

CHAPTER 201

REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF VOTERS

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201.061 REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY.

Subdivision 1. **Prior to election day.** At any time except during the 20 days immediately preceding any election, an eligible voter or any individual who will be an eligible voter at the time of the next election may register to vote in the precinct in which the voter maintains residence by completing a registration card and submitting it in person or by mail to the county auditor of that county or to the secretary of state's office. A registration that is received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 21st day preceding any election shall be accepted. An improperly addressed or delivered registration card shall be forwarded within two working days after receipt to the county auditor of the county where the voter maintains residence. A state or local agency or an individual that accepts completed voter registration cards from a voter must submit the completed cards to the secretary of state or the appropriate county auditor within ten days after the cards are dated by the voter.

[For text of subs 3 to 7, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 147 s 2

201.071 REGISTRATION CARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Form.** A registration card must be of suitable size and weight for mailing and contain spaces for the following required information: voter's first name, middle name, and last name; voter's previous name, if any; voter's current address; voter's previous address, if any; voter's date of birth; voter's municipality and county of residence; voter's telephone number, if provided by the voter; date of registration; and voter's signature. The card must also contain a certification of voter eligibility.

The form of the voter registration card and the certification of voter eligibility must be as provided in the rules of the secretary of state. Voter registration forms authorized by the National Voter Registration Act may also be accepted as valid.

[For text of subs 2 to 8, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 147 s 3

201.081 REGISTRATION FILES.

The statewide registration system is the official record of registered voters. The voter registration cards and the terminal providing access to the statewide registration system must be under the control of the county auditor or the public official to whom the county auditor has delegated the responsibility for maintaining voter registration records. The voter registration cards and terminals providing access to the statewide registration system must not be removed from the control of the county auditor except as provided in this subdivision. The county auditor may make photographic copies of voter registration cards in the manner provided by section 138.17.

A properly completed voter registration card that has been submitted to the secretary of state or a county auditor must be maintained by the secretary of state or the county auditor for at least 22 months after the date that the information on the card is entered into the database of the statewide registration system. The secretary of state or the county auditor may dispose of the cards after retention for 22 months in the manner provided by section 138.17.

History: 1997 c 147 s 4

201.12 PROPER REGISTRATION, VERIFICATION BY MAIL, CHALLENGES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 2. Challenges. Upon return of the notice by the postal service, the county auditor or the auditor's staff shall ascertain the name and address of that individual. If the individual is no longer at the address recorded in the statewide registration system, the county auditor shall change the registrant's status to "challenged" in the statewide registration system. An individual challenged in accordance with this subdivision shall comply with the provisions of section 204C.12, before being allowed to vote. If a second notice mailed at least 60 days after the return of the first notice is also returned by the postal service, the county auditor shall change the registrant's status to "inactive" in the statewide registration system.

History: 1997 c 147 s 5

201.121 ENTRY OF NAMES; MAILED NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. Entry of registration information. Upon receiving a voter registration card properly completed and submitted in accordance with sections 201.061 and 201.071, the county auditor shall enter in the statewide registration system the information contained on it. Voter registration cards completed before election day must be entered into the statewide registration system within ten days after they have been submitted to the county auditor.

Upon receiving a completed voter registration card or form, the secretary of state may electronically transmit the information on the card or form to the appropriate county auditor as soon as possible for review by the county auditor before final entry into the statewide registration system. The secretary of state may mail the registration card or form to the county auditor.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 147 s 6

201.13 REPORT OF DECEASED VOTERS; CHANGES TO VOTER RECORDS.

Subdivision 1. Commissioner of health, reports of deceased residents. The commissioner of health shall report monthly to the secretary of state the name, address, date of birth, and county of residence of each individual 18 years of age or older who has died while maintaining residence in Minnesota since the last previous report. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons listed in the report are registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for each county auditor. Within 60 days after receiving the list from the secretary of state, the county auditor shall change the status of those registrants to "deceased" in the statewide registration system.

Subd. 2. Deceased nonresidents. After receiving notice of death of a voter who has died outside the county, the county auditor shall change the voter's status to "deceased." Notice must be in the form of a printed obituary or a written statement signed by a registered voter of the county.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 147 s 7,8

201.15 DISTRICT JUDGE, REPORT GUARDIANSHIPS AND COMMITMENTS.

Subdivision 1. Guardianships, incompetents and psychopaths. The state court administrator shall report monthly to the secretary of state the name, address, and date of birth of each individual 18 years of age or over, who during the month preceding the date of the report:

- (a) was placed under a guardianship of the person;
- (b) was adjudged legally incompetent by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, or inebriation; or
- (c) was adjudged a sexually dangerous person or a person with a sexual psychopathic personality.

The court administrator shall also report the same information for each individual transferred to the jurisdiction of the court who meets a condition specified in clause (a), (b), or (c). The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons in the report is registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for the county auditor. The county auditor shall change the status on the record in the statewide registration system of any individual named in the report to indicate that the individual is not eligible to reregister or vote.

Subd. 2. Restoration to capacity. The state court administrator shall report monthly to the secretary of state the name, address, and date of birth of each individual transferred from guardianship to conservatorship or who is restored to capacity by the court after being ineligible to vote for any of the reasons specified in subdivision 1. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons in the report is registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for the county auditor. The county auditor shall change the status on the voter's record in the statewide registration system to "active."

History: 1997 c 147 s 9

201.155 REPORT ON FELONY CONVICTIONS.

The state court administrator shall report monthly to the secretary of state the name, address, date of birth, date of sentence, effective date of the sentence, and county in which the conviction occurred of each person who has been convicted of a felony. The state court administrator shall also report the name, address, and date of birth of each person previously convicted of a felony whose civil rights have been restored. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons in the report is registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for each county auditor. The county auditor shall change the status of those registrants in the appropriate manner in the statewide registration system.

History: 1997 c 147 s 10

201.171 POSTING VOTING HISTORY; FAILURE TO VOTE; REGISTRATION REMOVED.

Within six weeks after every election, the county auditor shall post the voting history for every person who voted in the election. After the close of the calendar year, the secretary of state shall determine if any registrants have not voted during the preceding four years and shall change the status of those registrants to "inactive" in the statewide registration system. The secretary of state shall also prepare a report to the county auditor containing the names of all registrants whose status was changed to "inactive."

Although not counted in an election, a late absentee ballot must be considered a vote for the purpose of continuing registration.

History: 1997 c 147 s 11