

ECHO Script

Emergency and Community Health Outreach



Final Script
April 18, 2012

ECHO Show **“Voting and the Democratic Process”** **Word count: 500+**

-1-

Any shots of people

One thing that makes the United States stand out is its system of government. We live in a democracy, which means the country’s people make the decisions.

-2-

President or governor

One of the ways they make decisions is by voting for their leaders. The right to vote is one of the most important rights we have. If you are eligible to vote, you should make sure you’re registered, and then be sure to vote on Election Day.

-3-

Any young person

How do you know if you’re eligible to vote? To begin with, you must be at least 18 years old on the day you vote. You must also be a citizen of the United States, and in Minnesota, you need to have lived in the state for 20 days leading up to Election Day.

-4-

Person you can’t identify

In order to vote, you must also have had any felony conviction record discharged, expired, or completed and you can’t have had your voting rights taken away in court.

-5-

Voting

If you’re not eligible to vote, you can still help out on or before Election Day. You can do things like volunteer on a political campaign or you can be an interpreter for people who need help reading the ballot. That way you’re still an important part of the decision making for your community.

-6-

Gov't building or person registering

If you *are* eligible to vote, there's something you must do before you can actually vote: you have to register. In Minnesota you can do this at least 20 days before Election Day or you can do it at the precinct on Election Day.

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Person filling out form

How do you do that? By filling out a voter registration form.

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Shot of form or gov't building

In Minnesota, you can get those forms at county courthouses, city halls and other public buildings. You can also often find them in telephone books, the state tax booklet, or on the secretary of state's web page, mnvotes.org.

-9-

Driver's license

Or, you may register to vote when you apply for or renew your driver's license or state identification card. Also, if you've moved since you last voted you will need register again.

-10-

Blue card

After you register, you should receive a post card telling you where to vote. You can also call city hall, the secretary of state's office or the League of Women Voters to find out where you vote.

-11-

At the polls

To register at the polls on Election Day, you just need to show identification, such as a driver's license or other i.d. card and something with your address printed on it, like a recent electricity bill.

-12-

Person with neighbor or friend

You can also come with a voter who is registered in the same precinct as you. This person can confirm your address for the voting judges, which will allow you to register.

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News-type footage of candidates or protests

Even before you register, you can still learn about who's running for what office, or learn about any issues on the ballot that may affect you or your family. You can find out about the candidates and issues many ways, including watching and reading media, going to candidate forums and talking with friends and neighbors.

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People voting

Once you're registered and know about who's running in the election, there's only one thing left to do: Vote! Election judges will be at the polling place in case you need any help filling out your ballot.

-15-
Family

Every vote counts and voting is how you can make your opinions heard. It's an important right that allows you to have a voice in shaping our government and our lives.