

CHAPTER 204B

ELECTIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

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204B.06 FILING FOR PRIMARY; AFFIDAVIT OF CANDIDACY.

[For text of subds 1 to 2, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. **Particular offices.** Candidates who seek nomination for the following offices shall state the following additional information on the affidavit:

(a) for United States senator, that the candidate will be 30 years of age or older and a citizen of the United States for not less than nine years on the next January 3 or, in the case of an election to fill a vacancy, within 21 days after the special election;

(b) for United States representative, that the candidate will be 25 years of age or older and a citizen of the United States for not less than seven years on the next January 3 or, in the case of an election to fill a vacancy, within 21 days after the special election;

(c) for governor or lieutenant governor, that on the first Monday of the next January the candidate will be 25 years of age or older and, on the day of the state general election, a resident of Minnesota for not less than one year;

(d) for supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, or district court judge, that the candidate is learned in the law;

(e) for county, municipal, school district, or special district office, that the candidate meets any other qualifications for that office prescribed by law;

(f) for senator or representative in the legislature, that on the day of the general or special election to fill the office the candidate will have resided not less than one year in the state and not less than six months in the legislative district from which the candidate seeks election.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 6. **Judicial candidates; designation of term.** An individual who files as a candidate for the office of chief justice or associate justice of the supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, or judge of the district court shall state in the affidavit of candidacy the office of the particular justice or judge for which the individual is a candidate. The individual shall be a candidate only for the office identified in the affidavit. Each justice of the supreme court and each court of appeals and district court judge is deemed to hold a separate nonpartisan office.

[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 223 s 7,8

204B.10 AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY; NOMINATING PETITIONS; DUTIES OF ELECTION OFFICIALS.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 6. **Ineligible voter.** Upon receipt of a certified copy of a final judgment or order of a court of competent jurisdiction that a person who has filed an affidavit of candidacy or who has been nominated by petition:

(1) has been convicted of treason or a felony and the person's civil rights have not been restored;

(2) is under guardianship of the person; or

(3) has been found by a court of law to be legally incompetent;

the filing officer shall notify the person by certified mail at the address shown on the affidavit or petition, and shall not certify the person's name to be placed on the ballot. The actions of a filing officer under this subdivision are subject to judicial review under section 204B.44.

History: 1993 c 364 s 1

204B.14 ELECTION PRECINCTS.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. Boundary change procedure. Any change in the boundary of an election precinct shall be adopted at least 90 days before the date of the next election and shall not take effect until notice of the change has been posted in the office of the municipal clerk or county auditor for at least 60 days.

The county auditor must publish a notice illustrating or describing the congressional, legislative, and county commissioner district boundaries in the county in one or more qualified newspapers in the county at least 14 days prior to the first day to file affidavits of candidacy for the state general election in the year ending in two.

Alternate dates for adopting changes in precinct boundaries, posting notices of boundary changes, and notifying voters affected by boundary changes pursuant to this subdivision may be established in the manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state.

Subd. 5. Precinct boundaries; description; maps. When a precinct boundary has been changed, the municipal clerk shall immediately notify the secretary of state. Upon receipt of this notice or a notice of annexation from the Minnesota municipal board, the secretary of state shall provide the municipal clerk with a base map on which the clerk shall note the boundary change. The clerk shall return the corrected base map to the secretary of state within 30 days after the boundary change was made. The secretary of state shall update the precinct boundary database, prepare a corrected precinct map, and provide the corrected precinct map to the county auditor and the municipal clerk who shall make them available for public inspection. The county auditor shall prepare and file precinct boundary maps for precincts in unorganized territories, and the municipal clerk designated in the combination agreement shall prepare and file precinct boundary maps in the case of municipalities combined for election purposes under subdivision 8, in the same manner as provided for precincts in municipalities. For every election held in the municipality the election judges shall be furnished precinct maps as provided in section 201.061, subdivision 6. If a municipality changes the boundary of an election precinct, the county auditor shall notify each school district with territory affected by the boundary change at least 30 days before the effective date of the change.

Subd. 6. Precinct boundaries to follow physical features. The boundaries of election precincts shall follow visible, clearly recognizable physical features. If it is not possible to establish the boundary between any two adjacent precincts along such features, the boundary around the two precincts combined shall be established in the manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state to comply with the provisions of this subdivision. The maps required by subdivision 5 shall clearly indicate which boundaries do not follow visible, clearly recognizable physical features.

For the purposes of this subdivision, "visible, clearly recognizable physical feature" means a street, road, boulevard, parkway, river, stream, shoreline, drainage ditch, railway right-of-way, or any other line which is clearly visible from the ground. A street or other roadway which has been platted but not graded is not a visible, clearly recognizable physical feature for the purposes of this subdivision.

If the secretary of state determines that a precinct boundary does not comply with this subdivision, the secretary of state shall send a notice to the county auditor or municipal clerk specifying the action needed to correct the precinct boundary. If, after

60 days, the county or municipal governing body has not taken action to correct the precinct boundary, the secretary of state shall correct the precinct boundary and notify the county auditor or municipal clerk of the action taken.

If a visible, clearly recognizable physical feature is not available for use as a precinct boundary, an alternate boundary used by the United States Bureau of the Census may be authorized by the secretary of state.

[For text of subds 7 and 8, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 208 s 1,2; 1993 c 223 s 9

204B.146 DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

Subdivision 1. Redistricting. The secretary of state shall conduct conferences with the county auditors, municipal clerks, and school district clerks to instruct them on the procedures for redistricting of election districts and establishment of election precincts in the year ending in one.

Subd. 2. Precinct and election district boundaries. The secretary of state shall maintain a computer database of precinct and election district boundaries. The secretary of state shall revise the information in the database whenever a precinct or election district boundary is changed. The secretary of state shall prepare maps illustrating precinct and election district boundaries in either paper or electronic formats and make them available to the public at the cost of production.

The secretary of state may authorize municipalities and counties to provide updated precinct and election district boundary information in electronic formats.

The secretary of state shall provide periodic updates of precinct and election district boundaries to the legislative coordinating commission, the state demographer, and the land management information center.

History: 1993 c 208 s 3

204B.16 POLLING PLACES; DESIGNATION.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 1a. Notice to voters. If the location of polling place has been changed, the governing body establishing the polling place shall send each registered voter in the affected precinct a nonforwardable mailed notice stating the location of the new polling place at least 25 days before the next election. The secretary of state shall prepare a sample of this notice. A notice that is returned as undeliverable must be forwarded immediately to the county auditor, who shall change the registrant's status to "challenged" in the statewide registration system. This subdivision does not apply to a polling place location that is changed on election day under section 204B.17.

[For text of subds 2 to 7, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 223 s 10

204B.33 NOTICE OF FILING.

(a) Between June 1 and July 1 in each even numbered year, the secretary of state shall notify each county auditor of the offices to be voted for in that county at the next state general election for which candidates file with the secretary of state. The notice shall include the time and place of filing for those offices. Within ten days after notification by the secretary of state, each county auditor shall notify each municipal clerk in the county of all the offices to be voted for in the county at that election and the time and place for filing for those offices. The county auditors and municipal clerks shall promptly post a copy of that notice in their offices.

(b) At least two weeks before the first day to file an affidavit of candidacy, the county auditor shall publish a notice stating the first and last dates on which affidavits of candidacy may be filed in the county auditor's office and the closing time for filing

on the last day for filing. The county auditor shall post a similar notice at least ten days before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy.

History: 1993 c 59 s 1

204B.36 BALLOTS; FORM.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. **Judicial candidates.** The official ballot shall contain the names of all candidates for each judicial office and shall state the number of those candidates for whom a voter may vote. Each seat for an associate justice, associate judge, or judge of the district court must be numbered. The title of each judicial office shall be printed on the official primary and general election ballot as follows:

- (a) In the case of the supreme court:
 "Chief justice - supreme court;
 "Associate justice (number) - supreme court"
- (b) In the case of the court of appeals:
 "Judge (number) - court of appeals; or
- (c) In the case of the district court:
 "Judge (number) - (number) district court."

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 318 art 2 s 45

204B.45 MAIL BALLOTING.

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** Any statutory or home rule charter city or town having fewer than 400 registered voters on June 1 of an election year and not located in a metropolitan county as defined by section 473.121 may provide balloting by mail at any city, county, or state election with no polling place other than the office of the auditor or clerk. The governing body may apply to the county auditor for permission to conduct balloting by mail. The county board may provide for balloting by mail in unorganized territory.

[For text of subds 1a to 3, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 318 art 1 s 1

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 14 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: 1993 c 223 s 11