



Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Mark Ritchie

www.sos.state.mn.us • @MNSecofState

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2014

CONTACT:

Nathan Bowie (651) 297-8919

Nearly 200,000 Absentee Ballots Requested To-Date for General Election

In-Person Absentee Voting Recommended as Election Day Nears

SAINT PAUL, Minnesota — The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State reports 197,167 absentee ballots have been distributed to voters for the November 4 General Election, of which 125,358 have been returned to and accepted by election officials — nearly 56,000 in the past week alone.

The 125,358 accepted absentee ballots to-date is a 61 percent increase compared to 77,677 at this time in 2010. There were 183,495 accepted absentee ballots at this time in 2012.

[View the number of requested and accepted absentee ballots by county.](#)

Want to Vote Absentee? Election Officials Recommend to Vote Absentee In Person

With Election Day five days away, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State recommends that voters who want to vote early with an absentee ballot do so in person at their city or county elections office. In-person absentee voting is available through 5 p.m., Monday, November 3 — including 10 a.m.–3 p.m. hours on Saturday, November 1. Voters are encouraged to contact their local elections office to see if they are offering additional in-person voting hours.

Returning Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots must be returned to local elections offices by Election Day, November 4. Absentee ballots may be personally delivered by the voter to their elections office on or before November 3. Absentee ballots can also be returned to the elections office by someone else on the voter's behalf before 3 p.m. on Election Day. In addition, voters in special circumstances may have someone else both pick up and return their ballot — this is called [agent delivery](#).

Track Absentee Ballot Status at mnvotes.org

Voters who have applied for and/or returned their absentee ballot are encouraged to use the "[Absentee Ballot Lookup](#)" tool at mnvotes.org to track the status of their ballot to learn when their ballot was mailed, and if it was received and accepted. Voters who do not see a record of their absentee ballot in the online lookup tool are encouraged contact their county elections office.

Voters Who Did Not Return Absentee Ballot May Still Vote Absentee In Person or on Election Day

Voters who applied for and/or received an absentee ballot but never returned it, may still vote absentee in person at their county or city elections office, or vote on Election Day at their polling place. Most polling places will be open 7 a.m.–8 p.m., Tuesday, November 4.

Non-Registered Voters Can Vote Absentee

Eligible voters who are not registered to vote can vote absentee — a registration application is provided with the ballot materials. Voters should bring one of many [approved proofs of residence when voting absentee in person](#).

—MORE—

No Excuse Absentee Voting in Minnesota

Minnesota voters do not need an excuse to vote absentee, such as being ill or out of the precinct.

Get Ready to Vote at mnvotes.org

Minnesota voters are encouraged to get ready to vote for the November 4 General Election by visiting mnvotes.org to track absentee ballot status, check registration status, view sample ballot, find polling place, learn how to register at their polling place, and more.

2014 Is a Significant Election Year

On November 4, Minnesota voters will head to the polls to decide a U.S. Senate seat, all of Minnesota's eight U.S. House seats, as well as governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, and all Minnesota State House seats. The 2014 election will also include many county commissioners, county sheriffs, county attorneys, auditors, treasurers and recorders.

Voters may [sign up to receive election-related email updates](#).

About the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the chief election official in Minnesota and is responsible for the administration of the state's election law. In this capacity, the office operates the Statewide Voter Registration System and prepares the official roster of voters for every election. The office also accepts filings by candidates, trains local election officials, and conducts voter education and outreach programs.

The Secretary of State is the keeper of the Great Seal of Minnesota and has the role of certifying the authenticity of a wide variety of official documents, including proclamations and executive orders.

A main function of the office is the review, approval and filing of articles of incorporation and amendments for all businesses and nonprofit organizations conducting business in Minnesota. The Secretary of State also processes all notary public applications; serves as the state's central filing system for lien information related to the Uniform Commercial Code; and administers Safe at Home, an address confidentiality program designed to assist Minnesotans who fear for their safety.

Recent News from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

- [Electronic Pollbooks to Be Evaluated at Precincts Across State on Election Day \(Oct. 29\)](#)
- [New Series of Digital Video Shorts Highlights Online Voter Tools at \[mnvotes.org\]\(http://mnvotes.org\) \(Oct. 28\)](#)
- [More than 150,000 Absentee Ballots Requested To-Date for General Election \(Oct. 23\)](#)
- [Absentee Voters Encouraged to Use "Absentee Ballot Lookup" at \[mnvotes.org\]\(http://mnvotes.org\) to Track Ballot Status \(Oct. 20\)](#)
- [More than 28,000 Voters Registered Online at \[mnvotes.org\]\(http://mnvotes.org\) \(Oct. 17\)](#)

#mnvotes