

CHAPTER 204B

ELECTIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

204B.09 Time and place of filing affidavits and petitions.

204B.27 Duties of secretary of state.

204B.40 Ballots; election records and other materials; disposition; inspection of ballots.

204B.46 Mail elections; questions.

204B.09 TIME AND PLACE OF FILING AFFIDAVITS AND PETITIONS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 1a. **Absent candidates.** A candidate for county, state, or federal office who will be absent from the state during the filing period may submit a properly executed affidavit of candidacy, the appropriate filing fee, and any necessary petitions in person to the filing officer. The candidate shall state in writing the reason for being unable to submit the affidavit during the filing period. The affidavit, filing fee, and petitions must be submitted to the filing officer during the seven days immediately preceding the candidate's absence from the state. Nominating petitions may be signed during the 14 days immediately preceding the date when the affidavit of candidacy is filed.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1988]

History: 1989 c 291 art 1 s 8

204B.27 DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

[For text of subs 1 to 5, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 6. **Voter participation.** The secretary of state may sponsor or participate in nonpartisan activities to promote voter participation in Minnesota elections and in efforts to increase voter registration and voter turnout.

History: 1989 c 291 art 1 s 9

204B.40 BALLOTS; ELECTION RECORDS AND OTHER MATERIALS; DISPOSITION; INSPECTION OF BALLOTS.

The county auditors and municipal clerks shall retain all election materials returned to them after any election for at least one year from the date of that election. All election materials involved in a contested election shall be retained for one year or until the contest has been finally determined, whichever is later. Abstracts filed by canvassing boards shall be retained permanently by any officer with whom those abstracts are filed. Election materials no longer required to be retained pursuant to this section shall be disposed of in accordance with sections 138.163 to 138.21. Sealed envelopes containing voted ballots must be retained unopened, except as provided in this section, in a secure location. The county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk shall not permit any voted ballots to be tampered with or defaced.

After the time for filing a notice of contest for an election has passed, the secretary of state may open the sealed ballot envelopes and inspect the ballots for that election maintained by the county auditors, municipal clerks, or school district clerks for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating election procedures. No inspected ballot may be marked or identified in any manner. After inspection, all ballots must be returned to the ballot envelope and the ballot envelope must be securely resealed.

History: 1989 c 291 art 1 s 10

204B.46 MAIL ELECTIONS; QUESTIONS.

A county, municipality, or school district submitting questions to the voters at a special election may apply to the county auditor for approval of an election by mail with

no polling place other than the office of the auditor or clerk. No more than two questions may be submitted at a mail election and no offices may be voted on. Notice of the election and the special mail procedure must be given at least six weeks prior to the election. No earlier than 20 or later than 18 days prior to the election, the auditor or clerk shall mail ballots by nonforwardable mail to all voters registered in the county, municipality, or school district. Eligible voters not registered at the time the ballots are mailed may apply for ballots pursuant to chapter 203B.

History: 1989 c 291 art 1 s 11