

CHAPTER 8250
SECRETARY OF STATE
WHITE BALLOTS

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PREPARING WHITE BALLOT

8250.0100 DEFINITION OF WHITE BALLOT.

The "white ballot" is the ballot used at general elections and is the paper ballot on which are printed the names of the candidates nominated for the offices of senator and representative in congress, senator and representative in the legislature, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, and attorney general.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.35; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57 subd 1*

History: *8 SR 1348*

8250.0200 AUDITOR'S DUTIES.

The white ballot shall be prepared under the direction of the county auditors in a sufficient number to enable the clerks to comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.29. The county auditors shall prepare and print the white ballot as soon as practicable, but in no event less than 30 days before the election. Two weeks before the general election the auditor shall file sample copies of the white ballot in the auditor's office for public inspection. Ballots for distribution in the polling place must be bound in pads of 50.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57*

History: *8 SR 1348; 10 SR 1690*

8250.0300 FORM OF BALLOTS.

The white ballot shall be printed with black ink on white paper as close as practicable to 30 pound. The ballot shall be 5-1/4 inches wide and printed so as to be easily legible, with suitable lines for divisions between candidates, offices, instructions, and other matter proper to be printed on the ballot. The auditor shall prepare the ballots in such a manner as to enable the voter to understand what candidates have been nominated and how many are to be elected to each office and to designate his choice easily and accurately.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

8250.0400 TOP OF BALLOT.

At the top of the white ballot shall be printed in upper and lowercase letters the words "Put an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for." On the left side of the words and directly above the squares in which a voter marks his choices shall be printed a small arrow pointing downward.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

8250.0500 BALLOT HEADING.

Below the marking instructions on the white ballot shall be printed the words "STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT" in uppercase letters.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

8250.0600 WHITE BALLOTS

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8250.0600 OFFICES.

The offices must appear on the white ballot in the following order and must be identified as follows in upper case letters:

- “UNITED STATES SENATOR”
- “UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE”
- “STATE SENATOR”
- “STATE REPRESENTATIVE”
- “GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR”
- “SECRETARY OF STATE”
- “STATE AUDITOR”
- “STATE TREASURER”
- “ATTORNEY GENERAL”

“United States” may be abbreviated as “U.S.” If an office is not to be filled at a general election, the office must not appear on the ballot. Directly underneath the titles of the offices of United States representative and state senator and representative must be printed in upper case letters or numbers the district (e.g. “SIXTH DISTRICT,” “DISTRICT SIX,” or “DISTRICT 6”) that the person elected will represent. A single vote must be cast for governor and lieutenant governor.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57*

History: *8 SR 1348; 10 SR 1690*

8250.0700 NUMBER OF CANDIDATES.

Directly underneath the title and identification of each office shall be printed in uppercase letters the words “VOTE FOR ONE” or more, according to the number to be elected.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

8250.0800 NAMES OF CANDIDATES.

The full name of each candidate shall be printed in uppercase letters and at right angles to the length of the white ballot. At least 32 days before a general election, the secretary of state shall certify to each county auditor the nominations that are required by law to be certified by the secretary and that are required by law to appear on the ballot in the county. Below the name of the last candidate for each office shall be placed as many blank lines as there are offices of that kind to be filled, and on the blank lines the voter may write the names of persons not printed on the ballot for whom he desires to vote. When no person has filed for an office to be filled, the title and identification of the office shall be printed on the ballot with as many blank lines below as there are offices to be filled; the voter's choice may be written in the blanks. On the left side of the ballot and on a line with the names of the candidates and the blank lines, there shall be placed squares, each square to be of the same size, in which the voter may designate his choice by a mark (X). The name of a candidate may not appear on a ballot in any way which gives the candidate an advantage over an opponent except as provided by law.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

8250.0900 DESIGNATION OF CANDIDATE.

Above or below the name of each candidate for a partisan office must appear in upper and lower case letters the designation in not more than three words of the party or principle the candidate represents. Words used in the name of a political party as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 6, may not be used to identify the party of a candidate of any other party. The word “nonpartisan” may not be used in the designation of any candidate.

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WHITE BALLOTS 8250.1400

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.35; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57 subd 1*

History: 8 SR 1348

8250.1000 ORDER OF CANDIDATES.

Before a general election, the secretary of state shall certify to the county auditors the order in which the names of the candidates representing the political parties as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 6, must appear for every partisan office on the white ballot. Candidates nominated by petition must appear on the ballot beneath the names of the candidates of the political parties as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 6, and in the order in which the petitions were filed with the filing officer.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.35; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57 subd 1*

History: 8 SR 1348

8250.1100 BACK OF BALLOT.

On the back of the white ballot shall be printed the words "OFFICIAL BALLOT," the date of the election, and lines for the initials of two judges. The printing shall be so placed as to be visible when the ballot is properly folded for deposit.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

8250.1200 TYPE STYLES AND SIZES.

The words "Put an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for" must be printed in upper and lower case in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The words "STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT" must be printed in upper case in as close to 18-point Franklin Gothic type as practicable.

The office and its identification must be printed in upper case in as close to 10-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The words "VOTE FOR ONE" must be printed in upper case in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The names of the candidates must be printed in upper case in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The party designation or political principle must be printed in upper and lower case in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The words "OFFICIAL BALLOT" on the back of the ballot must be printed in upper case in as close to 18-point Cheltenham Bold as practicable, the date in upper case in as close to 8-point Antique as practicable, and the word "Judge" in upper and lower case in as close to 10-point Caslon Old Face Italic as practicable.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.35; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57 subd 1*

History: 8 SR 1348

8250.1300 [Repealed, 8 SR 1348]

8250.1400 EXAMPLE BALLOT.

At least 32 days before a general election, the secretary of state shall supply each auditor with a copy of an example ballot. The secretary of state shall have printed on the ballot the names of all candidates for all statewide offices appearing on the white ballot. The state white ballot shall conform in all respects to the example ballot.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.35; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57 subd 1*

History: 8 SR 1348

8250.1500 WHITE BALLOT APPROPRIATION.

Following every state general election, the secretary of state shall calculate and pay to each county its proportionate share of the money appropriated by the state for white ballot costs. Proportionate shares must be based on the number of voters at the election as certified on the county abstract and the total number of congressional, state senate, and state house districts in the county. The amount to be paid per voter must be 80 percent of the money appropriated divided by the total number of persons voting at the election as certified on the state canvassing board report. The amount to be paid per district shall be 20 percent of the money appropriated divided by the aggregate of districts in all counties. No funds may be disbursed to any county until after the county auditor has certified to the secretary of state that the white ballots were printed as prescribed by Minnesota Statutes and parts 8250.0100 to 8250.1400 and that the summary statement and abstract prepared by the county conformed to the forms prescribed by the secretary of state pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.26, subdivision 3.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 201.221; 203B.09; 204C.35; 204C.361; 204D.11; 206.57 subd 1*

History: *8 SR 1348*