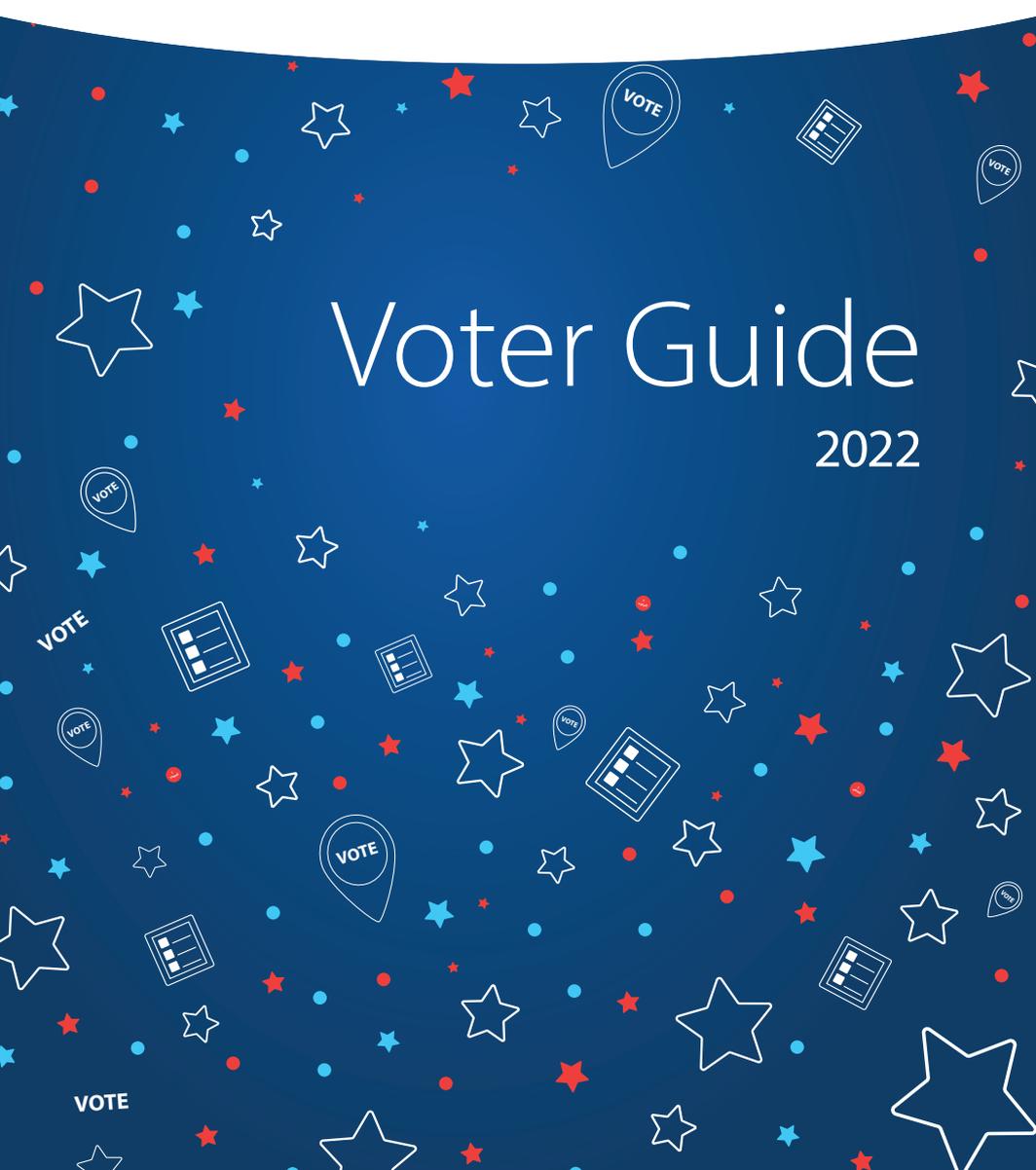


HENNEPIN COUNTY
ELECTIONS

Voter Guide
2022



Welcome

The Hennepin County Elections team strives to serve you with integrity and accuracy. When you vote, you make your voice heard, hold elected officials accountable, and impact important issues that affect your community.

This year, Minnesota will hold two elections – a primary on August 9 and a general election on November 8.

This voter guide explains the voting process in 2022 and gives you resources to become a more informed voter. Please contact our office with any questions you have.

Thank you for taking part in our democracy!

Sincerely,

Ginny Gelms
Elections Manager

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Who can vote

You can vote in Minnesota if you meet all of the following requirements:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence
- A judge has not revoked your right to vote under guardianship



Voter rights

You have many rights as a Minnesota voter! Remember, you can't be denied the right to vote if you're eligible.

You have the right to:

- Ask for help
 - Get help from an election judge or bring someone to help you
- Vote once you are finished with all parts of your felony conviction sentence
- Take time off work to vote without losing your pay, personal leave, or vacation time
- Bring a sample ballot to your polling place
- Get a replacement ballot if you made a mistake on your ballot before you cast it
- Vote if you are in line by 8 p.m. on Election Day
- Bring your children to the polls



Voting checklist



Voting can seem intimidating at first, but we are here to help you through the process.

Use this checklist and voter guide to make voting easy this year!

Prepare to Vote

- Make sure you're eligible to vote (page 4)
- Register to vote (page 8)
- Know what's on your ballot (pages 17-20)
- Have a voting plan:
 - I will vote by mail (page 12)OR
 - I will vote early in person (page 13)OR
 - I will vote on Election Day (page 14)
- Vote!

2022 Elections calendar

This year, Minnesota will have a primary and general election – make sure you're prepared to vote!

The purpose of a primary election is to narrow down which candidates will be on the November general election ballot. This why voting in both elections is important.

Important dates

June 24: Absentee voting for primary begins

July 19: Last day to pre-register for primary

Aug. 9: Primary election day

Sept. 23: Absentee voting for general election begins

Oct. 18: Last day to pre-register for general election

Nov. 8: General election day





Registering to vote

You must register before you can vote.

Registering is a way to prove that you are eligible.

- In Minnesota, you can pre-register up to 21 days before Election Day.
- You can also register when you vote early in person or on Election Day with same-day registration.

Unsure if you're registered? Check at mnvotes.org



Ways to register

Online at mnvotes.org

- You will need an email address for this method

On paper

- Print a registration application from mnvotes.org or hennepin.us/elections
- Mail or drop off at Hennepin County Elections

In person

- You need to provide proof of a) who you are, and b) where you live.
 - For example, a current and valid Minnesota ID or driver's license
 - A list of all proof of residence options are available at mnvotes.org

OR

- Have a registered voter in your precinct vouch for you (for more info on vouching see page 10)

Remember to update your registration when:

- You move to a new address
- Change your name
- Have not voted at least once within the last four years

College students



- Register with the address you currently consider home
 - For example, your dorm, off-campus housing, or your parents' house



Vouching

If you don't have proper documentation of your current residence, you can have someone vouch for you when voting in person.

The person vouching for you is required to sign an oath confirming your address.

Who can vouch for you?

- A registered voter who lives in the same precinct
 - A registered voter can vouch for up to eight voters

OR

- A facility staff if you live in a residential facility
- Staff need to show proof of their employment at the polling place
 - For example: an employee ID badge or a staff list

There is no limit to how many people a staff member can vouch for.

You cannot vouch for others if someone vouched for you.

Note: If your address can't be confirmed, you may be "challenged" at the polls. You are still able to vote. The election judges at your polling place will have you take an oath of eligibility prior to voting.



Ways to vote



In Minnesota, you have options on how you can choose to vote.

All voters are eligible to do so

- Early by mail (page 12)

OR

- Early in person (page 13)

OR

- On Election Day (page 14)



Early by mail

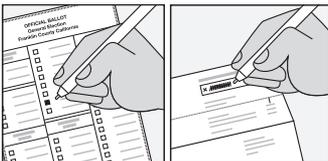
Voting by mail is easy and convenient. You don't have to leave the house and there's no waiting in line!

Steps:

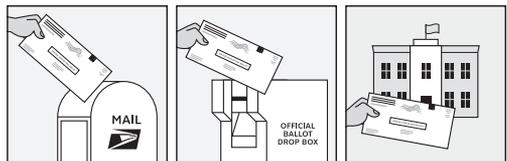
1. Register to vote (page 8)
2. Apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you at mnvotes.org or hennepin.us/elections
 - o Your ballot will be mailed to you
3. Fill out your ballot
 - o Make sure to carefully read the instructions
 - o A witness signature is required from a registered voter or notary
 - o You will get an additional registration form to fill out if you are not pre-registered
4. Return your ballot by mail or in person
 - o Your ballot must arrive by 3 p.m. on Election Day
5. You can track your ballot every step of the way at mnvotes.org/track

If you have any issues with your ballot, contact Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151 or hc.vote@hennepin.us

Fill out ballot



Return ballot options





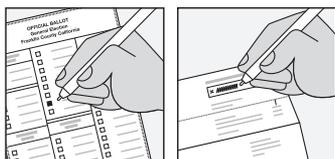
Early in person

You can vote at your local election office or an early voting location up to 46 days before Election Day.

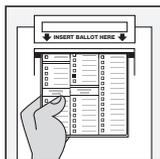
Steps:

1. Pre-register or register when you vote (page 8)
 - o If you are pre-registered, you don't need to bring an ID
 - o If you're registering in person, make sure you bring proper proof of residency
2. Find your early voting locations and hours of operation at hennepin.us/elections
 - o Remember that wait times can vary
3. You will complete an absentee ballot application before receiving a ballot
4. Vote!
 - o You will vote in a private area
 - o You have the right to ask for help or get a new ballot if you make a mistake

Fill out ballot



Insert ballot





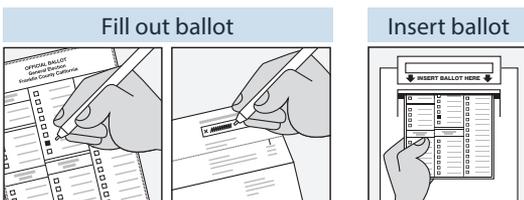
On Election Day

Election Day is an exciting time to vote, and your polling place is usually close to home.

Steps:

1. Pre-register or register when you vote (page 8)
 - o If you are pre-registered, you don't need to bring an ID
 - o If registering on Election Day, make sure you bring proper proof of residency
2. Find your polling place at <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>
 - o Remember that wait times can vary
 - o Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day
3. Vote!
 - o You will vote in a private area
 - o You have the right to ask for help or get a new ballot if you make a mistake

If you are in line by 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.





Accessibility

Polling places are required to be accessible.

A voter can bring a friend, family member, or anyone to help them vote.

A voter can also ask an election judge for help.

Accessible voting technology

Each polling place has an OmniBallot Tablet (accessible ballot marking device) for voters with disabilities, allowing anyone to mark their ballot independently and privately without using a pen.

The machine has a screen that displays the ballot in large print or with a high-contrast background. It can also read the ballot to you through headphones.

Voters can mark their choices with a touchscreen, Braille keypad, or a 3-button device.

Curbside voting

Election judges can help you vote curbside if you cannot easily leave your vehicle. Two election judges will come out with materials requiring a signature and your ballot. Once you are done marking your ballot, they will bring the ballot inside to the ballot box.

Special circumstances

Voting while homeless

If you're eligible to vote, you can do so regardless of your housing situation. Make sure you use a current address (for example, shelter, friend's house, outside, etc.) when registering.

For an outdoor address, write the cross streets and a description of where you sleep (for example, SW corner of Loring Park near the intersection of Hennepin Ave. and Oak Grove St.).

If you don't have proper documentation of your current residence, you can have someone vouch for you on Election Day. The person vouching for you must live in your precinct and is required to swear under oath that they personally know you live in the location you provided (page 10).

Safe at Home

Safe at Home is a statewide program to help people who fear for their safety maintain a confidential address.

If you are a participant in the Safe at Home program, please visit the Safe at Home program website to learn more about how to vote. You can also call the Safe at Home number: 1-866-723-3035.



What's on your ballot changes every year. In 2022, all Hennepin County voters will have state and county offices on their ballot, as well as federal offices such as your US representative. Voters will also have candidates for municipal, school district, or judicial offices.

In this section we will explain some of the offices on the ballot so you can better understand what elected officials do.

State Offices

This year, Minnesotans will elect a Governor and Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and Attorney General. Many precincts will also elect candidates for State Senator and State Representative.

Governor: The chief executive of the state. They appoint heads of departments and agencies, propose state budgets and sign (approve) or veto (reject) legislation. They also appoint judges to fill vacancies and issue pardons, reprieves, and can restore rights to felons. *Partisan*

Lieutenant Governor: Assumes the governor's responsibilities in their absence or if there is a vacancy. They also perform other duties assigned by the governor. The lieutenant governor runs on the same ticket as the governor, so you will vote for them as a pair. *Partisan*

Secretary of State: Acts as the chief election official and oversees the enactment of election laws and training of county elections staff. They also certify official state documents and register businesses and nonprofit organizations. Additionally, they manage the Safe at Home program. *Partisan*

State Auditor: Oversees money spent by local governments and performs audits of their financial statements. *Partisan*

Attorney General: Provides legal services to state government, represents the state in court cases, enforces laws concerning charitable organizations and protects public rights. *Partisan*

County offices

All Hennepin County voters will be able to vote for County Sheriff, County Attorney, and County Park Commissioner. Some voters will vote for their County Commissioner this year.

County Commissioner: Approves the annual county budget, determines the county's tax levy, appoints the county administrator and authorizes personnel rules. They also work on long-range planning and capital improvements, authorize the use of state and federal grants, adopt county laws and fill early vacancies of county attorney and sheriff. *Nonpartisan*

County Sheriff: Executes all processes, writs, precepts, and orders issued or made by lawful authority. The county sheriff investigates recreational vehicle crashes involving personal injury or death that occur outside the boundaries of a municipality. They serve all papers, posts all notices named by law to be served or posted on behalf of the state or of the county, and maintain the charge and custody of the county jail. *Nonpartisan*

County Attorney: Provides legal services to the county. They prosecute felony crimes and all cases involving juvenile offenders, oversee juvenile diversion programs, and aid the victims and witnesses who play a vital role in the criminal justice system. The county attorney advises victims of their legal rights and the status of their case, start legal proceedings to protect the health and safety of vulnerable adults within the county, and bring actions to obtain or enforce child support obligations. *Nonpartisan*

County Park Commissioner: Seven members make up the Three Rivers Park District Commissioners, five of whom are elected from districts in suburban Hennepin County and two of whom are appointed by Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The park commissioners are responsible for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of large parks, wildlife sanctuaries, historical sites, forests and other reserves, and means for public access to lakes, rivers, and streams and to other natural phenomena for the benefit and the use of the citizens of suburban Hennepin County and the metropolitan area. *Nonpartisan*

Other offices that might be on your ballot

Federal

U.S. Representative: Your congressional representative is your voice in the federal government who is elected every two years. They work to introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees. They also have the power to impeach (formally charge) someone who holds public office and can provide constituent services that may aid in your ability to receive federal benefits or services. *Partisan*

State

State Senator: The state Senate is the “upper chamber” of the state’s legislative branch. Senators propose, debate and vote on legislation. They are involved in the state budget process. *Partisan*

State Representative: The state House is the “lower chamber” of the state’s legislative branch. Representatives propose, debate, and vote on legislation. They are involved in the state budget process. *Partisan*

City

Mayor: A mayor is often the chief executive of a city (although this varies by municipality). They often make appointments to city offices and preside at council meetings. Mayors are usually involved in proposing a city budget and can veto ordinances proposed by the council. *Nonpartisan*

City Council: Members of a city council typically serve as the legislative “branch” of city government (although this varies by municipality, as they may also have executive power). Council members can propose ordinances, set administrative policy, and pass budgets proposed by the mayor. Mayoral appointments to city government typically require council approval. *Nonpartisan*

School District

School Board Member: Creates school policies, hires a superintendent to provide educational leadership for the district and sets levies to fund the district. *Nonpartisan*

Being an informed voter

Before going to vote, it's important to do research on whom you will vote for and know what questions will be on your ballot. To see what will be on your ballot, visit myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/

Here are some resources to help find more information on candidates, offices or questions on the ballot:

- Visit mnvotes.org to get the candidates' contact information, including candidates' websites, emails, and phone numbers. You can contact candidates with questions you have about issues important to you
 - On mnvotes.org you can also get the contact information for Minnesota's major and minor political parties
- Check out the candidate's website and social media platforms
- Candidate speeches and debates
- Press reports from newspapers, television, and radio
- Voting records (if the candidate is up for re-election)
- Endorsements (public support of a candidate)
- League of Women Voters: lwvmn.org
- Ballotpedia: [Ballotpedia.org](https://ballotpedia.org)
- County offices: Visit hennepin.us to review county board actions and meeting information
- City offices: Go to the city's website and review any information available from their meetings
- School board: Visit your school district's website and review any information available from their meetings
- Judgeship: To learn about candidates for judge, use the Minnesota State Bar Association's Judicial Candidate Info page <https://msbawebtest.mnbar.org/public-resources/judicial-candidate-information>

Marking your ballot

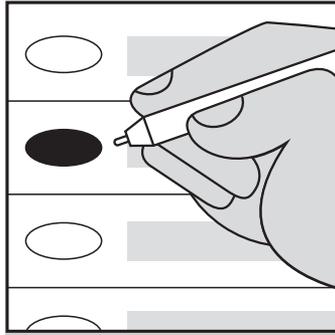
Once you get your ballot, it is time to fill it out.

Marking a paper ballot

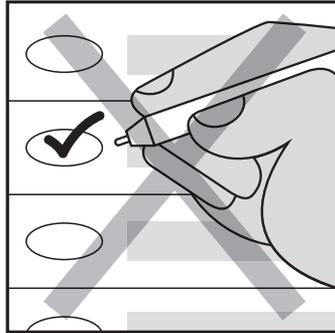
Voting with a paper ballot and pen is the most common way to vote.

- Vote with a pen and completely fill in the oval next to each of your choices.

Yes



No





Marking on a ballot marking device

- Voters can choose to use a ballot marking device.
- The ballot marking device has many accessibility options for marking your ballot, such as large print, spoken instructions, Braille keypad or touchscreen. The machine will print out your marked ballot.

Remember

- Your vote is secret and you have the right to privacy
- You can bring someone to assist you in voting or ask an election judge for help
- If you make a mistake, do not hesitate to ask an election official for a new ballot



Civic engagement

Civic engagement doesn't end at the polls! There are many ways to stay civically engaged all year. Here are some ways you can stay involved in addition to voting:

- Be an election judge or student election judge
- Help others in your community with registering to vote and finding their polling place
- Join an election campaign
- Know who your elected officials are and connect with them. They are here to serve you!
- Join your city's boards or commissions
- Attend city and county meetings
- Get involved in your local neighborhood association
- Volunteer with an organization or political party that does work you care about
- Run for office!
- Follow us on Facebook or Twitter @HennepinCountyElections
- Share this guide with friends, family, and neighbors!

Hennepin County Elections

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www.hennepin.us/elections

