GUIDE TO VOTING ABSENTEE

How to Vote Early with an Absentee Ballot

Minnesota voters may choose to vote early by using an absentee ballot — instead of voting in person at the polling place on Election Day.

You can request an absentee ballot if you are not currently registered to vote — a voter registration form will be provided with your ballot.

Absentee ballots are available to voters 46 days before an election.

In 2014, absentee ballots will be available:

- June 27 for the Primary Election on August 12.
- September 19 for the General Election on November 4.

Voters serving in the military or citizens residing outside of the United States may complete an absentee ballot request at www.minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org

Vote Absentee by Mail

To vote absentee by mail, complete and submit an absentee ballot application online at mnvotes.org. Or, download an application from the website and mail, fax or email it to your local elections office.

- Election officials will mail the absentee ballot materials to you soon after receiving your application.
- A witness must sign your absentee ballot signature envelope to confirm your ballot was delivered blank and that you marked the ballot in private. The witness can be a notary from any state or a registered Minnesota voter.
- If you are not registered to vote, a voter registration application will be included in the materials. You must show your witness an accepted proof of residence when registering. Visit mnvotes.org for a list of accepted proofs of residence.
- You must return the ballot on or before Election Day.

Delivery options:

- Deliver in-person to the office that sent the absentee ballot by 5 p.m. on the day before the election.
- Mail it in the provided pre-paid envelope or by package delivery service. The ballot must arrive on or before Election Day.
- Have someone else return your ballot before 3 p.m. on Election Day. This person cannot deliver more than three ballots.
- You may not hand deliver your own absentee ballot on Election Day.

Vote Absentee in Person

You can request, receive and cast an absentee ballot in one visit to your county elections office.

You can vote absentee in person beginning 46 days before the election, during these periods:

- Monday –Friday during normal business hours.
- The last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m.–3p.m.)
- The day before Election Day until 5 p.m.

If you are not registered to vote, you will need to complete a voter registration form and show proof of residence at the elections office. There are several options for accepted proofs of residence listed at mnvotes.org.

Vote Absentee Using Agent Delivery

In special situations, you may ask a person you know to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. This option is called 'agent delivery.'

To use this process you must:

- Live in a nursing home, assisted living facility, residential treatment center, group home or battered women's shelter.
- Or, be hospitalized or unable to go the polling place due to incapacitating health reasons or a disability.

Agents must be at least 18 years old, have a pre-existing relationship with you and cannot be a candidate. Agents may only help three voters in an election.

Give your agent a completed absentee ballot application and a 'request for agent delivery of absentee ballot' form —find both forms at mnvotes.org. The agent must take the forms to the local election office to receive the ballot.

- The agent can pick up the ballot anytime starting seven days before the election through 2 p.m. on Election Day.
- The agent or someone else designated by the voter must the return completed ballots by 3 p.m. on Election Day.
- The voter may also return the absentee ballot by mail or special delivery service; the ballot must be received by election officials on or before Election Day.

Track Your Absentee Ballot

Track the progress of your absentee ballot with the absentee ballot lookup tool at mnvotes.org. If there is a problem with your ballot, election officials will send a replacement.

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