



Election Security

Before Election Day:

- **One Centralized Voter Database** – The Statewide Voter Registration Database goes through a continuous and rigorous maintenance data-matching process in partnership with a wide array of offices and agencies at the county, state, and federal levels.
- **Public Accuracy Testing** – Before every election, local election officials test all equipment to be used in that election. A set of pre-marked ballots is fed into the ballot tabulators, and the machine's totals are compared with the pre-determined results. Public Accuracy Tests are held within two weeks before every election and are open to the public—contact your [local election official](#) to find the time and location of their next scheduled test.
- **Dual Control** – At least two staff or election judges of differing parties must complete pre-election tasks together. A log of who enters spaces where voted absentee ballots are stored is kept to document who and for what purpose folks have entered the room. All ballot board tasks must be completed by at least two ballot board members.
- **Chain of Custody** – Records are kept to document when election materials and equipment change hands between the county, municipality, and election judges.

During Election Day:

- **30,000 Election Workers** – Minnesota needs 30,000 election workers for each election, these are our neighbors, friends, and family who step up to serve our communities. Election judges or poll workers of differing political parties manage polling places and confirm with voters they are registered prior to issuing ballots. These election judges complete training ahead of each election cycle. Each polling place is led by a Head Judge who receives additional training to complete their duties.
- **Dual Control and Chain of Custody** – On Election Day, many tasks require two election judges of differing parties to work together. The documentation of who (election judges, municipal clerks, county election staff, etc.) has what materials is continued throughout Election Day.



- **One Ballot per Voter** – On Election Night, in each polling place, election judges verify that the number of ballots cast matches the number of voters who signed in that day before they leave for the night.
- **Ballot Tracking** – On Election Day, absentee voters are prevented from voting more than once. Election officials may not open and count any absentee votes that arrive on Election Day until they have ensured that the individual did not already vote in the polling place. At the polling place, notations are made on the roster indicating that an absentee voter has already voted.

After Election Day:

- **Canvassing Board** – The results of an election are not official until they have been reviewed by a canvassing board. Ahead of the canvassing board, election officials review summary statements and results tapes to verify that the results reported on election night are accurate. Once this proofing is complete, canvassing boards meet at the school district, municipal, county, and statewide level to confirm and certify the results. These meetings are always open to the public.
- **Post-election Review** – By state law, Minnesota counties perform a post-election review of election results after every state general election. The review is a hand count of the ballots for each eligible election (U.S. President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, and Governor) in the selected precincts compared with the results from the electronic voting system used in those precincts. The precincts are selected by the county’s canvassing board.
- **Recording Voter History** – Election Officials at the county level are tasked with completing the entry of voter history and election day registration forms within six weeks of an election. Once this process is complete, county officials perform checks to detect if any voters have violated state law and rules. Rarely, inconsistencies may be found which are turned over to the county attorney for investigation.

If I suspect someone has broken laws related to voting or an election, what do I do?

- You can start by calling your [county election office](#).
- You should also contact local law enforcement.
- If you’d prefer to submit a written complaint, use the [State Election Law Complaint Form](#) and return it to your county attorney.

