



The Minnesota Participation Project: Nonpartisan Nonprofit Voter Mobilization

Registering people experiencing homelessness

In Minnesota, you do not need an address to register to vote. There are a few different options for people experiencing homelessness or between permanent residences.

Pre-registration

People without permanent residences can register to vote using the address of a shelter where they are staying if they plan to be living there at least some of the time to Election Day. Otherwise applicants can describe in words where he or she lives "if the applicant lives in a rural district or has a non-traditional address" (National Voter Registration Act of 1993). This means that voters who can identify a street corner, park bench, etc. as their home base by listing a description (i.e. "on the corner of X and Y" or "under bridge X") should not be prevented from registering to vote. The description should be written on the street address line of the registration card.

If a voter does not have an ID and does not know the last four digits of their social security number when pre-registering by mail, their application may be "challenged." On Election Day they can complete their registration and vote if they bring a voucher.

Election Day registration

Voters can same-day register by using a registered voter in the precinct who can vouch under oath that the person registering to vote lives in the precinct. If a voter lives in a homeless shelter, an employee may vouch for them if the shelter submitted the names of its employees to their county.

Vouching for shelter guests on Election Day

For homeless shelter employees to be eligible to vouch for residents the facility must fill out a [certifying form](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=4299), <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=4299>, or write a list of employees on letterhead with the facility's name and address, the date, name, title and signature of person certifying employees. Then send the certification to their county auditor **at least 20 days before each election**. If there is more than one facility in different precincts and/or if employees only work at one of the facilities, each facility must have its own certifying letter.

Employees may be listed on more than one of the certified employee lists if they work at more than one facility. Employees do not have to live in the precinct, but must be Minnesota residents and eligible Minnesota voters, although do not need to be registered. There is no limit to the number of people for whom employees may vouch.

Things to do in order to vouch for residents:

- Discuss same day registration and get buy-in from your staff to vouch for residents
- Submit letter (or form) of employees to local county auditor 20 days before the election
- As Election Day gets closer, estimate number of residents who will need a voucher
- Find the polling place and make a plan to get all residents and vouchers to the sites

For more information about residential facility employee vouching please see the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=1181>.