



**CASTING YOUR VOTE
DURING A PANDEMIC**

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA



Casting Your Vote During a Pandemic

Don't let the COVID-19 pandemic keep you from your right to vote this election season. In Minnesota, most people can vote without ever leaving their home. Here's how:

Register to Vote (or check your registration status)

- Click [here](#) to register to vote or update your voter registration.
- You will need an email address and your **Minnesota driver's license** or **Minnesota identification card number**. If you don't have one of these, you may use the last four numbers of your Social Security number. If you don't have either of these, use a [paper application](#).

Request an Absentee Ballot

- Eligible Minnesota voters can get an absentee ballot for **any** reason. People can apply for a ballot **anytime** before Election Day (but be mindful of election dates).
- Click [here](#) to request your absentee ballot (it takes less than 5 minutes!).

Which Elections Can You Request Absentee Ballots For?

- Voters can request ballots for both the August 11th, 2020 primary and the November 3rd, 2020 general election.

What Do They Ask For When Requesting An Absentee Ballot?

- The form asks for a voter's name, birthday, address, phone number and identifying information, such as the last four digits of their social security number or driver's license (there are other options for people who don't have these)

Is There A Deadline For Requesting An Absentee Ballot?

- There's lots of time before November, but for those wanting to vote by mail for the August 11 primary, ballots should be requested **as soon as possible**.

How Do I Fill Out An Absentee Ballot?

- Filling out an absentee ballot is just like filling out a regular ballot!
- In partisan races, voters can only vote in one party's contests (Example: a ballot would be thrown out if it had a vote in a Republican congressional primary and a DFL state House race).
- A list of what's on the ballot, based on location, can be found [here](#).
- Due to an agreement made by the Secretary of State after a legal challenge to the rule, absentee ballots cast in the August primary do not require a witness (There is no confirmation whether or not this will apply to the November general election as well).
- Instead of requiring a witness, voters are required to provide the same last four social security digits or driver's license number they provided in their application.



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How Do I Submit My Absentee Ballot?

- Once a ballot is complete, it just needs to go in its envelope and back in the mail.
 - For the August primary, ballots just need to be postmarked by Election Day (**August 11**), and arrive at election offices no later than two days after the election — by Thursday, August 13.
 - The rules for the primary this year say that **ballots only have to be postmarked by Election Day** and received no later than two days after that. So full election results won't be known until after all those late votes have been counted. That could make a difference, especially in a very close race.
- There's also the option to drop an absentee ballot off in person at an election center, whether it's city hall, the county court house or a voting center.
 - Absentee ballots cannot be dropped off at polling places on Election Day.
 - Specific information on voting centers can be found at [here](#).

What If I Change My Mind About My Vote After I Send It In?

- If new information comes out about a candidate that would lead a voter to want to change their vote after mailing their ballot in, that is known as “clawing back” a ballot.
- To do so, a voter must contact the elections office (city or county) that sent the ballot, and ask that their ballot be canceled.
 - At this point, a vote can be re-cast in one of three ways:
 1. Requesting a new absentee ballot.
 2. In-person at the local election office.
 3. At a traditional polling place on the day of the election.
- For both the August primary and the November general this year, voters can claw back their ballots until 14 days before the election — July 28.