



The Minnesota Participation Project: Nonpartisan Nonprofit Voter Mobilization

Registering for people who fear for their safety

Pre-registration

A person who fears for their safety can ask their local county elections office to allow them to register without adding their name and information to the public voting rolls. The voter must provide their county elections office with a written request to have their information taken off the public rolls for fear of safety of the voter or the voter's family. If they have not registered to vote, they should include their statement with their voter registration application, so their name and address will be marked private.

Their name and address will appear on their polling place roster and in statewide database of registered voters available to state and local elections officials. After the election they can submit a letter to their county elections official asking them to inactivate their record.

Election Day registration

A voter who fears for their safety can also register to vote on Election Day. They can register to vote and bring along copies of both the above mentioned letters to be attached to their voter registration application. This way, their information will not be in the database at all before Election Day and will only be entered long enough to verify that they voted at the address at which they registered to vote. If they choose this option, they will have to re-register the next time they want to vote.

Safe at Home program

Safe at Home is a mail forwarding service program offered by the Secretary of State's office in collaboration with local victim service providers. It is designed to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or others who fear for their safety establish a confidential address, allowing them to go about their lives, interacting with public and private entities, without leaving traces of where they really live. Participants use an address that Safe at Home assigns them and their correspondence is forwarded to their actual mailing address, which is not disclosed. This also allows participants to absentee vote. As part of the program, participants petition to have their names removed from the public voter rolls.

For more information contact:
Safe at Home, PO Box 17370
St Paul, MN 55117-0370.
Phone: 651-201-1399
Toll Free: 1-866-723-3035; Email:
Safe.athome@state.mn.us
MN Relay Service: 1-800-627-3529 or 711

The logo for the Safe at Home program, featuring a simple line drawing of a house with a chimney and a sun, with the text "Safe at Home" written in a cursive font below it.

To become a Safe at Home program participant, one must apply with the assistance of an Accredited Application Assistant. A list of agencies is available from the Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/>.