

# **ECHO Q&A**

## *Emergency and Community Health Outreach*

### **Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV “Voting and the Democratic Process”**

(Recording Show: @ TPT)

#### **FINAL VERSION**

#### **1. Why should I vote?**

- This is your country now.
- It gives you a voice in important decisions.
- Your vote matters—many elections are decided by just a few votes.
- You’re exercising a civil right.
- Local issues are especially important to your life.

#### **2. What do you vote for?**

- Candidates
- Issues (education, local referendums, amendments)

#### **3. How do you know if you’re eligible to vote?**

You are eligible if you:

- Will be at least 18-years-old on Election Day
- Are a citizen of the United States
- Will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day
- Have any felony conviction record discharged, expired, or completed
- Are not under court-ordered guardianship where a court has revoked your voting rights
- Have not been ruled legally incompetent by a court of law

#### **4. How can people still get involved if they’re not eligible to vote?**

- Drive seniors and other voters to polls

- Learn about the issues
- Volunteer for candidates who represent their belief
- Attend debates and forums
- Serve as interpreters on Election Day (*interpreters can mark up to 3 ballots besides their own*)

### **5. How do you register?**

- Fill out a voter registration card you get from public buildings like courthouses or [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).
- Register when you apply to renew your driver's license

### **6. Do you only have to register once?**

- Yes, unless you've moved since you last voted.
- If you have a new address, you must register again.
- You must also register again if you haven't vote in four years.

### **7. How do I know where to vote and is transportation provided?**

- After you register, you get a postcard telling you where to vote (it's usually near your neighborhood)
- You can also call city hall, the secretary of state's office or the League of Women Voters to find out where to vote.
- Visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) to find out more information, like who will be on your ballot and where to vote
- Rides are available from any of the major parties and some non-profits

### **8. What if it's Election Day and you haven't registered yet?**

- You can register at the polls
- Bring in a Minnesota's driver's license with your current address, or
- An ID with an old address and something that's been mailed to you at your current address like a utility bill
- Come in with a registered voter who lives in the precinct to vouch that they know you.
- Look under "registering to vote" at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org)

### **8a. What if I've already registered?**

- You don't have to bring anything

### **9. How do I know who or what issues will be on the ballot?**

- Attend local forums or debates

- Read/listen about candidates or issues in the media
- Talk to neighbors and community leaders about local issues
- Go to the candidates' websites
- Newspapers
- Mnworks.org and Vote411.org (for sample ballots)

## **10. Can someone help me vote?**

- You may bring a friend or relative
- Election judges can help
- Interpreters can help with the ballot (but can't tell you who to vote for)
- People who can't easily enter the polling place may ask for a ballot to be delivered to a motor vehicle outside the polling place. (Call Secretary of State's office)

### **10a. Can you bring your kids to the polling place?**

- Yes!

## **11. What about people who have to work on Election Day?**

- Employers must give you the time you need to vote
- Let your employer know ahead of time
- Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm
- If you are in line to vote by 8 pm, you will be allowed to vote

## **12. Do you have to vote in person?**

You can vote "absentee" if you are:

- Away from home
- Ill or disabled
- An election judge serving in another precinct
- Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or beliefs.

## **13. How do you get an absentee ballot?**

- You have 46 days before the election to vote
- Call your county to have an application for a ballot mailed to you
- mnvotes.org has a link to applications in many languages.
- Once you have applied, a ballot will be mailed to you
- Fill it out and mail it back or bring it to a location designated by the county.

#### **14. Where can I find more information?**

- [Mnvotes.org](https://www.mnvotes.org) (available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali)
- [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)
- Your local government center or library
- Secretary of State's office at 651-215-1440
- League of Women Voters
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Community organizations specific to your language/culture