

What to do if you have any problems on Election Day

If the polling place isn't open, you aren't being allowed to vote, someone is intimidating voters, or there are any other problems,

call 1-866-OUR-VOTE

This hotline is staffed by trained volunteers and lawyers who can give you advice and help address the problems.

INFORM
NAVIGATE
EMPOWER

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA
Know Your Rights

right to VOTE

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Who can VOTE?

In order to be eligible to vote in Minnesota in local, state, and federal elections, you must:

Be at least 18 years old

Be a United States citizen

Have resided in Minnesota for the 20 days immediately prior to the election.

You cannot vote if you are currently serving a sentence for a felony, but once you complete your sentence (including parole and probation), you will be automatically eligible to vote again.

What happens on Election Day?

Polls will open at 7am and close at 8pm.

If you live in a very small town, polls may not open until 10am.

You can vote during any time the polls are open.

If you are in line by 8pm, you must be allowed to vote.

If you have not already registered, you will need to.

If you have already registered, you will sign a roster, which lists all the registered voters in your precinct. After you sign it, an election official will give you a receipt. You will then turn this receipt in to another official, who will give you a ballot. You will take your ballot into the voting booth, fill it out, and submit it.

There will be a sample ballot that you can take into the voting booth with you to help you vote.

If you make a mistake, you can request a new ballot.



What if I can't get to the polling place on Election Day?

If you won't be able to make it to the polls on Election Day because of an illness or disability that prevents you from getting to the polls, because you'll be out of town, because you'll be observing a religious holiday, or because you'll be working as an election judge in another precinct, you can and should request an absentee ballot.

You must submit an application (available on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website: www.sos.state.mn.us) in order to receive an absentee ballot. Submit the application by mail, fax, or email, and you will receive an absentee ballot by mail. Your ballot must be received in person or via mail BY ELECTION DAY—so begin the application process as soon as you realize you will need to vote absentee.

REGISTRATION

In order to vote, you must register to vote—in Minnesota, you can do this either before or on election day.

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

If there are at least 20 days before the election, you can register in person or by mail.

In person: Go to the County Auditor or Secretary of State's Office.

By mail: Download an application from the Minnesota Secretary of State's website (www.sos.state.mn.us/Modules>ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=4222).

If there are less than 20 days before the election, you may register in person on Election Day.

ON ELECTION DAY:

Go to your polling place. Election officials will ask you to fill out an application, provide proof of residence, and swear an oath.

What is “proof of residence”?

Any of these will count as proof of residence:

- MN driver's license, learner's permit, or ID card (or a receipt for any of these with your address).
- Student ID card or registration card with your address.
- If you submitted a mail-in voter registration form too late, you can use the “notice of late registration” mailed by the county auditor or municipal clerk.
- Government or school issued ID with your picture and name AND a recent original utility bill showing your name and address.
- A registered voter from the precinct can sign, take an oath, and vouch that he or she knows you are a resident of the precinct.

Where do I go to vote?

Where you vote is based on where you live. Go to <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>, or call the County Auditor or Municipal Clerk, to find where to vote. This is called your polling place or precinct.



Will I need to show an ID to vote?

Probably not, if you registered to vote more than 20 days before the election. (If you are registering to vote on Election Day, you can use it as proof of residence. An election official may ask you to confirm your name, address, and birth date, and if you can do that, you must be allowed to vote.)