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VOTER REGISTRATION IN MINNESOTA:

**a
citizen's
right**



**VOTER
INFORMATION**

from
Minnesota
Statutes

ELECTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE



Planning a Voter Registration Drive in Counties Requiring Registration

If you're part of a group . . .

. . . Here's how YOU can help register voters in time for the 1976 elections:

1. Contact the county auditor where you plan to register voters. The city clerk may also be able to help. These local election officials can provide you with voter registration cards and information you need to know about filling out the cards and the correct return address. Lists of registered voters can be purchased from the county auditor for a fee based on the cost of reproducing the lists.
2. Organize your group. It is a good idea to have everyone who will be helping with your registration drive meet together to discuss voter registration procedures and your plans for the canvass of unregistered voters. Provide for some practice time to be sure that everyone understands how voters are to be registered.
3. Organize your area. Try to include people who are familiar with the area. Have everyone use and mark maps as they work in an area. Maps with boundaries marked save time and help avoid overlapping workers' assignments.

Information Required When Registering

Content and format of voter registration cards may vary.

TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN MINNESOTA:

Law Requires:

1. Name and current address.
2. Last previous address.
3. Last address at which you registered to vote.
4. Signature on Original and Duplicate Cards.

Law Does Not Require:

1. Age or birthdate.
2. Sex or marital status.
3. Social security number.
4. Telephone number.

By your signature on the card, you declare that you meet the legal requirements of an eligible voter. To falsely register is a felony, punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$5000 or both.

4 B's of Voter Registration Basics:

- Be Informed** It is important to relay your interest and understanding of the voter registration process to the person being canvassed. This encourages people to register.
- Be Courteous** If some people do not wish to register now or will be moving to a new precinct within 20 days before the next election, remind them that any eligible voter may register in person at the polls on election day by providing certain identification.
- Be Thoughtful** Choose convenient hours for your canvass — not too early nor too late in the day! If you leave cards to be filled in by others in the house, remind people of the importance of mailing the card at least 20 days before the next election.
- Be Thorough** Whether you or the new registrant fills out the card, be sure that the required information is filled out completely and that the writing is clearly readable. Make certain that the registrant signs the Duplicate Card but leaves the rest of it blank. The registration office will complete the information on the Duplicate Card from that supplied on the Original Card.

For your reference:

(fill in your local election information)

Secretary of State, Election Division — Phone (612) 296-2805

County Auditor _____ Phone _____

City Clerk _____ Phone _____

Steps to Voter Registration:

1. Find out if your prospective voter is already registered:
First ask: Have you registered to vote in this precinct?
If "No", proceed to fill out registration card.
If "Yes", proceed to next question.
Ask: Have you changed your address or legal name since you last voted or has it been more than four years since you voted?
If "No", it appears that your prospect is properly registered.
If "Yes", proceed to fill out the registration card.
Review the original and duplicate parts of the card with the person registering.
2. Answer any questions the person has about registration.
3. Know the date of the *next* election — a person must be 18 years old by the time of the *next* election to register.
4. Mail or bring the cards that are filled out to the county auditor for processing. The city clerk may also accept them.

Return completed cards promptly. Set up a time schedule with your county auditor for regular return of cards during your registration drive. The city clerk may also accept cards.

Take care of the cards you handle. Extra marks on cards may make processing of the cards difficult. When cards can be processed promptly, it helps everyone.

Check the election calendar. Return cards to county auditor before 20 days preceding the election in most counties. Your city clerk may also accept cards.

1976 Election Calendar

August 24 is the last day to register in advance for the Primary Election on September 14.

October 12 is the last day to register in advance for the General Election on November 2.

Supplies to carry with you:

- _____ Blank voter registration cards.
- _____ Pens — several!
- _____ *Voter Registration Manual 1976* (with Minnesota laws on registration), available from the Office of the Secretary of State.

When to Register?

Right now—

—Be ready to vote in 1976!

Don't wait—

—Register today!

Celebrate:

Your new apartment

—and Register!

Your new name

—and Register!

Being 18

—and Register!

Being 18 by the next election

—and Register!

Being a new citizen

—and Register!

Living in Minnesota 20 days

—and Register!

Advance registration saves time at the polls on election day:

- * eliminates waiting in lines to register before you vote.
- * eliminates the need for special residence identification to register before voting.

To Register by Mail:

1. Request a registration card from your county auditor. Your city clerk may also have them.
 2. Follow the instructions and sign your name on both the top and bottom cards.
 3. Return the registration card to the county auditor's office. Your city clerk may also accept the card. You will receive a notice in the mail informing you of the location of your polling place.
 4. If you will be voting by absentee ballot and if you are not registered to vote, request a voter registration card when you request your absentee ballot.
- * Armed service personnel and Minnesotans temporarily residing outside the United States register on the same form they use to apply for an absentee ballot.

For additional information about registering voters, contact the

Office of the Secretary of State
Election Division
180 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone: (612) 296-2805.

or
your county auditor
or
your city clerk.

Register Yourself First

Most counties in Minnesota require you to register to vote. In all of these counties you may register on election day, and in most of them you may register before election day if you prefer.

To Register in Minnesota you must be:

- Citizen of the United States.
- 18 years old by the next election day.
- Resident of Minnesota for 20 days.

When to Register:

- Any time up to 20 days before an election in most counties.
- On election day — with certain identification.

Where to Register:

- Register up to 20 days before an election at places designated by your county auditor.
- Ask your city clerk or county auditor for the addresses of advance registration offices.
- Register at your precinct's polling place on election day (with certain identification).

Your Registration is Permanent unless:

- You change your address.
- You change your legal name.
- You do not vote at least once in four years.

Qualified voters may register by mail up to 20 days before an election in most counties.

Voter registration cards need not be notarized.

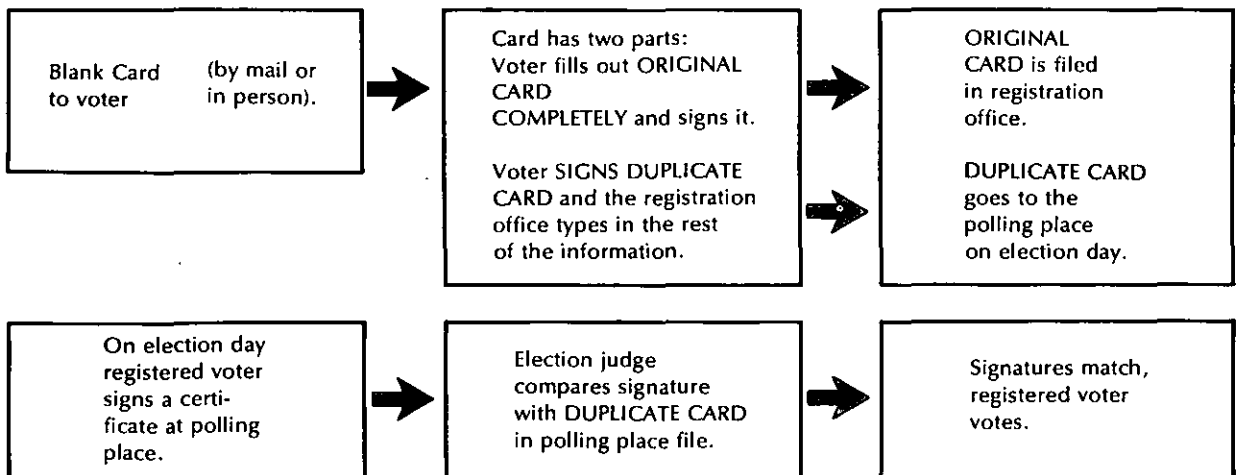
To Register in Minnesota you must not be:

- Convicted of treason or a felony and not yet restored to your civil rights.
- Under a guardianship of your person.
- Adjudicated mentally incompetent.

Voting Residence:

- If you live in more than one place, your voting residence is the place you call home.
- Circumstances may provide a choice of voting residence:
 - . . . Student? You may register from your parents' residence
or
You may register from your school residence.
 - . . . Employment? You may register from your non-work residence
or
You may register from a residence necessitated by location of your work.
- You register and vote in only one precinct.
- Your previous registration is cancelled when you change your residence and register in a new precinct.

How the Voter Registration Process Works in Minnesota Counties with Voter Registration:



Place
Postage
Stamp
Here

To:

1976 Advance Registration:

For the Primary Election, September 14, 1976

Any time up to August 24.

For the General Election, November 2, 1976

September 15 to October 12.