

What if I work on Election Day?

Minnesota law allows you to take time off from work with pay to vote during **the morning** of state primary and general elections. If you will be away from home on Election Day, take a look at the *What is absentee voting?* section below.

What is absentee voting?

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on Election Day because you are...

- away from home
- ill or disabled
- an election judge serving in another precinct
- unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or belief
- under isolation or quarantine.

With absentee voting, you may vote either in person or by mail during the 30 days before Election Day. Call your county auditor or city clerk for details.

In person: Apply and vote at your county auditor's office during normal office hours, or from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the election, or until 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before the Election. Many city and township clerks also offer absentee voting services.

By mail: Apply early so you can mail back or deliver your absentee ballot before Election Day. Plan ahead: your absentee ballot must reach your precinct by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Call, write, or fax for an application. You can return your application by fax, but not your ballot.

If you are in the military or outside the US, you vote based on where you last lived in Minnesota. Your parent, spouse, brother, sister, or adult child can apply for you. Apply early!

For more information on voter registration or absentee voting...

Call your county auditor or local election office to find out where to vote, get a voter registration application, or to get an absentee voting application.

www.sos.state.mn.us

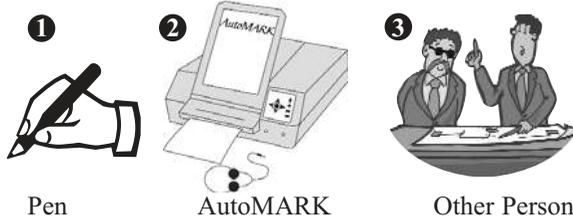
Improvements for Marking Your Ballot

Every voter will use the same paper ballot.

HAVA is providing funds for new disability accessible voting equipment. Each polling place in the state will be equipped with at least one new voting machine, the AutoMARK, which will allow voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently. While all voters may choose to use this equipment when it is their turn to vote, it was designed especially for voters who are blind, have poor eyesight, cannot hold a pen, or have other difficulties marking a paper ballot. It has a screen that can enlarge text for voters with poor eyesight, headphones so blind voters can hear the ballot instead of reading it, and a sip/puff tube portal for voters who require it. The AutoMARK detects common ballot-marking errors such as under- or over-voting and alerts voters so they can fix errors before leaving the polling place.

Election judges will instruct voters on what election equipment options are available, and personal assistance in marking ballots will still be available to voters who prefer this option over using the new equipment. **Again, every voter will use the same paper ballot.**

Three choices to mark your ballot:



Improvements for Casting and Counting Your Ballot

HAVA is providing funds to install optical scan voting equipment in most polling places throughout the state.



Precinct Optical Scanner

As such, disparities will be reduced between the quality of the voting equipment used in the rural areas of our state as compared with that used in the metropolitan areas. This equipment detects common ballot-marking errors and alerts voters so they can fix errors before leaving the polling place.

Important election dates in 2006

- August 22 Last day to preregister to vote for the state primary
- September 9 Extended absentee voting hours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- September 11 Extended absentee voting hours until 5:00 p.m.
- September 12 State Primary** - vote 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in most areas, call your city or township clerk to find out where you vote
- October 17 Last day to preregister to vote for the state general election
- November 4 Extended absentee voting hours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- November 6 Extended absentee voting hours until 5:00 p.m.
- November 7 State General Election** - vote 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in most areas

There are three major political parties in Minnesota. For more information about the major political parties or the candidates:

Democratic-Farmer-Labor

(651) 293-1200
255 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107
www.dfl.org

Independence
(651) 487-9700
P.O. Box 40495
St. Paul, MN 55104
www.mnip.org

Republican
(651) 222-0022
525 Park St., #250
St. Paul, MN 55103
www.mngop.com

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299
elections.dept@state.mn.us
www.sos.state.mn.us
651-296-2803; 1-877-600-VOTE
MN Relay Service, TTY: 711

MINNESOTA VOTER'S GUIDE 2006

What's on the ballot for the September 12th State Primary?

What's on the ballot for the November 7th State General Election?

How do I vote?

**Published by the
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Secretary of State**

What's happening in 2006?

2006 is an important year to vote. Many public officials will be chosen this fall.

Federal	1 United States Senator 8 United States Representatives
State	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor 1 Secretary of State 1 Attorney General 1 State Auditor 67 State Senators 134 State Representatives 1 Supreme Court Justice 4 Judges of the Court of Appeals Many District Court Judges
Local	Many county elected officials Many mayors and city council members Some townships officials Many school board members

When are the elections?

State Primary	Tuesday, September 12, 2006
State General	Tuesday, November 7, 2006
Voting hours	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (voting begins at 10:00 a.m. in some townships)

Note: The primary is an "election" that reduces the field of candidates within a major political party. Those nominated at the primary represent that major political party in the general election. Although candidates of all three major parties will be on the primary ballot, you may vote for candidates within only one major party at the primary. Some nonpartisan offices (judges, county and local offices) will also be on the primary ballot.

Note: The general election is the election to pick the final winners.

Who can vote?

You can vote if you are all of the following:

- 18 years of age or older on Election Day
- a U.S. citizen
- a Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before a regularly scheduled election
- a resident of your precinct on Election Day
- not a convicted felon whose sentence has not expired (been completed) or who has not been discharged from the sentence (off paper)
- not under court-ordered guardianship where the court has revoked your right to vote
- not legally incompetent.

Getting registered.

Before you can vote, you must register. That is, you must place your name on the official list of voters. If you have moved, changed your name, or haven't voted in the last four years, you must update your registration.

To register or update your registration, complete a voter registration application. You can download one at www.sos.state.mn.us or pick one up from your city or township clerk or your county auditor's office. Then complete it and mail it to or drop it off at the office of your county auditor or the Office of the Secretary of State.

When you fill out the application, remember you can vote only where you maintain residence. If you are a student living at school, you must choose whether to register at home or at school, but not both.

Where can I get a voter registration application?

- At state, county, or city offices
- At public libraries
- Where you apply for, renew, or change your Minnesota driver's license or ID card
- In state income tax booklets (in even-numbered years)
- From the registrar's office or student association at colleges, universities, and technical schools
- From many businesses, stores, and community groups
- From the government pages of most phone books
- At www.sos.state.mn.us

Federal Requirements

The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires you to provide your MN driver's license number or MN ID card number on your voter registration application.

If you don't have a MN driver's license or ID, then you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

If you don't have any of the above, the Office of the Secretary of State will assign you a unique ID number.

If you register by mail...

If you register by mail and have not voted in a Federal election in Minnesota before, you may be asked by an election judge (poll worker) to show ID at your polling place.

Can I register on Election Day?

Yes. If you have not registered, or if you registered to vote after August 22nd for the State Primary or after October 17th for the State General Election, you can register at your polling place when you go to vote. However, you will need proof of who you are and where you live. **HAVA requires you to provide your MN Driver's License number or MN ID card number or, if you don't have one, the last four digits of your social security number.**

Use one of these for proof:

- Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, identification card, or receipt for one, or Tribal ID with your current address
- If the Minnesota license or ID has a former address, or the Minnesota Tribal ID has a former address or no address, you may bring a utility bill* to use with your license, ID, or Tribal ID
- "Notice of Late Registration" postcard
- Prior registration within the precinct shown on the roster
- U.S. passport with utility bill*
- U.S. military photo ID card with utility bill*
- If you are a student, you can use student photo ID from a postsecondary institution in Minnesota along with:
 - registration with your current address, or
 - fee statement with your current address, or
 - a student housing list on file at the polling place, or
 - utility bill
- Someone who is registered in the precinct where you live, or who is a designated employee at the residential facility where you live who will vouch for your residence

* **Note:** The utility bill must have your name, current address, and be due within 30 days of the election. Utility bills may be for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, cell phone, or cable TV.

How do I vote?

- 1) Register to vote.
- 2) Go to your polling place on Election Day or vote by absentee ballot (see the next panel). An election judge will check to see whether you are on the list of registered voters and, if so, will have you sign the list. If not, you can register on Election Day. Then you will get a ballot.
- 3) Vote. The election judges will show you the process for marking and depositing your ballot in the ballot box. They also will help you read or mark the ballot if you need assistance.

Help is readily available.

If you could use help with voting, ask an election judge at the polling place for assistance reading or marking your ballot, or ask a friend to help you. Polling places also display "How to Vote" posters.

All polling places will be equipped with voting systems that allow persons with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

All polling places should be fully accessible with clearly marked accessible doors and parking spaces.

If you can't easily leave your car, you may ask for the ballot to be brought to you in your car. This is called "curbside voting."

If you are confined due to illness or disability, you can vote by absentee ballot. Call your county auditor or city clerk for details.

If you have limited vision, you may ask your county auditor for voter registration and absentee ballot instructions in large print, on cassette tape, or in braille prior to Election Day. If you are hearing impaired, every county and most cities will have a TTY device for questions.

Where do I vote?

Generally you vote in the neighborhood where you live. You may call your county auditor or city clerk for the address of your polling place. If you recently registered to vote, you will receive a postcard that tells you the location of your polling place. You can also look up your polling place location at www.sos.state.mn.us.