

2023 – Election/Voting Changes

During the 2023 legislative session, numerous large and small policy changes were enacted to modernize Minnesota's election laws and ensure that every Minnesotan has access to free, fair, secure, and accurate elections. These reforms reduce disparities, expand access, and strengthen voter participation. Legislative changes that will impact voters are summarized below.

IN EFFECT IN 2023

Felon Voting Rights Restoration

A criminal record does not impact your right to vote in Minnesota unless you are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction. You will need to [register to vote](#). It is best to register before Election Day, but it is not required.

Pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds

Minnesotans ages 16 or 17 who are otherwise eligible to vote can now [preregister to vote](#). They will be able to vote in the first election after they turn 18.

Right to be Absent from Work to Vote

The right to be absent from work to vote is now expanded to include any time during the absentee voting period or voting on election day.

Absentee/Mail Ballot Return Deadline

The deadline for all absentee and mail ballots to be returned is now 8 p.m. on election day.

[Agent delivery ballots](#) can be issued and accepted beginning seven days before election day and until 8 p.m. on election day.

Additional Temporary Absentee Voting Locations Authorized

Counties or authorized municipal clerks are now permitted to designate additional temporary locations for voting before election day. Additional temporary locations must be designated at least 47 days before the election.

Temporary Tribal Voting Location

If a county receives a request from a federally recognized Tribal Nation, it must provide an in-person absentee location on reservation land for at least one day.

Healthcare Facility Voting

Healthcare facility voting may now be administered starting 35 days before election day.

Providing Assistance to Voters

The three-person limit on the number of voters that any person can assist in an election has been removed, along with the prohibition on candidates providing assistance to a voter on election day.

Vouching

This list of people who may vouch for another resident on election day is expanded to include assisted living staff members. Employees of residential facilities have previously been able to serve as a voucher, and now the definition of a residential facility is expanded to include adult foster and residential treatment programs.

Residential Voting Lists for Students

Post-secondary institutions are now required in law to provide a list of students living both on campus and in the city or cities where their campus is located. Students who live in the city where their campus is located can register to vote with their student ID if they live on or in the same city as campus.

Electronic Rosters (e-Poll Books)

Voters are now allowed to sign electronically when electronic rosters are used. Election Day Registration Applications and voter certificates signed electronically must be printed at the time of the transaction at the polling place.

Election Worker Protections

It is illegal to intimidate elections workers; interfere with the administration of an election; disseminate personal information of an election official; obstruct access of any election official to the location where elections administration is occurring; tamper with a ballot box; tamper with the Statewide Voter Registration System, registration list or polling place roster; or, access the statewide voter registration system without authorization.

Anyone found in violation of this law would be guilty of a gross misdemeanor with civil penalties of damages and up to \$1,000 for each violation.

Prohibition on Campaigning Near Polling Places

The law regarding the prohibition on campaigning near polling places has been clarified to prohibit wearing, exhibiting, or distributing any item that displays:

- the name, likeness, logo, or slogan of a candidate who appears on the ballot;
- the number, title, subject, slogan, or logo of a ballot question that appears on the ballot; or,
- the name, logo, or slogan of a political party represented by a candidate on the ballot.

The law clarifies that these prohibitions apply only during voting hours. They also apply during the absentee/early voting periods, to include the polling place and “within 100 feet of the room in which a polling place is situated, to the extent practicable.”