

Minnesota Voters' Bill of Rights

For all eligible voters in Minnesota

- 1 You have the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting during the morning of election day.
- 2 If you are in line at your polling place any time between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- 3 If you can provide the required proof of residence, you have the right to register to vote and to vote on election day.
- 4 If you are unable to sign your name, you have the right to orally confirm your identity with an election judge and to direct another person to sign your name for you.
- 5 You have the right to request special assistance when voting.
- 6 If you need assistance, you may be accompanied into the voting booth by a person of your choice, except by an agent of your employer, your union or a candidate.
- 7 You have the right to bring your minor children into the polling place and into the voting booth with you.
- 8 If you have been convicted of a felony but your felony sentence has expired (been completed) or you have been discharged from your sentence, you have the right to vote.
- 9 If you are under a guardianship, you have the right to vote unless the court order revokes your right to vote.
- 10 You have the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence your vote.
- 11 If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot before it is submitted, you have the right to receive a replacement ballot and vote.
- 12 You have the right to file a written complaint at your polling place if you are dissatisfied with the way an election is being run.
- 13 You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth with you.
- 14 You have the right to take a copy of this Voters' Bill of Rights into the voting booth with you.

Minnesota Participation Project

<http://www.mncn.org/mpp/index.htm>

Public Policy Statement

Minnesota AIDS Project's Public Policy program strives to meet the organization's mission through three main priorities. We aim to advance HIV prevention policy initiatives, increase access to services, and protect existing rights and services for people living with HIV. The public policy staff do this work through four main program areas:

Community organizing: Building an educated and mobilized network of advocates at the community level;

Legislative advocacy: Advancing a legislative agenda that forwards proactive legislative policy and protects existing rights and service levels;

Coalitions and partnerships: Positioning MAP as a policy leader in the HIV community and on related policy/advocacy coalitions; and

Media advocacy: Conveying clear, consistent messages and ensuring an accurate representation of HIV policy issues through the media.

To learn more or to sign up for the HIV Action Network, go to www.mnaidsproject.org/publicpolicy



Minnesota AIDS Project envisions a world free of AIDS. Our mission is to lead Minnesota's fight to stop HIV through advocacy, education and service.

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2008 Minnesota Voter Guide



HIVActionNetwork

Coordinated by Minnesota AIDS Project

Voting Information

Where do I vote?

Voters must vote in the polling places for their precinct. To locate your polling place, visit:
<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

You can also contact your county auditor. Visit:
<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=211>

To be eligible to vote in Minnesota, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age on election day
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election
- Maintain residence at the address given on the registration form

To register before an election:

Fill out a Voter Registration Application and return it in person or by mail to your county auditor or the Secretary of State. You can download this application from the Minnesota Secretary of State at www.sos.state.mn.us

To appear on the polling place roster, register at least 20 days before election day.

To register on the day of the election:

Bring to your polling place **one** of the following:

- A current, valid Minnesota Driver's License
- A "Notice of Late Registration" card mailed to you by your county auditor
- A person who is registered in the precinct where you live to vouch for your residence, **or**
- A U.S. passport, U.S. military identification card, tribal ID or student identification card that includes your name and photo **along with** an original bill for water, sewer, gas, electric, phone, solid waste or cable television services that includes your name and current address in the precinct and has a due date within 30 days of election day

You are not allowed to vote if you:

- Are under court-ordered guardianship and have not retained the right to vote or are legally incompetent
- Are convicted of a felony without having your civil rights restored

Important Dates for the '08 Election

Tuesday, September 9

PRIMARY ELECTION, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
In this preliminary election, voters choose candidates who will then advance to the General Election.

Tuesday, November 4

GENERAL ELECTION, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
In this election, a final decision is made and the winning candidate is elected to office.

Absentee Voting

You may vote by absentee ballot if:

- You will be absent from the precinct on election day
- Illness or disability prevents your going to the polling place
- Religious discipline or observance prohibits your attendance at the polling place
- You are an election judge in another precinct

How to vote by absentee ballot:

In person: Beginning 30 days before election day, you can vote in person by going to your county auditor or city or township clerk's office. To find and contact your county auditor for details, visit <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=211>

By mail: You can request an absentee ballot application from your City Election Office, or you can download the application (PDF) at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/docs/absenteeballotapplicationregular.pdf> Remember to allow at least **seven** days between requesting an absentee ballot and completing the voting process.

If you are a student: You can register either at home or at school (but not both) depending on your residence.

If you are homeless: You can register to vote using the address of a shelter where you are staying. You can also register to vote on election day using a person who can vouch for you.

Upcoming Elections in Minnesota

President

The executive branch of the federal government is responsible for executing and enforcing the laws of the land. The power of the executive branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also serves as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senators are responsible for proposing, amending and voting on federal legislation in the U.S. Senate. Each state elects two U.S. senators, and one U.S. Senate position is up for election in Minnesota.

U.S. House of Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives is the complementary body to the Senate of the Legislative branch of federal government. Representatives are apportioned by state population. Minnesota has eight Representative positions, all of which are up for election this year.

Minnesota State House of Representatives

The Minnesota House of Representatives is composed of legislators apportioned by district population. Their responsibilities include proposing, amending, and voting on state legislation. There are 134 members of the Minnesota House, all of which are up for election.

Minnesota State Supreme Court Justices

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. There are seven Supreme Court justices which are elected on a non-partisan, statewide ballot to six-year terms. The justices are responsible for hearing appeals from the Court of Appeals, trial court, Tax Court, and worker's compensation court and for overseeing administration of state courts and the practice of law.

Minnesota State Court of the Appeals Justices

The Minnesota Court of Appeals provides the citizens of Minnesota with prompt and deliberate review of all final decisions of the trial courts, state agencies and local governments. There are sixteen Justices of the Court of Appeals.

Minnesota State District Court Justices

The District Courts are located in courthouses in each of the state's 87 counties, where more than 280 judges serve. The district courts are organized into ten judicial districts. The District Court Judges are responsible for hearing and deciding the more than two million cases that are processed by the state court system.

Descriptions adapted from www.state.mn.us