

Voting Guide

How to Register & Vote in 2020



Important Dates

9.18.20

First day to vote early: You may vote early *in person* at your county election office through 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 3. By mail, your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day (November 3) and received by your county by November 10.

10.13.20

Last day to preregister to vote, online and on paper: Preregistering saves you time and allows you to vouch for up to 8 people who live in your precinct on Election Day. If you miss this deadline, you can still register on Election Day.

You can preregister on the Secretary of State's website: mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx.

11.3.20

General Election Day: Find your polling place at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

To register on Election Day, bring one of the following:

- A **government-issued photo I.D.** with your current address;
- A **recent utility bill** with your current address; OR
- A **registered voter from your precinct** to vouch for your address.

Who may vote in Minnesota?

To be eligible to vote in Minnesota, a voter must be:

- 18 years or older
- A U.S. citizen
- A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before Election Day
- 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

What if I've been convicted of a felony?

Your criminal record does not affect your right to vote in Minnesota unless you are *currently serving a felony conviction sentence*, including probation, parole or supervised release.

Am I registered?

Check your voter registration at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx.

What do I need to do to register?

Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote to register online, download paper registration forms, check your registration, or learn more about registering.

Where do I vote?

Find your polling place at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

When do I vote?

You may vote early in person or by mail any time between September 18 and November 2, 2020. **Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020**, when polls will be open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (towns with fewer than 500 registered voters aren't required to open until 10:00 a.m., but most still open at 7:00 a.m.) As long as you are in line by 8:00 p.m., you must be allowed to vote, even if you don't reach the front of the line until after 8:00 p.m.

Do I need to bring an ID?

It depends. If your voter registration is current and active, you do **not** need to bring identification. This means you were successfully registered at least 21 days before (that's October 13 this year) Election Day (November 3) and you have not moved or changed names since then. For info on acceptable forms of identification, see <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day/>.

If you need to register or update your registration, or you have not voted in four years or more, **you will need to show proof of residence** before you vote.

Will my polling place be accessible?

Federal and state laws require that all polling places be accessible and usable by elderly voters or voters with disabilities. There are many ways to get help when you vote. You can bring someone to help (the only exception is that you can't get help from your employer, your union, or a candidate for office), ask an election judge, use a machine to help you mark your ballot, or vote from your vehicle.

Will my name and address be confidential?

Your name and address are public when you register to vote, but if you have safety or privacy concerns, there are ways to register without making your information public. If you have extreme safety needs, the [*Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program*](#) can help. When you enroll in this program, all voting is done by absentee ballot through the mail through the SAH office. Your name and address are never shared with your local elections office, but your marked ballot is counted. For more information, please visit [sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/i-fear-for-my-personal-safety/](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/i-fear-for-my-personal-safety/).

How do I request a mail-in/absentee ballot?

We recommend requesting and mailing in your absentee ballot as soon as possible to ensure your vote is counted. To request an absentee ballot, use the online absentee application, visit <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. Return your completed absentee application to your county election office by mail, fax, or email. To request an application in an alternative format such as Braille, please call 1-877-600-8683.

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 (November 3, 2020) and received by your county within the next seven calendar days (November 10).

Know Your Rights

- You have a right to take time off work to vote without losing your pay, personal leave, or vacation time.
- Your employer must pay you for the time you need to vote, if it falls within your scheduled work time. Your employer cannot require you to use personal leave or vacation time.
- Take only as much time as you need to vote and go to work.
- Your employer cannot directly or indirectly refuse, limit, or interfere with this right, including what time you choose to vote.
- Your employer can ask that you tell them when you will be gone, and ask that employees coordinate their absences to minimize workplace disruptions.

Complaints

An employer that violates this law is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any complaints from employees should be filed with the county attorney. To find your county attorney, visit <https://mcaa-mn.org/page/links>.

Voting During COVID-19

- Voting booths, pens, and other equipment and areas inside a polling station will be sanitized.
- The Minnesota mask mandate requires Minnesotans to be masked in indoor public spaces as well as when waiting outside to enter a public indoor space such as a polling station.
- Additional personal protective equipment beyond a mask will not be required but voters may choose to wear gloves, goggles, and other gear. You may also bring your own pen with black ink.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at polling places and social distancing is advised wherever possible.

How can I check if my ballot was received?

You can use this tool to check if your ballot was received: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>.

More Info?

Contact the Secretary of State's office at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683).

Can I deliver someone else's ballot?

It is not recommended to deliver someone else's ballot for them but it is legal under certain parameters. You can drop off ballots for up to three other voters *prior to election day*. You will need to show identification with name and signature when returning a ballot for someone else.

In special situations, you may ask an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for you. Read more about agent delivery here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/>.

How can I safely vote during COVID-19?

Many people are choosing to vote by mail due to concerns about COVID-19. However, absentee voting is not an option for everyone. For those that must or those who choose to vote in person, it is important to take precautions to keep yourself and others safe and know what measures your jurisdiction is taking to ensure voter safety during COVID-19.

Voting booths, pens, and other equipment and areas inside a polling station will be sanitized. Jurisdictions will be using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control on sanitizing procedures.

All voters will be required to wear masks. The Minnesota mask mandate requires Minnesotans to be masked in indoor public spaces as well as when waiting outside to enter a public indoor space such as a polling station.

Additional personal protective equipment beyond a mask will not be required but voters may choose to wear gloves, goggles, and other gear. You may bring your own pen with black ink. Hand sanitizer will be available at polling places and social distancing is advised wherever possible.

Need more help?

Find additional information for the following:

- [I'm a college student](#)
- [Vote from the military or abroad](#)
- [I have a criminal record](#)
- [I am under guardianship or have an impairment](#)
- [I am in a nursing home/hospital](#)
- [I fear for my personal safety](#)
- [I am in a residential facility](#)
- [I am moving on or close to election day](#)
- [I am living temporarily in Minnesota](#)
- [I am homeless](#)
- [My home is in foreclosure](#)
- [My home was destroyed](#)