

January 28, 2026

VIA EFILING ONLY

Nicole Freeman
Director of Government Relations
Minnesota Secretary of State's Office
332 Minnesota St, Ste N201
Saint Paul, MN 55101
nicole.freeman@state.mn.us

VIA EFILING ONLY

Lauren Bethke
Justin R. Erickson
Secretary of State's Office
Veterans Service Bldg Ste 210
20 W 12th St
Saint Paul, MN 55155
lauren.bethke@state.mn.us
justin.erickson@state.mn.us

**Re: In the Matter of the Possible Amendments to Rules Governing Election Administration, Voter Registration, Petitions, Absentee Ballots, Presidential Nomination Primary, Voting System Testing, Optical Scan Voting Systems, Recounts, Election Judge Training Program, Ballot Preparation, and Redistricting, Minnesota Rules, Chapters 8200, 8205, 8210, 8215, 8220, 8230, 8235, 8240, 8250, and 8255
CAH 8-9019-39440; Revisor R-4824**

Dear Nicole Freeman, Lauren Bethke and Justin Erickson:

Enclosed herewith and served upon you is the **ORDER APPROVING RULE MODIFICATION** in the above-entitled matter. Review of such a modification is governed by Minn. Stat. § 14.16 (2024) and Minn. R. 1400.2240, subp. 5 (2025). The Chief Administrative Law Judge has determined the rule modification does not make the rule substantially different under Minn. Stat. § 14.05, subd. 2.

The Court of Administrative Hearings has closed this file and is returning the rule record so that the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office can maintain the official rulemaking record in this matter as required by Minn. Stat. § 14.365. Please ensure that the agency's signed order adopting the rules is filed with our Court. The Court of Administrative Hearings will request copies of the finalized rules from the Revisor's office following receipt of that order. Our Court will then file the adopted rules with the Secretary of State, who will forward one copy to the Revisor of Statutes, one copy to the Governor, and one to the agency for its rulemaking record. The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State will then receive from the Revisor's office three copies of the Notice of Adoption of the rules.

January 28, 2026

Page 2

The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State's next step is to arrange for publication of the Notice of Adoption in the State Register. Two copies of the Notice of Adoption provided by the Revisor's office should be submitted to the State Register for publication. A permanent rule does not become effective until five working days after a Notice of Adoption is published in the State Register in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 14.18.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact William Moore at (651) 361-7893, william.t.moore@state.mn.us or via facsimile at (651) 539-0310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Hunter".

CARA HUNTER
Legal Assistant

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Coordinating Commission
Revisor of Statutes

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COURT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Proposed Permanent
Rules Relating to Election Administration,
Minnesota Rules, 8200-8250

**ORDER APPROVING RULE
MODIFICATION**

This matter is pending before Chief Administrative Law Judge Jessica A. Palmer-Denig upon a request from the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office for review and approval of a modification of the above-entitled rules. Review of such a modification is governed by Minn. Stat. § 14.16 (2024) and Minn. R. 1400.2240, subp. 5 (2025).

The rules were approved by Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman on December 8, 2025. The Secretary of State's Office subsequently determined it would modify the rules to add an effective date of June 1, 2026, to allow local election officials time to prepare new forms incorporating the new rules and so as not to interfere with the orderly process for local special elections that will be happening before that date. The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office submitted its request for approval of this rule modification on January 16, 2026, and after it further supplemented its filing, the record became complete on January 26, 2026.

Under Minn. Stat. § 14.16 and Minn. R. 1400.2240, subp. 5, the Chief Administrative Law Judge must review the legality of the proposed modification and determine whether the proposed modification makes the rule substantially different according to Minn. Stat. § 14.05, subd. 2 (2024).


Based upon the submissions and rulemaking record, the Chief Administrative Law Judge issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office has the statutory authority to adopt the rules as modified.
2. The rules as modified were adopted in compliance with all procedural requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14, and Minnesota Rules, chapter 1400 (2025).
3. The rule modification identified by the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office does not make the rules substantially different under Minn. Stat. § 14.05, subd. 2.

4. The modification as to the effective date of the rules is **APPROVED**. All other parts of the rule were approved for legality under the terms of the Report of the Administrative Law Judge dated December 8, 2025.

Dated: January 28, 2026


JESSICA A. PALMER-DENIG
Chief Administrative Law Judge