they should contact their county election office (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>). The voter may need to vote in person if the error cannot be remedied in time.

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

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

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

As long as the absentee ballot hasn't been counted by the voter's election officials, they may still cast a ballot in person by voting in their polling place on Election Day or at their local early voting location. Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot to see when it is sent to them and when it is received by election officials.

After voting in person, the unique ballot ID number on the voter's original absentee ballot will be invalidated, so that if it is returned to the election office, the officials will not count it. If the voter plans on voting in person, they should not bring their absentee ballot with them. Their election official will provide them with a new ballot to complete that day.

58. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: *Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?*

To vote in-person absentee, the voter would hand deliver their own ballot to the county election office that sent them the ballot - they must do so by 3:00 p.m. on Election Day.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

59. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should 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.

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

Stay in line, as long as the voter is in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m., they must be allowed to vote.

61. **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. 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.

62. **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.³²

63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?³³

Yes. Federal and state laws require that all polling places be accessible and usable by elderly voters or voters with disabilities. 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.³⁴

If a voter is unable to enter a polling place where paper ballots or electronic voting systems are used, they may register to vote and may vote without leaving a motor vehicle. Two election judges who are

³² <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2090/election-judge-guide.pdf>

³³ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/get-help-voting/>

³⁴ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 206.57 subd. 5

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.³⁵

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.³⁶

64. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** 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.³⁷

65. **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.**³⁸

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.³⁹

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.⁴⁰

The following people are allowed near a polling place:⁴¹

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;

³⁵ Minn. Stat. § 204C.15 subd. 2

³⁶ Minn. Stat. § 204C.15 subd. 3

³⁷ Section 208 of Voting Rights Act; Minn. Stat. § 204C.15

³⁸ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>

³⁹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>

⁴¹ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 1

4. individuals representing the news media⁴²

The following people are allowed inside the polling place.⁴³

Only authorized people are allowed inside a polling place during voting hours, such as voters and their minor children, poll workers and someone assisting a voter. People may not gather or linger in the polling place or within 100 feet of the building.

The following people are authorized to be inside a 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 (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)⁴⁴
5. Challengers⁴⁵
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)⁴⁶

66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should 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.⁴⁷

In Minnesota, challengers (i.e., election judges; eligible voters from the same precinct as the voter; or appointed challengers⁴⁸) 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.⁴⁹

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.⁵⁰

⁴² Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 8

⁴³ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 2

⁴⁴ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 5 & 6

⁴⁵ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 2; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12

⁴⁶ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 8

⁴⁷ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12, subd. 2 & 4

⁴⁸ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12

⁴⁹ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.12

⁵⁰ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.07

67. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should 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.⁵¹

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.

68. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should 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.⁵²

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.⁵³

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.⁵⁴

69. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Not applicable. Minnesota does not have provisional ballots.⁵⁵

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

70. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Yes. Voters who require assistance to vote because of 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

⁵¹ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 204C.06, subd. 5 & 6

⁵² Minn. Stat. § 201.014; Minn. Stat. § 201.171

⁵³ Minn. Stat. § 201.171

⁵⁴ Minn. Stat. § 201.171

⁵⁵ 52 U.S.C.A. § 20503; 52 U.S.C.A. § 21082

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.⁵⁶

Voters can bring anyone to assist them while they vote or they can get assistance from election judges. Voters cannot get assistance from their employer or their union. A voter's assistant can participate in all parts of the voting process. Assistants cannot influence how voters vote or mark the ballot for voters if voters cannot communicate to them who they want to vote for.⁵⁷

71. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?⁵⁸

Curbside voting is available for anyone who cannot enter the polling place for any reason, including concerns for their health. Curbside voting allows a voter to register to vote and vote without leaving their vehicle.

If voters choose curbside voting, two election judges will bring out a ballot to their vehicle. If the voter needs to register or update their registration, they will bring an application as well. When voters are finished voting, election judges will bring their ballot inside and put it in the ballot box.

72. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?⁵⁹

Voters have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth.

QUESTIONS

73. QUESTIONS: Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

There are several places to look for help.

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).

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/>).

⁵⁶ Section 208 of Voting Rights Act; Minn. Stat. § 204C.15

⁵⁷ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/4703/voter-assistance.pdf>

⁵⁸ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/get-help-voting/>

⁵⁹ <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/know-your-rights/>