Absentee Voting

Beginning 46 days before an election in Minnesota, you may vote absentee by mail or in person for one of the following reasons:

- Absence from the precinct *(away from home)*
- Illness or disability
- Religious discipline, observance or holiday
- Serving as an election judge in another precinct
- Eligible emergency declared by the governor or quarantine declared by the federal or state government

Absentee ballot applications and additional resources about the process are available for downloading at: www.mnvotes.org.

Voters may also contact their municipal clerk, county auditor or this office at 1-877-600-8683 for more information about absentee voting. See: *Guide to Absentee Voting* brochure for additional information. Voters residing overseas or serving in the military should visit: minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org.

Absentee voters can now track their ballots by using the Absentee Ballot Lookup at: www.mnvotes.org.

Marking a Ballot

Every Minnesota voter uses a paper ballot to vote. However, there are three options for marking your ballot:

1. Using a pen.
2. Using the AutoMARK ballot-marking device. The AutoMARK allows voters with disabilities to vote independently and privately by providing a variety of accessibility options for marking a ballot. The AutoMARK physically marks a voter's paper ballot to reflect the voter's candidate selections. The voter then deposits the marked ballot into the ballot box. Visit www.mnvotes.org to view an instructional video about the AutoMARK.
3. Receiving additional assistance from election judges or an individual of your choice if you need help. However, that individual cannot be your employer, an agent of your employer, an officer or agent of your union, or a candidate for election.

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-215-1440
Toll free: 1-877-600-8683
Minnesota Relay Service: 711

Website: www.mnvotes.org
E-mail: elections.dept@state.mn.us

Important 2012 Election Year Dates:

State Primary:
Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Absentee Balloting Period for
State Primary: June 29 – August 13

Polls Open: 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. (*in most areas*)

Voter Registration:
- You may pre-register on or before Tuesday, July 24 or register at your polling location on the day of the primary.

General Election:
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Absentee Balloting Period for
General Election: Sept. 21– Nov. 5

Polls Open: 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. (*in most areas*)

Voter Registration:
- You may pre-register on or before Tuesday, October 16 or register at your polling location on Election Day.

This document is available in alternative formats.

www.mnvotes.org

Guide to Voting

2012 Minnesota Election Dates

State Primary: August 14, 2012
State General Election: November 6, 2012

Minnesota Votes

- Voter Eligibility
- Polling Place Information
- Voter Registration
- Same Day Registration
- Absentee Voting
- Marking a Ballot

The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
www.mnvotes.org

Minnesota Votes

We vote in Minnesota. Our state has a long-standing tradition of strong voter participation–consistently leading the nation in voter turnout. That participation is the bedrock of our democracy. This guide is intended to give you the information you need to vote successfully and be a part of Minnesota's proud tradition.

Voter Eligibility

To be eligible to vote in Minnesota you must:

√ be a U.S. citizen;

√ be at least 18 years old on Election Day;

√ have resided in Minnesota for at least 20 days prior to Election Day;

√ have any felony conviction completed or discharged;

√ not have had your voting rights revoked by a court; and

√ not have been found legally incompetent by a court.

Polling Place Location

Visit: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us or contact your county auditor or city or township clerk to locate your polling place.

Polling Place Accessibility

Polling places are fully accessible with clearly marked parking spaces, doors and routes to voting areas. If you are unable to leave your car to enter the polling location, election judges will bring voting materials to you to complete. This is referred to as "curbside voting."

Voter Registration

You must be registered before you vote in Minnesota. You may either pre-register at least 21 days before Election Day or register at the polls on Election Day. You can check your current registration status at: www.mnvotes.org

Your voter registration remains current until you change your residence, your name, or do not vote in four consecutive years. Voter registration applications are available online at: www.mnvotes.org.

If you moved to a new residence in Minnesota and completed a U.S. Postal Service change-of-address form to permanently forward your mail to your new home, your voter registration may have been automatically updated. Look for a green postcard to confirm that your registration has been updated.

You can check your voter registration status online at: www.mnvotes.org.

Same Day Registration

If you did not pre-register to vote, don't worry! You can still register or update your registration on Election Day.

You must provide one of the following proofs of residence when registering to vote on Election Day:

Accepted proofs of residence:

- A valid Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota ID card, or permit with current address.
- A photo ID that does not have your current address along with a document that does have your current address.

  Eligible photo IDs: Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota ID card, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID card, Minnesota college/university student ID card, or tribal ID with your signature issued by a tribe recognized by Bureau of Indian Affairs "BIA".

  Eligible documents with current address: current student fee statement, an original utility bill due 30 days before or after the election, or a rent statement that shows utility expenses. Eligible utility bills: gas, electric, solid waste, water, sewer, phone, cell phone, television, or internet service provider.

Accepted proofs of residence *(continued):*

- A student ID card that includes your photo *(valid if your college/university provided a student housing list to election officials)*.
- A yellow receipt for a valid Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota ID card, or permit with current address.
- A tribal ID card containing your name, current address, signature and photo (*tribe must be recognized by the BIA*).
- A "Notice of Late Registration" you receive from your county auditor or city clerk.
- If you moved to a new residence within your same precinct or changed your name, a current voter registration in the precinct.
- Vouching: a registered voter in your precinct who will confirm your address with a signed oath at your polling place.
- Vouching: an employee of a residential facility where you reside (*nursing home, group home, battered women's shelter, homeless shelter, etc.)* who will confirm your address with a signed oath at your polling place.