

Disclaimer:

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:

1. It is after 7:00 AM and the polling place is not open.

Contact the county election board. Contact information can be found at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=53> or http://www.sos.state.mn.us/docs/public_listings_for_county_election_offices.pdf. Also contact the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

Note that in towns with fewer than 500 inhabitants located outside the metropolitan area, polls may open as late as 10:00 a.m.

You may need to contact the election judges or the county election board for that county.

2. It is 8:00 PM and my precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.

Voters in line or in the process of voting at 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote. Contact the county election board. Contact information can be found at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=53>

An attorney will contact the county election officials to report the problem. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

Identification and Registering to Vote:

1. I did not register to vote more than 20 days before the election. Can I still register and vote?

Yes. A person who is eligible to vote may register on Election Day in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual maintains residence, by completing a registration application, making an oath, and providing proof of residence. The voter will need proof of residency (including a license or other photo ID, a registered voter from the precinct who will vouch for him, or another acceptable form of proof).

2. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Yes. If the voter is registered and signs the polling place roster stating that the individual is at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, has resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding the election, maintains residence at the address shown, is not under a guardianship in which the court

order revokes the individual's right to vote, has not been found by a court of law to be legally incompetent to vote or, if the individual was convicted of a felony, has the right to vote because the felony sentence has expired or been completed or the individual has been discharged from the sentence, and has not already voted in the election.

However, an election judge *may*, before the applicant signs the roster, ask the voter to confirm the applicant's name, address and date of birth.

3. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote?

Confirm that the voter is a qualified to vote (i.e., meets the age, criminal status, and durational residency requirements) and that the voter registered in time to vote in this election. Next, using the online poll locator tool, make sure the voter is at the correct polling place. See <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, direct the voter to ask the poll worker to call the county auditor and confirm the registration. If the voter still is not on the rolls, let them know that the voter can register to vote at the polling place.

4. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID.

Call the *Legal Command Center* or call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

Where to Vote:

1. Where do I vote (for voters who have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations with the Polling Place Finder at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

2. I have moved within the same PRECINCT and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within the same precinct, the voter should go to the appropriate polling place for that precinct. If the voter registration list still lists the voter's old address, the voter will be asked to update their registration. If the updated address is within the precinct, the voter must be permitted to vote.

3. I have moved to a different precinct within the same COUNTY and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

The voter should go to the new polling location that corresponds to their new address and update the registration by completing a new voter registration application using the new residence address. The voter will be required to present acceptable evidence to prove her/his new residence address.

4. I have moved from one county to another and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

The voter should go to the new polling place that corresponds to their new address in the voter's NEW COUNTY, and update the registration by completing a new voter registration application using the new residence address. The voter will be required to present acceptable evidence to prove her/his new residence address.

Assistance at the polls:

1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?

Minnesota law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters. If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the handicapped, call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE immediately so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

2. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance at the polls in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above can take a person of their choice into the voting booth (except employer, an agent of employer, an officer or agent of their union). Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to disabled or language minority voters if asked to do so by the voter. Two election judges, one affiliated with each major party, may help the voter together if the voter so chooses. If a poll worker refuses to allow a disabled or language minority voter to bring a person of their choice into the voting booth, call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE immediately. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

Minnesota is not covered by the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and is not required to provide ballots in non-English languages. However, the county board of elections may appoint persons fluent in a non-English language to serve as interpreters to assist voters based on indications of need.

Miscellaneous Issues:

1. I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls.

An individual shall be allowed to go to and from the polling place for the purpose of voting without unlawful interference. All candidates and anyone else trying to induce or persuade a voter may not do so within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated, or anywhere on the public property on which a polling place is situated. They can solicit you if they comply with this rule. If they are violating these requirements, contact the *Legal Command Center* to report the problem, let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess if calling an election official is necessary.

2. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has NOT already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, they should be allowed to vote in person.

3. There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.

Call the *Legal Command Center* immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. If you are a *Legal Command Center* volunteer, contact a *Commander*.

If the voter agrees, put them on hold while you call the *Legal Command Center* so they can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible. After hanging up with the caller, call back the *Legal Command Center* and fill the attorneys there in on the details.

4. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Maybe. Minnesota law permits convicted felons to vote so long as they are not currently serving a felony sentence of incarceration and are not on parole or probation for a felony conviction. The right to vote is automatically restored after a person has been fully discharged from her/his sentence.

5. I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?

College students may register and vote where they go to school provided that they consider that location their voting residence. A voting residence is the residence the student claims as their home. Students must be held to the same eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction. If a student has been turned away at the polls, ascertain if they have fulfilled all of the registration requirements (age, criminal status, durational residency requirements) and that they have presented proper proof of residence. If so, contact the Legal Command Center to dispatch an attorney to the location and contact the appropriate election official.