

# Minnesota Early Voting Mutual Aid Guide

Voting should not be hard. No one should miss an election because they need a ride, cannot print a form, need language help, are elderly, are disabled, are sick, or do not know where to start.

In Minnesota, you can vote before Election Day by mail or in person. You can also ask for help voting. Your vote is still yours. No one helping you should pressure you, ask to see your ballot, tell you who to vote for, or tell anyone how you voted.

## To Voters and Mutual Aid Community Members

You do not have to vote alone. You can vote early. You can vote by mail. You can ask for help. You can get a ride. You can use language support. You can use disability access. You can vote if you are elderly, disabled, sick, busy, working, caring for family, or unsure where to start.

Mutual aid means we help each other overcome the barriers that keep people from voting.

Your vote belongs to you. Help is allowed. Pressure is not.

## Key dates

### Primary Election

- **June 26, 2026**  
You can start voting before Election Day by mail or in person.
- **July 21, 2026**  
Register by this day to save time. You can still register later, including on Election Day, if you bring proof of where you live.
- **August 10, 2026**  
Last day to vote early in person for the primary.
- **August 11, 2026**  
Primary Election Day. Ballots must be received by Election Day.

## General Election

- **September 18, 2026**  
You can start voting before Election Day by mail or in person.
- **October 13, 2026**  
Register by this day to save time. You can still register on Election Day if you bring proof of where you live.
- **November 2, 2026**  
Last day to vote early in person for the general election.
- **November 3, 2026**  
Election Day. Ballots must be received by Election Day.

## How we can help each other vote

### Give people rides

Some people cannot easily get to an early voting site, election office, or polling place. Offer rides to neighbors, elders, disabled people, students, people without cars, and anyone who asks.

Rides should be free, respectful, and no-pressure. Do not ask someone who they are voting for. Do not tell them how to vote. Just help them get there and back safely.

A good script:

“I’m helping people get to vote. I won’t ask who you’re voting for. I can help you find your voting location, make a ride plan, and get there safely.”

### Help people make a voting plan

Sit down with someone and help them answer:

- Am I registered at my current address?
- Do I want to vote by mail, vote early in person, or vote on Election Day?
- Where do I vote?
- Do I need proof of residence?
- Do I need a ride?
- Do I need language help?
- Do I need disability access?
- Do I need help reading, marking, or returning my ballot?

A plan made early prevents panic later.

## **Help print forms and voter information**

Many people do not have a printer. Mutual aid can help by printing:

- Absentee ballot applications
- Large-print absentee ballot applications
- Voter registration forms
- Proof-of-residence information
- “How to Vote” factsheets
- Language-access materials
- Local early voting hours and locations

Do not say you are printing absentee ballots. In most cases, voters request an absentee ballot from election officials. What volunteers can safely help print are applications, instructions, and voter information.

## **Help people request a mail ballot**

Any Minnesota voter can apply to vote by mail. Help people find the absentee ballot application, fill it out, and send it to the correct county election office.

Respect privacy. Do not keep someone’s personal information. Do not take photos of their forms. Do not fill out anything they do not understand or agree to.

## **Help with ballot return**

If someone votes by mail, help them return the ballot early. A ballot must be received by Election Day. A postmark is not enough.

A voter can return their own ballot to the election office that sent it. Someone else may also drop off ballots for up to three other voters, but they must show identification with their name and signature.

Do not bring an absentee ballot to a regular polling place on Election Day. Return it to the election office that sent it.

## **Help elderly and disabled voters**

Elderly and disabled voters have the right to vote. People do not lose the right to vote just because they are elderly, disabled, have memory loss, have a guardian, live in a care setting, or need help.

Offer help with:

- Reading voting instructions
- Finding accessible voting options
- Calling the county election office
- Requesting an accessible absentee ballot
- Getting a ride
- Finding curbside voting
- Returning a ballot
- Understanding deadlines

If a voter needs help marking a ballot, the helper must follow the voter's choices. The helper must not influence the vote or share how the person voted.

## **Help people use agent delivery when they qualify**

Some voters may qualify for agent delivery. This means someone they know can pick up and return an absentee ballot for them.

This may apply if the voter lives in a nursing home, assisted living facility, residential treatment center, group home, or shelter; is hospitalized; or has difficulty going to the polling place because of a disability or serious health reason.

Agent delivery has rules. The agent must be at least 18, have a pre-existing relationship with the voter, cannot be a candidate, and cannot serve as agent for more than three voters in an election.

## **Provide water, snacks, chairs, and weather support**

Voting should not be an endurance test. Mutual aid can help by offering:

- Water
- Snacks
- Hand warmers
- Umbrellas
- Chairs
- Masks
- Phone chargers

- Rides home
- Help finding bathrooms
- Help checking wait times

Do this carefully. Do not campaign while offering support. Do not wear campaign gear. Do not pressure voters. Do not block entrances. Do not linger inside or too close to a polling place. Follow election rules and listen to election workers. There are specific rules for how close you can be to a polling station. There are specific rules for what is considered campaigning. Look up the rules for your area.

## **Help with language access**

Voting instructions are available in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali at polling places for state elections. Some areas may have more translated materials or interpreter help.

Mutual aid can help by:

- Sharing translated voting materials
- Helping voters call election offices
- Helping voters find language-access resources
- Connecting voters with trusted interpreters
- Making sure people know they can ask for help

Language help should never become pressure. The voter decides. The helper supports.

## **What helpers must never do**

Helpers should never:

- Tell someone who to vote for while helping them vote
- Ask to see a completed ballot
- Change or mark a ballot against the voter's wishes
- Keep someone's personal information
- Pressure someone in a car, at home, or near a polling place
- Campaign inside or near a polling place
- Block access to a voting location

- Return more ballots than allowed
- Give legal advice they are not qualified to give

## **Register to vote online**

[Register to vote \(English\)](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/register-to-vote) — [sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/register-to-vote](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/register-to-vote)

[Register to vote \(Spanish\)](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/spanish) — [sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/spanish](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/spanish)

[Register to vote \(Somali\)](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/somali) — [sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/somali](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/somali)

[Register to vote \(Hmong\)](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/hmong) — [sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/hmong](https://sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/hmong)