Are You Ready to Vote: MINNESOTA?

Updated Wednesday, October 21, 2020

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

When voting, you have the right to:

- Bring someone of your choice to help you vote in the voting booth if you have some difficulty with English.
- Receive language assistance from the government in certain places.
- Vote without being intimidated or discriminated against by others.
  - Intimidation or discrimination at the polls may look like harassing you or denying you the right to vote because of your accent or challenging your right to vote under the false stereotype that you are not a citizen because of your race.

**Who can vote in Minnesota**

- 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
- Be mentally competent:
  - You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote.
  - You cannot vote if a court has ruled that you are legally incompetent.

**Key Dates**

- Friday, September 18 – Early voting by absentee ballot begins.
- Tuesday, September 22 – National Voter Registration Day!
- Friday, October 2 – Recommended that voters apply for absentee ballots before this day to ensure enough time to receive and return their ballot.
- Tuesday, October 13 – Recommend that you make sure you are registered to vote to save time at the polling place.
- Tuesday, November 3 – Election Day! Vote in person at your polling place or make sure your absentee ballot is postmarked by this day.

**Voter Registration: Are you registered?**

You can register or update your registration when you vote, whether that is at your polling place on Election Day or at an early voting location. You will need proof of residence to register when you vote.

- Have you registered to vote before?
  - Yes
    - Confirm you are still registered where you live now: [https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx](https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx)
    - If you are no longer registered, re-register today: [https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx](https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx)
If you are not registered at the correct address, update your registration: https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx

No
- Register today!
  - Register on paper: https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-paper/
    - Download and print forms in English and other languages.
      - English
      - English — Large Print
      - Español (Spanish)
      - Hmoob (Hmong)
      - Soomaali (Somali)
      - Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)
      - Русский (Russian)
      - 中文 (Chinese)
      - ລາວ (Lao)
      - Oromo (Oromo)
      - ខ្មែរ (Khmer)
      - ከማርኛ (Amharic)
      - S'gaw (Karen)
    - To request an application in an alternative format such as Braille, please call 1-877-600-8683
  - Mail or drop off your application to either your county election office or to:
    Secretary of State
    60 Empire Dr.
    Suite 100
    Saint Paul, MN 55103
- Register on Election Day: https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day/
  - You can register or update your registration when you vote, whether that is at your polling place on Election Day or at an early voting location.
  - You will need proof of residence to register — bring one proof of residence listed below.
    - ID with current name and address
      - Valid Minnesota driver’s license, learner’s permit or ID; or a receipt for any of these.
      - Tribal ID with name, address, photo and signature.
    - Photo ID and a document with current name and address
      - APPROVED PHOTO IDS (CHOOSE ONE) (The ID can be expired.)
        - Driver’s license, state ID or learner’s permit issued by any state
        - U.S. Passport
        - U.S. Military or Veteran ID
        - Tribal ID with name, signature, and photo
        - Minnesota university, college, or technical college ID
        - Minnesota high school ID
      - APPROVED DOCUMENTS (CHOOSE ONE) (Can be shown on electronic device.)
        - Bill, account, or start-of-service statement due or dated within 30 days of the election for:
          - Phone, TV or internet
Solid waste, sewer, electric, gas or water
• Banking or credit card
• Rent or mortgage
  • Residential lease or rent agreement valid through Election Day
  • Current student fee statement
• Registered voter who can confirm your 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.
• College student ID with housing list
  ▪ Colleges and universities may send election officials a student housing list. If you are on the list, show your college photo ID to complete your registration.
• Valid registration in the same precinct
  ▪ If you are registered in the precinct but changed names or moved within the same precinct, you only need to tell the election judge your previous name or address.
• Notice of Late Registration
  ▪ If you registered to vote within 20 days of the election, you may get a Notice of Late Registration in the mail. Bring it with you and use it as your proof of residence to register.
• Staff person of a residential facility
  ▪ If you live in a residential facility, a staff person can go with you to the polling place to confirm your address. This is known as ‘vouching.’ A staff person can vouch for all eligible voters living in the facility.
  ▪ The staff person must prove their employment at the facility. There are several ways to do this, including by showing an employee badge. Learn more about voter registration in residential facilities.

Registering to vote for 17-year-olds:
• To pre-register to vote at 17-years-old in Minnesota, you must be at least 18-years-old when the next election occurs (special, township, state primary, or state general).
• Because special elections can be called at unexpected times, your application may be returned if an election becomes scheduled in between the date you register and your birthday. If that happens, simply wait until that election passes, and register again.

National Mail Voter Registration Form: [https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form](https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form)
• The National Mail Voter Registration Form can be used to register U.S. citizens to vote, to update registration information due to a change of name, make a change of address, or to register with a political party.
• You must follow the state-specific instructions listed for your state. They begin on page 3 of the form and are listed alphabetically by state. After filling out this form, you must sign your name where indicated and send it to your state or local election office for processing. Be sure you mail it in an envelope with the proper amount of postage.
• Download the Form in 15 Languages:
  ▪ [National Mail Voter Registration Form – English](https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form)
  ▪ طلب تسجيل الناخب – Arabic
  ▪ জাতীয় ডাক ভোটার নিবন্ধন ফরম – Bengali
If you are a participant in Minnesota's Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program (http://www.sos.state.mn.us/safe-at-home/), do not register to vote or update your registration online. Contact Safe at Home at 1-866-723-3035.

**Vote by Mail**

- Did you request a mail in ballot?
  - Yes
    - Track the status of your ballot or confirm that it was received back and accepted without problem at https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx.
  - No
    - If you would like to request a mail-in ballot (aka absentee ballot), you can still do so until Monday, November 2: https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote. However, we do not recommend waiting that long because it is unlikely to get to you in time. As a best practice, we suggest your request your mail/absentee ballot ASAP and no later than Monday, October 12 to give you time to receive and return your mail/absentee ballot.
    - You can apply for a ballot any time during the year, except the day of the election. Leave time for election officials to mail your ballot. Your returned ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day (Tuesday, November 3) and received by your county within the next seven calendar days (Tuesday, November 10).
  - To request an absentee ballot for the November general election,
    - Apply online at https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.asp
    - Download a paper applications below and return your completed absentee application to your county election office by mail, fax, or email (as a scanned attachment) – you can find your local election office under “Other Ways to Vote” and “Find Your County Election Office” at https://www.mnvotes.org.
      - English Absentee Application
      - English Large Print Absentee Application
    - To request an application in an alternative format such as Braille, please call 1-877-600-8683.
  - You do not need to be registered to apply to vote by mail. If you have already applied for a General Election ballot, it will be mailed to you as soon as ballots become available.

- How do I complete my mail/absentee ballot?
  - For your ballot to count, remember this important information:
    - Read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully.
    - Your signature envelope might have a box for a witness to complete and sign.
      - Due to COVID-19, there is no witness requirement for registered voters for the November 3 State General Election.
Non-registered voters will still need a witness to indicate their proof of residence.
- Mail the ballot and forms back right away after you finish or drop off your ballot envelope in person.
- Your ballot will not count if it is received after the deadline.
  - Returning your ballot by mail:
    - It must be postmarked on or before Election Day (Tuesday, November 3) and received by your county within the next seven calendar days (Tuesday, November 10).
    - TIP: Do it early! At the latest, send it back at least one week before Election Day.
    - Return your ballot by mail or package delivery service (such as FedEx or UPS).
  - Returning your ballot in person:
    - You can also return your ballot in person no later than 3 pm on Election Day to the election office that sent your ballot.
    - You may NOT drop your ballot off at your polling place on Election Day. You must drop it off at the election office that sent your ballot.
    - You can drop off ballots for up to three other voters. You will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else.
    - You can check your locality to see if there are additional ballot box drop-off locations.
- Make a plan of action if you do not receive the ballot or do not receive it in time.
  - You may request a replacement ballot if your ballot was lost, spoiled, or you never received it. Contact your election office and request a replacement ballot.
  - If you do not receive it in time to return it by mail, return your ballot in person (see above).

### In Person Voting

- If you’d like to vote early:
  - You can vote early with an absentee ballot at your local elections office. See above for information about how to get an absentee ballot.
  - If you are not registered, you can do so in person if you show proof of residence.
- 2020 Early Voting Dates
  - First day to vote early in person: Friday, September 18
  - Last day to vote early in person: Monday, November 2

- If you plan to vote on Election Day:
  - Locations
    - All voters have at least one location where they can vote early in person with an absentee ballot. Depending on where you live, there may be additional locations.
    - You can vote in person at your county election office.
    - In addition to your county election office, some cities and towns offer in-person absentee voting. Check with your city clerk’s office for more information.
  - Hours
    - For most elections, absentee voting locations must be open during their normal business hours starting 46 days before the election. In addition, locations offering absentee ballots for federal, state, or county elections must be open:
      - The last Saturday before Election Day (10 am - 3 pm)
      - The day before Election Day until 5 pm
    - Some local jurisdictions may provide additional absentee voting days or hours beyond the above required days and times. Call your jurisdiction for more information.
Language Assistance
You have the right to language assistance during voting.

- Section 208
  - Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) gives every voter the right to bring someone of their choice into the voting booth if they need help voting because of a disability or having trouble with reading or writing English.
  - Do you know who your translator will be if you need language assistance?
    o Identify who will accompany you to the polls to provide language assistance.
    o Make sure that person is not your employer or a representative of your union.
    o Coordinate schedules and determine meet up and how you will get to the polls.
- Check your state and law laws for any additional language assistance requirements.

For more information, visit:
https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/
www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/election2020

If you have any questions about voting, no matter how big or small, call us at 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683) for help in English, Mandarin (普通話), Cantonese (廣東話), Korean (한국어), Vietnamese (tiếng Việt), Tagalog, Urdu (اردو), Hindi (हिंदी), and Bengali/Bangla (বাংলা). We are available to provide assistance leading up to, on, and after Election Day.