

Accepted proofs of residence (continued):

- A yellow receipt for a valid Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota ID card, or permit with current address.
- Vouching: a registered voter in your precinct who will confirm your address with a signed oath.
- A tribal ID card containing your name, current address, signature and photo (*tribe must be recognized by the BIA*).
- A "Notice of Late Registration" you receive from your county auditor or city clerk.
- If you moved to a new residence within your same precinct or changed your name, a current voter registration in the precinct.
- Vouching: an employee of a residential facility where you reside (*nursing home, group home, battered women's shelter, homeless shelter, etc.*) who will confirm your address with a signed oath.

Absentee Ballot Processing

Your ballot will be processed within days of arrival and you will be notified if there is a problem.

Voting Absentee Using a Designated Agent

In the seven days preceding an election through 2 p.m. on Election Day, voters may ask a person they know to be their "designated agent" to pick up their ballot and bring it to them and return it. To be an agent, a person must be at least 18 years old, have a pre-existing relationship with the voter and cannot be a candidate. No individual may be an agent of more than three voters in an election. An agent may bring a ballot to a voter if the voter is one of the following:

- patient in a health care facility
- disabled or has an incapacitating health issue
- resident of a group home
- resident of a shelter for battered women
- resident of an assisted living facility

Ballots must be returned to your local election official's office by 3 p.m. on Election Day.

You must complete a form to let local election officials know that you have designated a person as your agent. To obtain a form, visit: www.sos.state.mn.us or call 651-215-1440 or 1-877-600-8683 (toll free).

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-215-1440

Toll free: 1-877-600-8683

Minnesota Relay Service: 711

Web sites: mnvotes.org

www.sos.state.mn.us

E-mail: elections.dept@state.mn.us

Important 2010 Election Year Dates:

State Primary:

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Absentee Balloting Period for
State Primary: June 25 – August 9

- By mail or in-person at your county auditor's and some city clerk's offices, during regular business hours.
- Also on Saturday, August 7
between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

General Election:

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Absentee Balloting Period for
General Election: Sept. 17 – Nov. 1

- By mail or in-person at your county auditor's and some city clerk's offices, during regular business hours.
- Also on Saturday, October 31
between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

THE OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA Secretary of State

Guide to Absentee Voting when you cannot get to your polling place

Note: This information is intended as a guide to domestic absentee voting. A guide to voting absentee for Minnesotans serving overseas and in the military is available at www.sos.state.mn.us or calling 651-215-1440.



This document is available
in alternative formats.

mnvotes.org
www.sos.state.mn.us

Voting Absentee

Minnesota voters who are unable to get to their polling places on Election Day can still participate in our democracy and vote. The process is called voting by absentee ballot.

Minnesota voters may vote by absentee ballot for one of the following reasons:

- absence from the precinct (*away from home*)
- illness or disability
- serving as an election judge in another precinct
- religious discipline, observance or holiday
- eligible emergency declared by the governor or quarantine declared by the federal or state government.

Prior to a primary or general election, Minnesota voters may choose to vote absentee by mail, in person, or by using a designated agent.

Voter Registration

To vote in Minnesota, you must be registered. If you are not registered to vote at your current address, you can still apply for an absentee ballot. A voter registration application will be included in the materials you receive to cast your absentee ballot. You will need to return your completed voter registration application with your ballot.

Voting Absentee by Mail

Follow these steps to complete your absentee ballot by mail:

1. Obtain an absentee ballot application. Visit www.sos.state.mn.us to download and print an application or contact your county auditor or municipal clerk directly to obtain an application.

Note: *Voters serving in the military or those outside of the U.S., visit: minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org to complete your absentee ballot request.*

2. Complete and return the application as soon as possible. You may submit your application by mail, fax or as a scanned image attached to an e-mail.
3. Upon receipt of your completed application, your absentee ballot and materials will be mailed to you as soon as ballots become available—46 days before the primary and 46 days before Election Day. If you are not registered to vote, the materials will include a voter registration application.
4. Follow the instructions provided in your absentee ballot materials to complete the process successfully. You will need a witness to certify that your ballot was delivered to you blank and that you marked your ballot in private. This witness can be anyone registered to vote in Minnesota, including your spouse or relative; a notary public; or a person with the authority to administer oaths.

5. Return your absentee ballot materials by Election Day to your local election office. There are several delivery options:

- Send your ballot materials back using U.S. mail or a package delivery service;
- Return your ballot in person by 5 p.m. on the day before the election; or
- Ask someone to return your ballot for you before 3 p.m. on Election Day (*this person cannot deliver more than three ballots*).

Note: *Your ballot may not be delivered directly to your polling place.*

Voting Absentee In Person

Where:

- Your county auditor's office
- Many municipal clerk's offices

When:

- 46-day period before a primary or general election
- Monday – Friday during normal business hours
- Last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- Day before Election Day (until 5 p.m.)

Note: Absentee ballot timelines may vary for March township elections and special elections.

What to expect:

Arrive at your county auditor's, city or township clerk's office during one of the above designated times.

The election official will provide you with absentee ballot materials to complete. If you are not already registered to vote at your current address, you will need to fill out a Voter Registration Application and show proof of residence.

If you have any questions, the attending election official is there to provide you further assistance.

Note: *An individual with power of attorney for another does not have the authority to vote on behalf of the person under their care. A person with power of attorney may only sign for the voter in the voter's presence.*

For voters registering in person, accepted proofs of residence:

- A valid MN driver's license, MN ID card, or permit with current address.
- A photo ID that does not have your current address along with a document that does have your current address.

Eligible photo IDs: Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota ID card, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID card, Minnesota college/university student ID card, or tribal ID with your signature issued by a tribe recognized by Bureau of Indian Affairs "BIA"

Eligible documents with current address: current student fee statement, an original utility bill due 30 days before or after the election, or a rent statement that shows utility expenses. Eligible utility bills: gas, electric, solid waste, water, sewer, phone, cell phone, television, or internet service provider.

(Continued on back of brochure)