

AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION



The 2026 Primary Election is Tuesday, August 11!

WHAT IS A PRIMARY ELECTION?

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.

For example, five candidates from one political party might run for governor. Only one candidate can be on the ballot in November. The winner of the August primary election will represent their party on the November election ballot.

There may be two kinds of offices on your primary ballot: partisan offices and nonpartisan offices.

PARTISAN OFFICES

Partisan offices will list a political party next to a candidate's name on the ballot. All state and federal offices—such as U.S. representative or Minnesota senator—are partisan offices.

Partisan candidates will be listed in four columns on the front side of the primary ballot.

2026 DATES

VOTE EARLY

June 26 - Aug. 10

REGISTER IN ADVANCE

By July 21

PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, August 11

VOTE EARLY

Sept. 18 - Nov. 2

REGISTER IN ADVANCE

By October 13

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 3

continued on back...

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AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION



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The columns list candidates from Minnesota's major political parties: the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party.

You can only vote for candidates from one political party. If you vote for candidates from both political parties, your votes will not count. You decide which one of the two parties you will vote for—Minnesota does not have political party registration.

NONPARTISAN OFFICES

Nonpartisan offices will not list a political party next to a candidate's name on the ballot. For example, county, city, township and school board offices are nonpartisan.

Nonpartisan offices will be listed on the back side of the primary ballot. You can vote for any candidate. The candidates who get the most votes will be on the November general election ballot.

TIME OFF WORK TO VOTE

You have a right to time off work to vote, without losing your pay, personal leave, or vacation time.



Scan this code to visit mnvotes.gov and register to vote!

TRIBAL VOTING



MINNESOTA HAS A PROUD VOTING TRADITION.

Voting is your right as every Minnesota resident if you are a U.S. citizen and have not had your right to vote taken away by a court. If you vote it is how you are understood and given a seat at the table of government to insure that you are heard and helped in governing.

Here in Minnesota we lead the nation in voter turnout. We want to keep that going.

There are three things you should know before you vote.

1. First of all, in order to vote you must be registered.

- You can register to vote even on election day.
- And, you do not have to pay at mnvotes.gov.
- Use (your) tribal identification card as proof of residence in order to register to vote.
- And you can vote even if you don't have a permanent address. You can tell them where you sleep even if it is home of relatives or someone you know. Just describe to them exactly where you sleep and ask someone you know to vouch (for you) to the officials about where you sleep.

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2. Second, here in Minnesota you can vote up to forty-six days before every election.

- You can vote by mail or you can vote in-person at your local election office.
- You are also allowed to participate in Minnesota’s one-day reservation early voting site every election. You can ask your tribal leaders if there is one located near you.
- You are also allowed to take time off of work in order to cast your vote.
- You can find out more about how and when to vote at mnvotes.gov.

3. Third, all elections are locally administered by your family, friends, and neighbors.

- You can also serve as an election judge. Contact people at your local election office. You can learn more at mnvotes.gov.
- You can represent through your vote. You too can help to keep our Minnesota voting traditions strong. Learn more at mnvotes.gov.



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and register to vote!

VOTER REGISTRATION REFERENCE GUIDE



Any individual or organization can register voters. This guide covers common questions you may have and contains best practices.

WHO CAN VOTE IN MINNESOTA

Requirements:

- U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- Resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Not currently incarcerated for a conviction of a felony sentence
- You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote.

DATES AND DEADLINES

You can wait until Election Day to register in Minnesota. However, we encourage everyone to register before Election Day.

- The deadline to register in advance online is 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13.
- The deadline to register in advance on paper is to have your application received by election officials no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13.
- Otherwise, you can register on Election Day at your polling place on Tuesday, November 3. To do so, you must show an approved proof of residence — learn what you'll need to bring at mnvotes.gov.

REGISTRATION UPDATES

You must re-register each time you change address, change names or do not vote at least once during a four-year period. Update your record by completing a new application. You can check your registration status online at mnvotes.gov. If you are unable to check, it is okay to fill out another registration application.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

Visit the 'register to vote' section at mnvotes.gov to get details on how to register voters in special circumstances, such as college students, those who fear for their personal safety, or voters who are homeless.

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VOTER REGISTRATION REFERENCE GUIDE



GET APPLICATIONS

- **Online application:** Go to **mnvotes.gov**. The voter will need a Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota identification card number or the last four numbers of their Social Security number. If they don't have at least one of these, offer a paper application.
- **Paper application:** Go to **mnvotes.gov** to download and print applications in English or other languages. You can also order them to be shipped at no cost (go to **mnvotes.gov** and click 'Get Involved.')

RETURNING PAPER APPLICATIONS

Paper applications that you collect must be received by the Office of the Secretary of State or by the voter's county election office within 10 days of when the voter signed and dated the application.

BEST PRACTICES

- **Ask if they are registered at their current address**
Rather than ask if they are registered to vote, ask *"Are you registered to vote at your current address?"* If they are not, offer a registration application and say, *"I can register you here. It will just take a minute."*
- **Check for accuracy and legibility (for paper applications)**
Review the application with the voter to make sure it is legible. Check that required fields are completed, and that it is signed and dated. Required fields have a darker shaded background.
- **Give the voter additional information and resources**
Thank the voter for registering and let them know a postcard will arrive in the mail telling them where they will vote. Also let the voter know how to find key information at **mnvotes.gov**, such as polling places, sample ballots and how to apply to vote by mail.
- **Responding to hesitations**
 - I'm in a hurry* → "It'll take just a minute and I'll save you the postage."
 - No* → "Sure? You can decide later to vote or not, today we can just register you. Here's the form if you'd like."
 - Voting doesn't matter* → "I hear you. It can be hard to see how one vote makes a difference, but it can. Why don't you register—it takes just a minute—and you can decide later if you want to vote?"



Scan this code to visit **mnvotes.gov**
and register to vote!

VOTING WITHOUT A PERMANENT RESIDENCE



Your vote is your voice - get registered, get informed, go vote!

WHAT IS MY VOTING RESIDENCE?

People without a permanent residence may register to vote by using the location of where they sleep as their address. This could be a shelter, a friend's place or outside. If it is outside, the voter should write a description of its location on line four of their voter registration application. For example, "In the NW corner of Jefferson Park near the intersection of Winston Ave. and Smith St."

REGISTER BEFORE ELECTION DAY

If you register before Election Day using an outdoor location as your residence, your voter record will be marked 'challenged' because the county could not confirm a specific street address. You will still be able to vote, but at the polling place on Election Day you will be asked to swear under oath that you are living at that location. In order to better ensure your registration remains active through Election Day, it is best to register within two months of that date.

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REGISTER ON ELECTION DAY

You can also register on Election Day. You will need to show proof of residence.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE

To register at your polling place on Election day, bring one proof of residence listed below:

1. ID with current name and address
2. Photo ID and a document with current name and address
3. Registered voter who can confirm your address
4. College student ID with housing list
5. Valid registration in the same precinct
6. Notice of Late Registration
7. Staff person of a residential facility

If you live outside, in a shelter, or are staying at a friend's house, you may not have any documents proving you live there. If so, a registered voter from your precinct can go with you to the polling place to sign an oath confirming where you live.

If you live in a shelter, a staff person can go with you to the polling place to confirm you live at the shelter.



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and register to vote!*