

CHAPTER 209

ELECTION CONTESTS

209.02 Contestant; grounds.
209.021 Notice of contest.

209.09 Appeals.

209.02 CONTESTANT; GROUNDS.

Subdivision 1. Any eligible voter, including a candidate, may contest in the manner provided in this chapter: (1) the nomination or election of any person for whom the voter had the right to vote if that person is declared nominated or elected to the senate or the house of representatives of the United States, or to a statewide, county, legislative, municipal, school, or district court office; or (2) the declared result of a constitutional amendment or other question voted upon at an election. The contest may be brought over an irregularity in the conduct of an election or canvass of votes, over the question of who received the largest number of votes legally cast, or on the grounds of deliberate, serious, and material violations of the Minnesota election law.

History: 1987 c 266 art 1 s 64

NOTE: This section, as amended by Laws 1987, chapter 266, article 1, section 64, is effective July 1, 1988. See Laws 1987, chapter 266, article 1, section 69.

209.021 NOTICE OF CONTEST.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 3. **Notice served on parties.** In all contests relating to the nomination or election of a candidate, the notice of contest must be served on the candidate who is the contestee, a copy of the notice must be sent to the contestee's last known address by certified mail, and a copy must be furnished to the official authorized to issue the certificate of election. If personal or substituted service on the contestee cannot be made, an affidavit of the attempt by the person attempting to make service and the affidavit of the person who sent a copy of the notice to the contestee by certified mail is sufficient to confer jurisdiction upon the court to decide the contest.

If the contest relates to a constitutional amendment or other question voted on statewide or voted on in more than one county, notice of contest must be served on the secretary of state, who is the contestee. If a contest relates to a question voted on within only one county, school district, or municipality, a copy of the notice of contest must be served on the county auditor, clerk of the school district, or municipal clerk, respectively, who is the contestee. If the contest is upon the question of consolidation or reorganization of a school district, a copy of the notice of contest must be served on the county auditor authorized by law to issue the order.

History: 1987 c 175 s 16; 1987 c 266 art 1 s 65

NOTE: Subdivision 3, as amended by Laws 1987, chapter 266, article 1, section 65, is effective July 1, 1988. See Laws 1987, chapter 266, article 1, section 69.

209.09 APPEALS.

Subdivision 1. **Most contests.** If the decision of the district court in any contest under this chapter is appealed, the appellant shall file in the district court a bond of \$500 for the payment of all costs incurred by the respondent if appellant fails on the appeal. Except for a statewide contest or a state legislative contest, the notice of appeal must be served and filed in the court of appeals in the case of a general election no later than ten days and, in the case of a primary, no later than five days after the entry of the district court's decision in the contest. The record on appeal must be made, certified, and filed in the court of appeals within 15 days after service of notice of appeal. The appeal may be brought on for hearing in the court at any time, upon notice from either party, as the court determines; and may be heard and determined summarily by the court.

Subd. 2. **Statewide offices and questions.** Section 209.10, subdivision 4, applies to a contest regarding a statewide office, a constitutional amendment, or other question voted on statewide. A copy of the supreme court's decision must be forwarded to the contestant and the contestee.

History: 1987 c 200 s 1