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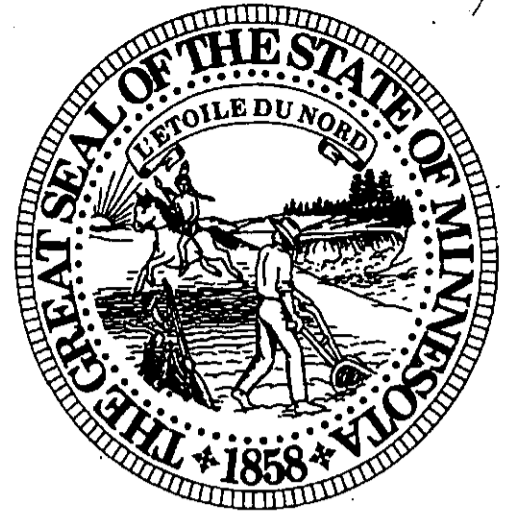
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# MINNESOTA VOTERS' GUIDE

## 1996



A citizens how-to guide for participating in the 1996 state elections.

### What's happening in '96?

1996 is the year to vote! Several top elected officials are up for election this fall...

<b>Federal</b>	President and Vice-President One US Senator Eight US Representatives
<b>State</b>	67 State Senators 134 State Representatives Supreme, Appeals and District Court judges
<b>Local</b>	Over 200 county commissioners Many mayors and city council members Many school board members

Two proposed amendments to the Minnesota Constitution will also be on the ballot this November. See *Proposed changes to Minnesota's Constitution* for more information.

### When are the elections?

<b>State primary</b>	Tuesday, September 10
<b>State general election</b>	Tuesday, November 5
<b>Voting hours</b>	7 am to 8 pm (voting begins at 10 am in some townships)

### But I work on election day...

Minnesota law allows you to take time off from work with pay to vote during the morning of state elections. The idea is to encourage people to vote early in the day. If you will be away, take a look at the *What's absentee voting?* section.

### Who can vote?

You can vote if you are:

- 18 or older
- a US citizen
- a Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election
- **not** a convicted felon minus your civil rights
- **not** under guardianship of the person
- **not** legally incompetent

### Where do I vote?

A card will come in the mail that tells you where to vote after you register. You can also call your city clerk

to find out. Many newspapers will also list polling places shortly before the election.

### How do I vote?

Voting's incredibly easy for being so powerful. Here's how it works.

- 1) Register to vote.
- 2) Go to your polling place on election day. An election judge will check if you're on the list of voters and, if so, have you sign the list. Then you'll get a ballot. If you can't get to your polling place on election day, you can apply for an absentee ballot.
- 3) Vote! An election judge will show you how the ballot works, and you can get help with reading or marking the ballot if you need it. After voting, take your ballot to the ballot box. How you vote is secret. Asking people about their votes or campaigning is not allowed in or around the polling place!

### Regarding registration...

Before you can vote, you need to be on the official list of voters. This is called being "registered." You need to register if you just became eligible to vote, moved, changed your name or haven't voted in the last four years.

The easiest way to register is by filling out a voter registration card and mailing or dropping it off at your city clerk, county auditor or the secretary of state's office.

When you fill out the card, remember that you can only vote where you live. If you are a student living at school, you can choose whether to register at home or at school (but not both!).

### Where can I get a voter registration card?

- at state, county, or city offices and public libraries
- where you apply for, renew or change your Minnesota Driver License or ID card
- in state income tax booklets
- from the registrar's office or student association at colleges, universities and technical schools
- at many businesses, stores, and community groups

### Can I register on election day?

If you miss registering before the election, you can register on election day at your polling place. You will need proof of the address where you are living on election day. Use one of these for proof...

- Minnesota Driver License, learner permit or identification card (or receipt for a new one)
- a "Notice of Ineffective Registration" card mailed to you by your county auditor (if you mailed in a registration late)
- someone who is registered in the precinct where you live to vouch for you at the polling place

### If you are a student, you can use...

- a school fee statement showing your address in the precinct and photo ID card
- a student identification card or registration card having your current address
- a student photo ID if a student housing list or list of students is on file at your polling place

If you're registered and move within the *same* precinct, you can simply do an address change at the polling place.

### Help is on the way...

If you could use some help with voting, you can ask at the polling place for aid in reading or marking your ballot. Or you can ask a friend to help you.

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

If you can't easily leave your car, you can ask for the ballot to be brought out to you in your car.

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 or on cassette tape.

And if you are hearing impaired, every county and most cities will have a TDD device for questions.

### What's absentee voting?

You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on election day because you are...

- out of town
- ill or disabled
- an election judge serving in another precinct
- unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or beliefs.

With absentee voting you can vote either in person before election day or by mail. Call your county auditor or city clerk for the details.

**In person:** Apply and/or vote during normal office hours or from 1 to 3 pm the Saturday afternoon or 5 to 7 pm the Monday evening before the election.

**By mail:** Apply early so you can mail or deliver your absentee ballot back before election day. Call, write or fax for an application. In some counties you can return your application by fax.

If you're in the military or outside the US, vote based on where you last lived in Minnesota. You or your parent, spouse, brother, sister, or adult child can apply for you. Make sure to apply early!

### Important election dates in 1996

August 20	Last day to preregister to vote in the state primary
September 7	Absentee voting from 1 pm to 3 pm at county auditors' offices
September 9	Absentee voting from 5 pm to 7 pm at county auditors' offices
<b>September 10</b>	<b>State primary</b> - vote 7 am to 8 pm in most areas
October 15	Last day to preregister to vote in the state general election
November 2	Absentee voting is open 1 pm to 3 pm at county auditors' offices
November 4	Absentee voting 5 pm to 7 pm at county auditors' offices
<b>November 5</b>	<b>State general election</b> - vote 7 am to 8 pm in most areas

### What's the meaning of this?

**Absentee voting** - getting your ballot early and voting in person or by mail before election day.

**Ballot** - the official paper or card list of who or what you can vote for in the election and on which you mark your choices. You receive the ballot at your polling place or when you do absentee voting.

**Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party** - one of three major political parties currently active in Minnesota.

**General Election** - the election to pick the final winners! Decides who will actually fill the offices. To be held **November 5**.

**Office** - a specific position people seek election to. Each office has specific duties and powers.

**Polling place** - the place where you vote on election day (polling means voting). You can also register to vote at the polling place. Call your county auditor or city clerk's office to get the address.

**Primary** - an election to reduce the field of candidates. Winners (or nominees) go on to the general election. All major party candidates will be in the primary and some (but not all) local candidates. You will need to decide which major party's candidates you will vote for because you cannot split your votes between parties. To be held **September 10**.

**Reform Party** - one of the three major political parties currently active in Minnesota.

**Republican Party** - one of the three major political parties currently active in Minnesota.

**Voter registration** - having your name on the official list of voters. You must be registered for the address where you live on the day of the election to be able to vote.

**Voter registration card** - the card or form you fill out with your name and address and turn in to become registered.

**Voting** - marking your choices of candidates or yes or no to any questions on the official ballot.

**Voting hours** - when you can vote on election day. In most areas voting will begin at 7 am and end at 8 pm (some smaller townships begin voting at 10 am).

### Proposed changes to Minnesota's Constitution

Two proposed amendments to the Minnesota Constitution will be on the November general election ballot. It takes a majority "YES" vote by everyone who votes in the election to amend our constitution. (This means that not voting on an amendment has the same effect as voting "NO.")

The following summary of the purpose and effect of the proposed amendments has been prepared by the attorney general.

### **Amendment 1. TO AUTHORIZE BONUS FOR PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS**

1. The amendment would permit the legislature to provide for payment of an adjusted compensation to persons who served in the armed forces of the United States during the period of the Persian Gulf War.

2. The amendment would permit the state to spend money and pledge public credit to provide money for such compensation.

3. The amendment would permit the legislature to define by law the duration of the Persian Gulf War.

Article XII, Section I of the Minnesota Constitution now reads:

The state may pay an adjusted compensation to persons who served in the armed forces of the United States during the period of the Vietnam conflict. Whenever authorized and in the amounts and on the terms fixed by law, the state may expend monies and pledge the public credit to provide money for the purposes of this section. The duration of the Vietnam conflict may be defined by law.

If the amendment is adopted, Article XIII, Section 8 will read (additions indicated by *italic*):

The state may pay an adjusted compensation to persons who served in the armed forces of the United States during the period of the Vietnam conflict *or the Persian Gulf War*. Whenever authorized and in the amounts and on the terms fixed by law, the state may expend monies and pledge the public credit to provide money for the purposes of this section. The duration of the Vietnam conflict *and the Persian Gulf War* may be defined by law.

### **Amendment 2. TO PROVIDE FOR RECALL OF ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS**

1. The amendment would make certain state officers subject to recall from office by the voters. The state officers subject to recall would be members of the Minnesota Legislature, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and attorney general and judges of the supreme court, court of appeals or a district court.

2. The grounds for recall of a judge would be established by the supreme court. The grounds for recall of an officer other than a judge would be serious malfeasance or nonfeasance during the term of office in the performance of official duties or conviction during the term of office of a serious crime.

3. The amendment would provide a general procedure for recall of a state officer. A petition for recall must set forth the specific conduct that may warrant recall. A petition may not be issued until the supreme court determines that the facts alleged in the petition are true and are sufficient grounds for issuing a recall petition. A petition must be signed by a number of eligible voters who reside in the district where the officer serves and who number not less than 25 percent of the number of votes cast for the office at the most recent general election. Upon a determination by the secretary of state that a petition has been signed by at least the minimum number of eligible voters, a recall election must be conducted in the manner provided by law.

4. A recall election may not occur less than six months before the end of the officer's term. An officer who is removed from office by a recall election or who resigns from office after a petition for recall is authorized may not be appointed to fill the vacancy created.

5. In article II of chapter 469, the Legislature also adopted statutory provisions that will be effective only if the people ratify the proposed amendment. The statutory provisions establish

the required form and content of a recall petition. They also establish procedures for submittal of a proposed petition, supreme court review of a proposed petition, issuance of a recall petition, conduct of a recall election, and removal from office of a recalled officer. In addition, the statutory provisions prohibit certain conduct by persons proposing a petition.

If the amendment is adopted, Article VIII, Section 6 of the Minnesota Constitution will read (additions indicated by *italic*):

*A member of the senate or the house of representatives, an executive officer of the state identified in section 1 of article V of the constitution, or a judge of the supreme court, the court of appeals, or a district court is subject to recall from office by the voters. The grounds for recall of a judge shall be established by the supreme court. The grounds for recall of an officer other than a judge are serious malfeasance or nonfeasance during the term of office in the performance of the duties of the office or conviction during the term of office of a serious crime. A petition for recall must set forth the specific conduct that may warrant recall. A petition may not be issued until the supreme court has determined that the facts alleged in the petition are true and are sufficient grounds for issuing a recall petition. A petition must be signed by a number of eligible voters who reside in the district where the officer serves and who number not less than 25 percent of the number of votes cast for the office at the most recent general election. Upon a determination by the secretary of state that a petition has been signed by at least the minimum number of eligible voters, a recall election must be conducted in the manner provided by law. A recall election may not occur less than six months before the end of the officer's term. An officer who is removed from office by a recall election or who resigns from office after a petition for recall issues may not be appointed to fill the vacancy that is created.*

### **For more information about the political parties or the candidates...**

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party  
352 Wacouta Street  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(612)293-1200

Reform Party  
PO Box 23052  
Minneapolis, MN 55423-0052  
(612)939-6601

Republican Party of Minnesota  
480 Cedar Street, Suite 560  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(612)222-0022

For TDD service, you may call (metro) (612)297-5353 or (greater Minnesota) 1-800-657-3529.

### **For additional copies of this Voter's Guide or for more information on elections in Minnesota, call...**

Joan Anderson Growe  
Secretary of State  
180 State Office Building  
100 Constitution Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299  
(612)215-1440

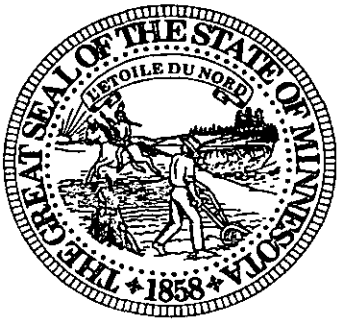
**or access the Secretary of State's World Wide Web site at:**

<http://www.state.mn.us/ebranch/sos>

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

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

County Name	Number	County Name	Number
Aitkin	218-927-7354	Marshall	218-745-4851
Anoka	612-323-5275	Martin	507-238-3211
Becker	218-846-7301	Meeker	320-693-2887
Beltrami	218-759-4100	Mille Lacs	320-983-2561
Benton	320-968-6254	Morrison	320-632-2941
Big Stone	320-839-2525	Mower	507-437-9535
Blue Earth	507-389-8341	Murray	507-836-6148
Brown	507-359-7900	Nicollet	507-931-6800
Carlton	218-384-4281	Nobles	507-372-8231
Carver	612-361-1500	Norman	218-784-2101
Cass	218-547-3300	Olmsted	507-285-8145
Chippewa	320-269-7447	Otter Tail	218-739-2271
Chisago	612-257-1300	Pennington	218-681-4011
Clay	218-299-5006	Pine	320-629-6781
Clearwater	218-694-6520	Pipestone	507-825-4494
Cook	218-387-2282	Polk	218-281-2554
Cottonwood	507-831-1905	Pope	320-634-5301
Crow Wing	218-828-3970	Ramsey	612-266-2171
Dakota	612-437-3191	Red Lake	218-253-2598
Dodge	507-635-6230	Redwood	507-637-8325
Douglas	320-762-2381	Renville	320-523-2071
Faribault	507-526-6211	Rice	507-332-6100
Fillmore	507-765-2144	Rock	507-283-9165
Freeborn	507-377-5121	Roseau	218-463-1282
Goodhue	612-388-8261	St. Louis	218-726-2385
Grant	218-685-4520	Scott	612-496-8160
Hennepin	612-348-5151	Sherburne	612-241-2860
Houston	507-724-5803	Sibley	612-237-2369
Hubbard	218-732-3196	Stearns	320-656-3900
Isanti	612-689-1644	Steele	507-451-8040
Itasca	218-327-2860	Stevens	320-589-7409
Jackson	507-847-2763	Swift	320-843-4069
Kanabec	320-679-1030	Todd	320-732-4469
Kandiyohi	320-231-6202	Traverse	320-563-4242
Kittson	218-843-2655	Wabasha	612-565-2648
Koochiching	218-283-6201	Wadena	218-631-2425
Lac qui Parle	320-598-7444	Waseca	507-835-0610
Lake	218-834-8317	Washington	612-430-6188
Lake of the Woods	218-634-2836	Watsonwan	507-375-3341
LeSueur	612-357-2251	Wilkin	218-643-4981
Lincoln	507-694-1529	Winona	507-457-6320
Lyon	507-537-6728	Wright	612-682-3900
McLeod	320-864-5551	Yellow Medicine	320-564-3132
Mahnomen	218-935-5669		



Secretary of State  
Election Division  
180 State Office Building  
100 Constitution Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299

To: