

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



**MARK DAYTON**  
**GOVERNOR**

**Executive Order 11-18**

### **Election Integrity**

**I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

**Whereas**, the right to vote is a fundamental right guaranteed by both the United States and Minnesota constitutions; and

**Whereas**, the State of Minnesota consistently has the nation's highest voter turnout rates; and

**Whereas**, the State's policies should encourage all eligible voters to participate and make it easy for them to do so and discourage those who are not eligible; and

**Whereas**, election processes can always be improved, even in a state that is widely regarded as having one of the best election systems in the country; and

**Whereas**, there are proposals to streamline election processes that will provide additional convenience to eligible voters and result in cost savings for local election officials and the property taxpayers who fund their budgets, without disenfranchising eligible voters; and

**Whereas**, election law proposals developed and agreed to by legislators from both political parties are inherently more trustworthy; and

**Whereas**, officials who administer the State's elections need to be part of the conversation to provide input on the impact of potential changes; and

**Whereas**, after a series of meetings, an informal group consisting of legislators from both political parties and state and local election officials was able to come to consensus on election reforms that were enacted into law in 2010; and

**Whereas**, attorneys for the candidates on both sides of the 2008 U.S. Senate recount spent millions of dollars looking for fraud found none; and

**Whereas**, out of the 2.9 million individuals who voted in the 2008 general election, fewer than 80 have been convicted under Minnesota Statutes, section 201.014, of voting when they were not eligible; and

**Whereas**, individuals who have been convicted of felonies lose their civil rights until they have completed their felony sentences, including probation, parole, or other supervised release; and

**Whereas**, nearly all those convicted of voting when they were not eligible were ineligible because they were living in the community while serving a sentence for a felony conviction; and

**Whereas**, better notice to those persons that they were not yet eligible to vote might have reduced the number of those persons who attempted to vote; and

**Whereas**, providing state and local election officials with additional data about persons serving felony sentences might have prevented those persons from voting; and

**Whereas**, better notice to those persons when their right to vote is restored may encourage them to participate in the process;

**Now, Therefore**, I hereby order that:

1. The Task Force on Election Integrity is created under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.0593.
  - a. The task force consists of 15 members, appointed as follows:
    - i. One member appointed by the Governor;
    - ii. Two members of the Senate, one appointed by the Majority Leader and one appointed by the Minority Leader;
    - iii. Two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the Minority Leader;
    - iv. A member appointed by the Secretary of State;
    - v. A member appointed by the State Court Administrator;
    - vi. A member appointed by the Commissioner of Corrections;
    - vii. A county attorney appointed by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association;
    - viii. Two local election officials appointed by the Association of Minnesota Counties;

- ix. Two local election officials appointed by the League of Minnesota Cities; and
  - x. Two local election officials appointed by the Minnesota Association of Townships.
- b. The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.
  - c. The Task Force shall study and recommend to the Legislature by January 15, 2013, proposals to modernize the State's elections, while protecting citizens' fundamental right to vote.
- 2. The Commissioner of Corrections, in cooperation with the State Court Administrator and county probation officers, shall develop a protocol to be used by probation officers to inform felons, before their sentence is discharged, that their right to vote will be restored when their probation or supervised release ends and their sentence is discharged.
  - 3. Within the limits of available appropriations and the data privacy requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 241.065, the Commissioner of Corrections shall work with the State Court Administrator and county officials to improve the timeliness and accuracy of reports to the Secretary of State required by Minnesota Statutes, sections 201.155 and 201.157, on each person who has been convicted of a felony and on each person previously convicted of a felony whose civil rights have been restored.

Under Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 2, this Executive Order is effective 15 days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State.

**In Testimony Whereof**, I have set my hand on May 26, 2011.



**Mark Dayton**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



**Mark Ritchie**  
Secretary of State

