

S.F. No. 2232 – County Election Administrator's Election Administration Bill

Author: Senator Mark W. Koran

Prepared by: Alexis C. Stangl, Director (alexis.stangl@mnsenate.gov)

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Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 201.225, subd. 2; Technology requirements] allows an electronic roster to contain preregistered voter data on voters for multiple precincts in the case of a combined polling place.

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 203B.04, subd. 1; Application procedures] amends the deadlines for submitting absentee ballot applications. If an absentee ballot application is submitted in person, it must be returned no later than the day before the election. If it is returned in any other manner, it must be received not less than 7 days before the election. After 5 pm seven days before an election, the secretary of state must replace the electronic absentee ballot application with information about options to vote for the upcoming election. Applicants using the online absentee application must provide both a driver's license number or state ID card number and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. If the applicant does not have both types of documents, the applicant must include one type of document and certify that they do not have the other type of document. The county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk must retain all applications. If an application is received after 5 pm seven days prior to the election, the official in charge of the ballot board must attempt to contact the applicant to notify the applicant of opportunities to vote in the election. Requires applications mailed or returned on behalf of a voter by someone else to be mailed or returned in person within 7 days after it has been dated by the voter and no later than 7 days before the election; current law sets each of these deadlines at 10 days.

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 203B.11, subd. 1; Generally] provides that if a health care professional at a health care facility determines it is necessary to ensure the health and safety of election judges, the voter, or others at the facility, two employees of the facility may receive a ballot from the election judges and deliver the ballot to the voter instead of the election judges.

Section 4 [Minn. Stat. 203B.121, subd. 1; Establishment; applicable laws] provides that the party balance requirements for appointing election judges and to duties to be performed by judges of different major parties do not apply to a county election not held in conjunction with a state election.

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 203B.23, subd. 2; Duties] specifies that if a county administers UOCAVA absentee voting, the county opens, counts, and retains the ballots.

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 203B.29, subd. 1; Emergency response providers] specifies that the absentee ballot application deadlines in section 2 do not apply to emergency response providers requesting absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted.

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 203B.29, subd. 3; Reasonable accommodation for voter with disability] specifies that the absentee ballot application deadlines in section 2 do not apply to voters with a disability requesting absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted.

Section 8 [Minn. Stat. 204B.06, subd. 1; Form of affidavit] requires an affidavit of candidacy to include a phonetic spelling or pronunciation of the candidate's name or a certification that the candidate will use the applicable technology's default pronunciation.

Section 9 [Minn. Stat. 204B.09, subd. 2; Other elections] requires officials who receive nominating petitions for local offices to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline.

Section 10 [Minn. Stat. 204B.09, subd. 3; Write-in candidates] requires a candidate for county, state, or federal office who wants write-in votes to be counted to file a request not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the 19th day before the general election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the general election. For cities that adopt a resolution requiring candidates to request to have write-in votes counted, the request must be filed no later than the 19th day before the election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the election.

Section 11 [Minn. Stat. 204B.14, subd. 2; Separate precincts; combined polling place] allows election officials responsible for electronic rosters to combine precinct data files as necessary to be loaded onto electronic rosters for combined polling places.

Section 12 [Minn. Stat. 204B.28, subd. 2; Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks] allows municipal clerks to secure certain election supplies from the county auditor until the day before the election, as opposed to a deadline of four days before the election in current law.

Section 13 [Minn. Stat. 204B.45, subd. 2; Procedure; voting prior to election day] provides that election judges are exempt from party balance requirements if they are performing duties for a county election that is not held in conjunction with a state election.

Section 14 [Minn. Stat. 205.13, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the municipal clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline.

Section 15 [Minn. Stat. 205.13, subd. 1a; Filing period] changes the filing period for municipal elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the municipal general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 16 [Minn. Stat. 205A.01, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the school district clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline.

Section 17 [Minn. Stat. 205A.06, subd. 1a; Filing period] changes the filing period for school district elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the school general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Section 18 [Minn. Stat. 211B.065; Distribution of absentee ballot applications and sample ballots] requires a person or entity, except a unit of government or an election official, that mails absentee ballot applications or sample ballots to include a statement on the application or sample ballot that says it is not an official election communication; that it has not been sent at the request of a government official; and, if a sample ballot is included, that it is not an official ballot that it must not be cast. If an absentee ballot application is included, the application fields must be blank.

Section 19 [Minn. Stat. 447.32, subd. 4; Candidates; ballots; certifying election] changes the filing period for hospital board elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

