

# VOTER REGISTRATION REFERENCE GUIDE



*Any individual or organization can register voters. This guide covers common questions you may have and contains best practices.*

## WHO CAN VOTE IN MINNESOTA

Requirements:

- U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- Resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence
- You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote.

## DATES AND DEADLINES

You can wait until Election Day to register in Minnesota. However, we encourage everyone to register before Election Day.

- The deadline to register in advance online is 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13.
- The deadline to register in advance on paper is to have your application received by election officials no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13.
- Otherwise, you can register on Election Day at your polling place on Tuesday, November 3. To do so, you must show an approved proof of residence — learn what you'll need to bring at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

## REGISTRATION UPDATES

You must re-register each time you change address, change names or do not vote at least once during a four-year period. Update your record by completing a new application. You can check your registration status online at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org). If you are unable to check, it is okay to fill out another registration application.

### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

*Visit the 'register to vote' section at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) to get details on how to register voters in special circumstances, such as college students, those who fear for their personal safety, or voters who are homeless.*

### 2020 DATES

#### VOTE EARLY

*Vote by mail or in person June 26 through August 10.*

#### PRIMARY ELECTION

*Tuesday, August 11  
(if necessary)*

#### VOTE EARLY

*Vote by mail or in person September 18 through November 2.*

#### ELECTION DAY

*Tuesday, November 3*

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## GET APPLICATIONS

- **Online application:** Go to [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org). The voter will need a Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota identification card number or the last four numbers of their Social Security number. If they don't have at least one of these, offer a paper application.
- **Paper application:** Go to [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) to download and print applications in English or other languages. You can also order them to be shipped at no cost (go to [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) and click 'Get Involved.')

## RETURNING PAPER APPLICATIONS

Paper applications that you collect must be received by the Office of the Secretary of State or by the voter's county election office within 10 days of when the voter signed and dated the application.

## BEST PRACTICES

- **Ask if they are registered at their current address**  
Rather than ask if they are registered to vote, ask "Are you registered to vote at your current address?" If they are not, offer a registration application and say, "I can register you here. It will just take a minute."
- **Check for accuracy and legibility (for paper applications)**  
Review the application with the voter to make sure it is legible. Check that required fields are completed, and that it is signed and dated. Required fields have a darker shaded background.
- **Give the voter additional information and resources**  
Thank the voter for registering and let them know a postcard will arrive in the mail telling them where they will vote. Also let the voter know how to find key information at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org), such as polling places, sample ballots and how to apply to vote by mail.
- **Responding to hesitations**  
I'm in a hurry: "It'll take just a minute and I'll save you the postage."

No: "Sure? You can decide later to vote or not, today we can just register you. Here's the form if you'd like."

Voting doesn't matter: "I hear you. It can be hard to see how one vote makes a difference, but it can. Why don't you register—it takes just a minute—and you can decide later if you want to vote?"