Example 2010 General Election Ballot Explanations

#1 –

- M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 1: "The Ballot shall be printed with black ink on white paper."
- M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 1: "The ballot shall be printed so as to be easily legible, with suitable lines for divisions between candidates, offices, instructions, and other matter proper to be printed on the ballot."
- M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 17: "**Extraneous marks.** No election official may place marks on the ballot other than those provided in Minnesota Statutes section 204C.09, subdivision 1, or 206.86, subdivision 5.
- M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 18: "**Example Ballot.** The secretary of state shall supply each auditor with a copy of an example ballot by May 1 of each year. The example ballot must illustrate the format required for the ballots used in the primary and general elections that year. The county auditor shall distribute copies of the example ballot to municipal and school district clerks in municipalities and school districts holding elections that year. The official ballots must conform in all respects to the example ballot."
- M.S. 206.90, subd. 6: "Subd. 6.**Ballots.**In precincts using optical scan voting systems, a single ballot card on which all ballot information is included must be printed in black ink on white colored material except that marks not to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink.
- On the front of the ballot must be printed the words "Official Ballot" and the date of the election and lines for the initials of at least two election judges…."

#2 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 3: "…On the front of the ballot the words "OFFICIAL BALLOT" must be printed in uppercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point type with lines for initials of at least two election judges."

#3 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 3: "At the top of a ballot containing both partisan and nonpartisan offices, the applicable words "STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT" or "STATE PARTISAN PRIMARY BALLOT" and "STATE AND COUNTY NONPARTISAN PRIMARY BALLOT" shall be printed…."

#4 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 3: "…The Ballot heading must be printed in uppercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 18-poiint type…."

#5 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 3: "…The name of the jurisdiction preparing the ballot may be added within the heading in no smaller than 8-point type. The date of the election must be printed within the heading in no smaller than 8 point type…."

#6 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 4: "**Instructions to voters.** Under the heading at the top of each side of the ballot, the words "INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:" must be printed in uppercase bold in as large as practicable but no smaller than 12-point bold type. The words "to vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this (R)." or "To vote, complete the arrow(s) pointing to your choices like this: -→." Must follow and be

printed in upper and lowercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 8-point bold face type….”

#7 - M.R. 1850.1810, subp. 5: “**Order and form of office type.** When more than one of the following types of offices is on the ballot, the offices must appear on the ballot in the following order and must be identified as follows in uppercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 14-point bold face type:

FEDERAL OFFICES
STATE OFFICES
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
COUNTY OFFICES
COUNTY QUESTIONS
CITY OFFICES
CITY QUESTIONS
TOWN OFFICES
TOWN QUESTIONS
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTIONS
JUDICIAL OFFICES

The name or the number of the appropriate municipality, school district, or special district may be added directly under the office types listed in this subpart.”

#8 - M.R. 1850.1810, subp. 6: **“Order and form of offices.** The offices must appear on the ballot in the following order and must be identified as follows in uppercase letters and printed in uppercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point bold face type. The office titles must either be shaded with a screen of ten percent or less, or printed white on black:

“PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT”
“UNITED STATES SENATOR”
“UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE”
“STATE SENATOR”
“STATE REPRESENTATIVE”
“GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR”
“SECRETARY OF STATE”
“STATE AUDITOR”
“ATTORNEY GENERAL”
“COUNTY COMMISSIONER”
“COUNTY AUDITOR”
“COUNTY TREASURER”
“COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER”
“COUNTY RECORDER”
“COUNTY SHERIFF”
“COUNTY ATTORNEY”
“COUNTY SURVEYOR”
“COUNTY CORONER”
“COUNTY PARK COMMISSIONER”

"SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR" or **"CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVIWSOR"** where allowed by statute

"COUNTY QUESTIONS"
"MAYOR"
"COUNCIL MEMBER"
"CITY CLERK"
"CITY TREASURER"
"CITY QUESTIONS"
"TOWN SUPERVISOR"
"TOWN CLERK"
"TOWN TREASURER"
"TOWN QUESTIONS"
"SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER"
"SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTIONS"
"HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER"
"HOSPITAL DISTRICT QUESTIONS"

Judicial offices must follow special district offices and appear in the following order:

CHIEF JUSTICE – SUPREME COURT
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE – SUPREME COURT
JUDGE – COURT OF APPEALS
JUDGE – DISTRICT COURT

#9 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: "… "United States" may be abbreviated "U.S."…"

#10 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: "…Directly underneath the titles of the offices of United States representative and state senator and representative must be printed in uppercase letters and numbers the district (for example: "DISTRICT 6") that the person elected will represent."

#11 - M.R. 1850.1810, subp. 4: "..Immediately under each office title and district identified, one of the following instructions must be printed in uppercase and bold face in as large as practicable but no smaller than 8-point type:

VOTE FOR ONE TEAM
VOTE FOR ONE
VOTE FOR UP TO … followed by the number of candidates to be elected."

#12 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 7: "…Below the name of each candidate for a partisan office must appear in the designation in not more than three words of the party or principle the candidate represents. Words used in the name of a major political party as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 7, may not be used to identify the party of a candidate of any other party. The word "nonpartisan" may not be used in the designation of any candidate for a partisan office. The party or principle designation, if applicable, must be printed under the candidate name in upper and lower case letters in as large as practicable but no smaller than 8-point type."

#13 – M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 7: "**Order and form of candidate names.** The name or each candidate as filed on the affidavit of candidacy shall be printed at right angles to the length of the ballot. The candidate names must be printed in uppercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point type. The name of the candidate must be aligned as close to the vote target as possible...."

#14 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 9: "**Order of candidates for partisan office in general election.** At the same time that the secretary of state certifies the names of nominees under Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.32, subdivision 2, the secretary of state shall certify to the county auditors the order in which the names of the candidates representing the political parties as defined in Minnesota Statures, section 200.02, subdivision 7, must appear for every partisan office on the ballot. Candidates nominated by petition must appear on the ballot beneath the names of the candidates of the political parties as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 7, and in the order determined by lot by the secretary of state. The secretary of State shall draw lots once by political party or principle. To draw the lot, a candidate who has used the word "independent" to designate the candidate's party or principle must be identified by the word "independent" followed by the candidate's surname. If more than one candidate is nominated by petition for the same office within the same political party or principle, the secretary of state shall draw a supplementary lot within that party or principle by candidate surname to determine the order of those candidates. The order of political parties or principles determined by the drawing of lots applies to all partisan offices on the ballot."

#15 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp.14: "**Form of federal ballot.** The names of all candidates for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States and senator and representative in congress shall be placed on a ballot printed on white paper which shall be known as the "federal ballot." This ballot must be prepared and furnished in accordance with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, United States Code, title 42, section 1973ff. The federal ballot shall be the only ballot sent to citizens of the United States who are eligible to vote by absentee ballot only for federal candidates in Minnesota. The federal ballot shall conform in all other respects to the State Primary or State General election ballot."

#16 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 1: "The ballot shall be printed so as to be easily legible, with suitable lines for divisions between candidates, offices, instructions, and other matter proper to be printed on the ballot."

#17 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 12: "**Vote targets.** The target used to indicate to the voters where to mark their votes may be either an arrow pointing toward the candidate name or a horizontal oval next to the candidate name. The target may be highlighted or outlined in a color that does not affect the ability of the ballot counter to read the ballot."

#18 – M.S. 204D.13, subd. 2: "Subd. 2.**Order of political parties.** The first name printed for each partisan office on the white ballot shall be that of the candidate of the major political party that received the smallest average number of votes at the last state

general election. The succeeding names shall be those of the candidates of the other major political parties that received a succeedingly higher average number of votes respectively. For the purposes of this subdivision, the average number of votes of a major political party shall be computed by dividing the total number of votes counted for all of the party's candidates for statewide office at the state general election by the number of those candidates at the election."

#19 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 8.: **"Order and form of write-in candidate lines.** On general election ballots, below the name of the last candidate for each office shall be placed as many blank lines as there are offices of that kind to be filled, and on the blank lines the voter may write the name of persons not printed on the ballot for whom the voter desires to vote. When no person has filed for an office to be filled, the title and identification of the office shall be printed on the ballot with as many blank lines below as there are offices to be filled. Above or below each write-in line the words "write-in, if any" must appear in lowercase in as large as practicable but no smaller than 6-point type and must be aligned next to the vote target."

#20 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 11: "…If more than one constitutional amendment is on the ballot, each constitutional amendment must be designated by a number and must be preceded by the word "AMENDMENT" and the number assigned to the amendment and the title required by Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.15, subdivision 1, must be printed in uppercase letters in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point bold face type and must be shaded with a screen of ten percent…."

#21 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 11: "**Instructions, order and form of constitutional amendments.** For a ballot containing a constitutional amendment, the following statement shall be printed beneath the heading "CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT" in upper and lowercase and no smaller than 8-point type: "Failure to vote on a constitutional amendment will have the same effect as voting no on the amendment." A bold dividing line running the width of the ballot column shall be immediately below the statement."

#22 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 11: "…The words "To vote for a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "YES" on that question. To vote against a proposed constitutional amendment, fill in the oval next to the word "NO" on that question." or "To vote for a proposed constitutional amendment, complete the arrow next to the word "Yes" on that question. To vote against a proposed constitutional amendment, complete the arrow next to the word "NO" on that question." Must follow and be printed in upper and lower case and no smaller than 8-point type."

#23 – M.S. 204D.15, subd. 1: "Subdivision 1.**Titles for constitutional amendments.** The secretary of state shall provide an appropriate title for each question printed on the pink ballot. The title shall be approved by the attorney general, and shall consist of not more than one printed line above the question to which it refers. At the top of the ballot

just below the heading, a conspicuous notice shall be printed stating that a voter's failure to vote on a constitutional amendment has the effect of a negative vote."

#24 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 11: "…The body of the question must be printed upper and lowercase letters in as large as practicable but no smaller than 8-point type.

#25 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 11: "…The words "YES" and "NO" must be aligned as close as possible to the vote targets and must be printed in uppercase and bold face in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point type."

#26 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 16: "**Order and form of special election ballot.** The names of candidates to fill vacancies at a special election for county and municipal offices must be listed under the heading "Special election for (name or office)," followed by "To fill vacancy in term expiring (date)" with the name of the office, the date of expiration of the term, and any other information necessary to distinguish the office…."

#27 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: "…Where nonjudicial offices are designated by number, those offices must be listed in numerical order and must be printed in uppercase letters or numbers directly under the title of the office…."

#28 – M.S. 206.61, subd. 5: "Subd. 5.**Alternation.** The provisions of the election laws requiring the alternation of names of candidates must be observed as far as practicable by changing the order of the names on an electronic voting system in the various precincts so that each name appears on the machines or marking devices used in a municipality substantially an equal number of times in the first, last, and in each intermediate place in the list or group in which they belong. However, the arrangement of candidates' names must be the same on all voting systems used in the same precinct. If the number of names to be alternated exceeds the number of precincts, the election official responsible for providing the ballots, in accordance with subdivision 1, shall determine by lot the alternation of names."

#29 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: "…If an office is not be filled at a general election, the office must not appear on the ballot…."

#30 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp.10: "**Order and form of ballot questions.** Ballot questions must be printed after offices of the same jurisdiction…."

#31 - M.R. 1850.1810, subp. 4: "..Immediately under each office title and district identified, one of the following instructions must be printed in uppercase and bold face in as large as practicable but no smaller than 8-point type:

VOTE FOR ONE TEAM
VOTE FOR ONE
VOTE FOR UP TO … followed by the number of candidates to be elected."

#32 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 16: "…Vacant offices being filled by special election must be listed with other offices of that type but after any offices for which a candidate will be elected for a full term, except as required by Minnesota Statutes section 204D.25, subdivision 1.

#33 – M.S. 412.02, subdivision 1: "Subdivision 1.**Officers elected.**

"The following officers shall be elected for the terms and in the years shown and in the cities described in the table."

Officer	Number of Years in Term	Year Elected	City Elected
Mayor	Two or four	Every two years except where four years is otherwise provided pursuant to statute	Every statutory city
Clerk	Four	Every four years in year when treasurer is not elected	Every statutory standard plan city in which there is no clerk-treasurer
Treasurer	Four	Every four years in year in which clerk is not elected	Every statutory standard plan city in which there is no clerk-treasurer
Clerk- Treasurer	Four	Every four years in year in which one council member is elected	Every statutory standard plan city where such office exists pursuant to subdivision 3
Three Council members	Four	Two every four years and one in alternative election	Every statutory standard plan city with a council of five
Four Council members	Four	Two each election	Every statutory optional plan city with a council of five
Five Council members	Four	Three every four years and two in alternative election	Every statutory standard plan city with a council of seven
Six Council members	Four	Three each election	Every statutory optional plan city with a council of seven

#34 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: "Directly after the office type required in subpart 2, the words "To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "YES" on that question. To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "NO" ON THAT QUESTION." or "To vote for a question, complete the arrow next to the word "YES" on that question. To vote against a question, complete the arrow next to the word "NO" on that question" must be printed in upper and lower case and no smaller than 8-point type…."

#35 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: "…The name and/or number of the jurisdiction that the question will represent may be printed directly under the heading of the question…."

#36 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 13: "**Two-sided ballots.** On two-sided ballots, the words "**VOTE FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT"** must be printed in uppercase 10-point bold type at the bottom of both sides of the ballot."

#37 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: "…When more than one question is on the ballot for a given jurisdiction, each ballot question must be designated by a number and must be

preceded by the words “COUNTY QUESTION,” “CITY QUESTION,” “TOWN QUESTION,” “SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION,” “HOSPITAL DISTRICT QUESTION,” and the number assigned to the question in uppercase letters in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point bold face type….”

#38 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: “…The question heading and numbers (where applicable) must be shaded with a screen of ten percent or less or printed white on black….”

#39 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: “…The words “YES” and “NO” must be aligned as close as possible to the vote targets and must be printed in uppercase and bold face in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point type.”

#40 – M.S. 367.03, subd. 4: “Subd. 4.**Officers; November election.** Supervisors and other town officers in towns that hold the town general election in November shall be elected for terms of four years commencing on the first Monday in January and until their successors are elected and qualified. The clerk and treasurer shall be elected in alternate years.”

#41 – M.S. 204B.36, subd. 2: “…One blank line shall be printed for each officer of that kind to be elected….”

#42 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: “…If on the same ballot with other offices of the same type, offices elected at large must include “AT LARGE” following the office identification and must be listed before other offices of the same type elected by district….”

#43 – M.S. 275.60: “(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law or any charter provisions, but subject to section 126C.17, subdivision 9, any question submitted to the voters by any local governmental subdivision at a general or special election after June 8, 1995, authorizing a property tax levy or tax rate increase, including the issuance of debt obligations payable in whole or in part from property taxes, must include on the ballot the following notice in boldface type:

> "BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE."

…(c) This section does not apply to a school district bond election if the debt service payments are to be made entirely from transfers of revenue from the capital fund to the debt service fund.”

#44 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: “…The title must be printed in uppercase and bold face in as large as practicable but no smaller than 10-point type and must be printed in the same section as the body of the question to which it refers. The body

of the question must be printed in upper and lowercase letters in as large as practicable but no smaller than 8-point type….”

#45 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 10: “…A clerk, county auditor, or appropriate governing body shall provide a title for each question printed on the ballot. The title must not contain more than ten words and must not be used on the ballot until it has been approved by the jurisdiction’s legal counsel….”

#46 - The notice required under section 275.60 may be modified to read, in cases of renewing existing levies at the same amount per pupil as in the previous year:

> "BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO EXTEND AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE."

The ballot may contain a textual portion with the information required in this subdivision and a question stating substantially the following:

"Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by (petition to) the board of ....., School District No. .., be approved?"

#47 –

- M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: “…Where judicial offices are designated by number, the seats must be listed in numerical order, except that for judicial offices for a specific court for which there is only one candidate filed must appear after all other judicial offices for that same court….”
- - M.S. 204D.14, subd. 3: “Subd. 3.**Uncontested judicial offices.** Judicial offices for a specific court for which there is only one candidate filed must appear after all other judicial offices for that same court on the canary ballot.”

#48 – Note: For specific ballot question language requirements regarding referendum revenue see M.S. 126C.17.

#49 - M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 1: “Each ballot must have printed on it both the name of the precinct and an electronically readable precinct identifier or ballot style indicator. A ballot style used in more than precinct may have the names of all precincts in which it is used printed on the ballot. If multiple ballots styles are to be used in the same precinct for precincts split by school districts, each ballot style must include the precinct name and

applicable school district number. Only the electronically readable precinct identifier or ballot style indicator is required on a presidential only or federal only absentee ballot.”