

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Conducting free, fair and credible elections is of the utmost importance for Minnesota. This sentiment is also shared by Hennepin County, which asks that all candidates and campaigns adhere to Minnesota's election laws.

While each candidate and campaign is responsible for knowing and following Minnesota election laws, salient information has been highlighted for immediate reference. Please note that is not a complete list of Minnesota election laws:

Voter Registration Activity

Candidates and campaigns can provide potential, eligible voters¹ the following information and assistance

- voter registration applications,
- help filling out voter registration applications, and
- help submitting a completed application on a voter's behalf after receiving permission to do so.

Registration is limited to eligible voters. All information on voter registration applications must be accurate. Under Minnesota law, the following activities are considered felony offenses

- A person who intentionally registers to vote if they are not an eligible voter.²
- A person who registers to vote with the intention of voting in multiple precincts.³
- A person who intentionally advises or helps someone vote who is not eligible, and or, assists someone with voting in more than one precinct.⁴

¹ Generally, under Minn. Stat. § 201.014, an eligible voter is any person who:

- will be 18 years old or older on Election Day
- is a U.S. citizen
- resides in Minnesota for at least 20 days immediately prior to Election Day
- has finished every part of any felony sentence (including probation)
- is not under a court-ordered guardianship in which the right to vote has been revoked
- is not considered legally incompetent to vote, as determined by a court

² Minn. Stat. § 201.054, subd. 2(1).

³ Minn. Stat. § 201.054, subd. 2(2).

⁴ Minn. Stat. § 201.054, subd. 2(4).



Anyone who breaks these laws faces a criminal sentence of up to 5 years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine. Depending on the circumstances, these penalties may apply to the voter; the campaign employee or volunteer who works with the voter; and, a candidate or higher-level campaign officials with knowledge of the illegal activities.

Absentee Balloting

Campaign officials, employees, or volunteers cannot request an absentee ballot for someone else,⁵ though may help submit a completed application on a voter's behalf after receiving permission to do so. If a voter faces potential challenges accessing polling locations, ex. a voter with debilitating health issues, they can name an agent to pick up a blank ballot to bring to them and to return it to the election authority.

It is a felony for a voter to intentionally make any false statement on an absentee ballot application, and, to use the absentee ballot process to vote for multiple times in the same election.⁶

Any person advising or helping another to commit an absentee balloting crime could also be committing a felony.

Voting in the Wrong Precinct

A voter can vote only in the precinct where they live. A voter who mistakenly votes in the wrong precinct is not committing any crime. However, anyone who knowingly advises or helps someone vote in a precinct where the voter does not live is committing a felony.⁷

If you have any questions or concerns, or seeking additional information, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's election website: www.sos.state.mn.us

⁵ Minn. Stat. § 203B.04, subd. 1(c).

⁶ Minn. Stat. § 203B.03, subd. 1(a).

⁷ Minn. Stat. § 204C.14.

