

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 2384 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "ARTICLE 1

1.4 CAMPAIGN FINANCE POLICY

1.5 Section 1. [5.51] EXPENSES OF SECRETARY OF STATE-ELECT.

1.6 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined have the
1.7 meanings given them.

1.8 (b) "Secretary of state-elect" means the person who is not currently secretary of state
1.9 and is the apparent successful candidate for the office of secretary of state following a
1.10 general election.

1.11 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Management and
1.12 Budget.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Transition expenses.** In the fiscal year of an election for secretary of state and
1.14 subject to availability of funds, the commissioner shall transfer up to \$50,000 from the
1.15 general contingent account in the general fund to the Department of Management and
1.16 Budget. This transfer is subject to the review and advice of the Legislative Advisory
1.17 Commission pursuant to section 3.30. In consultation with the secretary of state-elect, the
1.18 commissioner shall use the transferred funds to pay expenses of the secretary of state-elect
1.19 associated with preparing for the assumption of official duties as secretary of state. The
1.20 commissioner may use the transferred funds for expenses necessary and prudent for
1.21 establishment of a transition office prior to the election and for dissolution of the office if
1.22 the incumbent secretary of state is reelected or after the inauguration of a new secretary of
1.23 state. Expenses of the secretary of state-elect may include suitable office space and
1.24 equipment, communications and technology support, consulting services, compensation
1.25 and travel costs, and other reasonable expenses. Compensation rates for temporary employees
1.26 hired to support the secretary of state-elect and rates paid for consulting services for the
1.27 secretary of state-elect shall be determined by the secretary of state-elect.

1.28 Subd. 3. **Unused funds.** No new obligations shall be incurred for expenses of the secretary
1.29 of state-elect after the date of the inauguration. By March 31 of the year of the inauguration,
1.30 the commissioner shall return to the general contingent account any funds transferred under
1.31 this section that the commissioner determines are not needed to pay expenses of the secretary
1.32 of state-elect.

2.1 Sec. 2. **[6.93] EXPENSES OF STATE AUDITOR-ELECT.**

2.2 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined have the
2.3 meanings given them.

2.4 (b) "State auditor-elect" means the person who is not currently state auditor and is the
2.5 apparent successful candidate for the office of state auditor following a general election.

2.6 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Management and
2.7 Budget.

2.8 Subd. 2. Transition expenses. In the fiscal year of an election for state auditor and
2.9 subject to availability of funds, the commissioner shall transfer up to \$50,000 from the
2.10 general contingent account in the general fund to the Department of Management and
2.11 Budget. This transfer is subject to the review and advice of the Legislative Advisory
2.12 Commission pursuant to section 3.30. In consultation with the state auditor-elect, the
2.13 commissioner shall use the transferred funds to pay expenses of the state auditor-elect
2.14 associated with preparing for the assumption of official duties as state auditor. The
2.15 commissioner may use the transferred funds for expenses necessary and prudent for
2.16 establishment of a transition office prior to the election and for dissolution of the office if
2.17 the incumbent state auditor is reelected or after the inauguration of a new state auditor.
2.18 Expenses of the state auditor-elect may include suitable office space and equipment,
2.19 communications and technology support, consulting services, compensation and travel
2.20 costs, and other reasonable expenses. Compensation rates for temporary employees hired
2.21 to support the state auditor-elect and rates paid for consulting services for the state
2.22 auditor-elect shall be determined by the state auditor-elect.

2.23 Subd. 3. Unused funds. No new obligations shall be incurred for expenses of the state
2.24 auditor-elect after the date of the inauguration. By March 31 of the year of the inauguration,
2.25 the commissioner shall return to the general contingent account any funds transferred under
2.26 this section that the commissioner determines are not needed to pay expenses of the state
2.27 auditor-elect.

2.28 Sec. 3. **[8.40] EXPENSES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL-ELECT.**

2.29 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined have the
2.30 meanings given them.

2.31 (b) "Attorney general-elect" means the person who is not currently attorney general and
2.32 is the apparent successful candidate for the office of attorney general following a general
2.33 election.

(c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Management and Budget.

Subd. 2. Transition expenses. In the fiscal year of an election for attorney general and subject to availability of funds, the commissioner shall transfer up to \$75,000 from the general contingent account in the general fund to the Department of Management and Budget. This transfer is subject to the review and advice of the Legislative Advisory Commission pursuant to section 3.30. In consultation with the attorney general-elect, the commissioner shall use the transferred funds to pay expenses of the attorney general-elect associated with preparing for the assumption of official duties as attorney general. The commissioner may use the transferred funds for expenses necessary and prudent for establishment of a transition office prior to the election and for dissolution of the office if the incumbent attorney general is reelected or after the inauguration of a new attorney general. Expenses of the attorney general-elect may include suitable office space and equipment, communications and technology support, consulting services, compensation and travel costs, and other reasonable expenses. Compensation rates for temporary employees hired to support the attorney general-elect and rates paid for consulting services for the attorney general-elect shall be determined by the attorney general-elect.

Subd. 3. Unused funds. No new obligations shall be incurred for expenses of the attorney general-elect after the date of the inauguration. By March 31 of the year of the inauguration, the commissioner shall return to the general contingent account any funds transferred under this section that the commissioner determines are not needed to pay expenses of the attorney general-elect.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 16a, is amended to read:

Subd. 16a. Expressly advocating advocates. "Expressly ~~advocating~~ advocates" means that a communication:

(1) clearly identifies a candidate or a local candidate and uses words or phrases of express advocacy; or

(2) when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events, such as the proximity to the election, could only be interpreted by a reasonable person as containing advocacy of the election or defeat of one or more clearly identified candidates because:

(i) the electoral portion of the communication is unmistakable, unambiguous, and suggestive of only one meaning; and

(ii) reasonable minds could not differ as to whether the communication encourages actions to elect or defeat one or more clearly identified candidates or encourages some other kind of action.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 16c. **Expert witness.** "Expert witness" means an individual providing testimony or a report consisting of information, data, or professional opinions on which the individual has particular expertise gained through formal education, professional or occupational training, or experience in a field in which the individual is or has been employed.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 18, is amended to read:

Subd. 18. **Independent expenditure.** (a) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate, if the expenditure is made without the express or implied consent, authorization, or cooperation of, and not in concert with or at the request or suggestion of, any candidate or any candidate's principal campaign committee or agent or any local candidate or local candidate's agent; and:

(1) expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate; or

(2) promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate, regardless of whether the expenditure expressly advocates for or against a candidate or local candidate.

(b) An independent expenditure is not a contribution to that candidate or local candidate.

(c) An independent expenditure does not include the act of announcing a formal public endorsement of a candidate or local candidate for public office, unless the act is simultaneously accompanied by an expenditure that would otherwise qualify as an independent expenditure under this subdivision.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 21, is amended to read:

Subd. 21. **Lobbyist.** (a) "Lobbyist" means an individual:

(1) engaged for pay or other consideration of more than \$3,000 from all sources in any year:

(i) for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political subdivision, by communicating with public or local officials; or

(ii) from a business whose primary source of revenue is derived from facilitating government relations or government affairs services if the individual's job duties include offering direct or indirect consulting or advice that helps the business provide those services to clients; or

(2) who spends more than \$3,000 of the individual's personal funds, not including the individual's own traveling expenses and membership dues, in any year for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political subdivision, by communicating with public or local officials.

(b) "Lobbyist" does not include:

(1) a public official;

(2) an employee of the state, including an employee of any of the public higher education systems;

(3) an elected local official;

(4) a nonelected local official or an employee of a political subdivision acting in an official capacity, unless the ~~nonelected official or employee of a political subdivision spends more than 50 hours in any month attempting to influence legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political subdivision other than the political subdivision employing the official or employee, by communicating or urging others to communicate with public or local officials, including time spent monitoring legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political subdivision, and related research, analysis, and compilation and dissemination of information relating to legislative or administrative policy in this state, or to the policies of political subdivisions~~ local official or employee spends more than 50 hours in any month attempting to influence legislative or administrative action or the official action of a metropolitan governmental unit, other than a political subdivision employing the official or employee, by communicating with public or local officials;

(5) a party or the party's representative appearing in a proceeding before a state board, commission, or agency of the executive branch unless the board, commission, or agency is taking administrative action;

(6) an individual while engaged in selling goods or services to be paid for by public funds;

(7) a news medium or its employees or agents while engaged in the publishing or broadcasting of news items, editorial comments, or paid advertisements which directly or indirectly urge official action;

~~(8) a paid expert witness whose testimony is requested by the body before which the witness is appearing, but only to the extent of preparing or delivering testimony~~ an expert witness who communicates with public or local officials, other than the Public Utilities Commission, if the communication occurs at a public meeting or is made available to the general public;

(9) a party or the party's representative appearing to present a claim to the legislature and communicating to legislators only by the filing of a claim form and supporting documents and by appearing at public hearings on the claim; or

(10) an individual providing information or advice to members of a collective bargaining unit when the unit is actively engaged in the collective bargaining process with a state agency or a political subdivision.

(c) An individual who volunteers personal time to work without pay or other consideration on a lobbying campaign, and who does not spend more than the limit in paragraph (a), clause (2), need not register as a lobbyist.

(d) An individual who provides administrative support to a lobbyist and whose salary and administrative expenses attributable to lobbying activities are reported as lobbying expenses by the lobbyist, but who does not communicate or urge others to communicate with public or local officials, need not register as a lobbyist.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 24, is amended to read:

Subd. 24. **Metropolitan governmental unit.** "Metropolitan governmental unit" means ~~any of the seven counties in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2; a regional railroad authority established by one or more of those counties under section 398A.03, a city with a population of over 50,000 located in the seven-county metropolitan area; a county in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2; the Metropolitan Council; or a metropolitan agency as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 5a; the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission; the Metropolitan Airports Commission; or the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority.~~

7.1 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 26, is amended to read:

7.2 Subd. 26. **Noncampaign disbursement.** (a) "Noncampaign disbursement" means a
7.3 purchase or payment of money or anything of value made, or an advance of credit incurred,
7.4 or a donation in kind received, by a principal campaign committee for any of the following
7.5 purposes:

7.6 (1) payment for accounting and legal services related to operating the candidate's
7.7 campaign committee, serving in office, or security for the candidate or the candidate's
7.8 immediate family, including but not limited to seeking and obtaining a harassment restraining
7.9 order;

7.10 (2) return of a contribution to the source;

7.11 (3) repayment of a loan made to the principal campaign committee by that committee;

7.12 (4) return of a public subsidy;

7.13 (5) payment for food, beverages, and necessary utensils and supplies, entertainment,
7.14 and facility rental for a fundraising event;

7.15 (6) services for a constituent by a member of the legislature or a constitutional officer
7.16 in the executive branch as provided in section 10A.173, subdivision 1;

7.17 (7) payment for food and beverages consumed by a candidate or volunteers while they
7.18 are engaged in campaign activities;

7.19 (8) payment for food or a beverage consumed while attending a reception or meeting
7.20 directly related to legislative duties;

7.21 (9) payment of expenses incurred by elected or appointed leaders of a legislative caucus
7.22 in carrying out their leadership responsibilities;

7.23 (10) payment by a principal campaign committee of the candidate's expenses for serving
7.24 in public office, other than for personal uses;

7.25 (11) costs of child care for the candidate's children when campaigning;

7.26 (12) fees paid to attend a campaign school;

7.27 (13) costs of a postelection party during the election year when a candidate's name will
7.28 no longer appear on a ballot or the general election is concluded, whichever occurs first;

7.29 (14) interest on loans paid by a principal campaign committee on outstanding loans;

7.30 (15) filing fees;

- 8.1 (16) post-general election holiday or seasonal cards, thank-you notes, or advertisements
8.2 in the news media mailed or published prior to the end of the election cycle;
- 8.3 (17) the cost of campaign material purchased to replace defective campaign material, if
8.4 the defective material is destroyed without being used;
- 8.5 (18) contributions to a party unit;
- 8.6 (19) payments for funeral gifts or memorials;
- 8.7 (20) the cost of a magnet less than six inches in diameter containing legislator contact
8.8 information and distributed to constituents;
- 8.9 (21) costs associated with a candidate attending a political party state or national
8.10 convention in this state;
- 8.11 (22) other purchases or payments specified in board rules or advisory opinions as being
8.12 for any purpose other than to influence the nomination or election of a candidate or to
8.13 promote or defeat a ballot question;
- 8.14 (23) costs paid to a third party for processing contributions made by a credit card, debit
8.15 card, or electronic check;
- 8.16 (24) costs paid by a candidate's principal campaign committee to support the candidate's
8.17 participation in a recount of ballots affecting the candidate's election;
- 8.18 (25) a contribution to a fund established to support a candidate's participation in a recount
8.19 of ballots affecting that candidate's election;
- 8.20 (26) costs paid by a candidate's principal campaign committee for a single reception
8.21 given in honor of the candidate's retirement from public office after the filing period for
8.22 affidavits of candidacy for that office has closed;
- 8.23 (27) a donation from a terminating principal campaign committee to the state general
8.24 fund;
- 8.25 (28) a donation from a terminating principal campaign committee to a county obligated
8.26 to incur special election expenses due to that candidate's resignation from state office;
- 8.27 (29) during a period starting January 1 in the year following a general election and ending
8.28 on December 31 of the year of general election, total payments of up to \$3,000 for
8.29 detection-related security monitoring expenses for a candidate, including home security
8.30 hardware, maintenance of home security monitoring hardware, identity theft monitoring
8.31 services, and credit monitoring services; ~~and~~

9.1 (30) costs paid to repair or replace campaign property that was: (i) lost or stolen, or (ii)
9.2 damaged or defaced to such a degree that the property no longer serves its intended purpose.
9.3 For purposes of this clause, campaign property includes but is not limited to campaign lawn
9.4 signs. The candidate must document the need for these costs in writing or with photographs;
9.5 and

9.6 (31) transition expenses and inaugural event expenses as defined in section 10A.174.

9.7 (b) The board must determine whether an activity involves a noncampaign disbursement
9.8 within the meaning of this subdivision.

9.9 (c) A noncampaign disbursement is considered to be made in the year in which the
9.10 candidate made the purchase of goods or services or incurred an obligation to pay for goods
9.11 or services.

9.12 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 35, is amended to read:

9.13 Subd. 35. **Public official.** "Public official" means any:

9.14 (1) member of the legislature;

9.15 (2) individual employed by the legislature as secretary of the senate, legislative auditor,
9.16 director of the Legislative Budget Office, chief clerk of the house of representatives, revisor
9.17 of statutes, or researcher, legislative analyst, fiscal analyst, or attorney in the Office of
9.18 Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis, House Research, or the House Fiscal Analysis
9.19 Department;

9.20 (3) constitutional officer in the executive branch and the officer's chief administrative
9.21 deputy;

9.22 (4) solicitor general or deputy, assistant, or special assistant attorney general;

9.23 (5) commissioner, deputy commissioner, or assistant commissioner of any state
9.24 department or agency as listed in section 15.01 or 15.06, or the state chief information
9.25 officer;

9.26 (6) member, chief administrative officer, or deputy chief administrative officer of a state
9.27 board or commission that has either the power to adopt, amend, or repeal rules under chapter
9.28 14, or the power to adjudicate contested cases or appeals under chapter 14;

9.29 (7) individual employed in the executive branch who is authorized to adopt, amend, or
9.30 repeal rules under chapter 14 or adjudicate contested cases under chapter 14;

9.31 (8) executive director of the State Board of Investment;

- 10.1 (9) deputy of any official listed in clauses (7) and (8);
- 10.2 (10) judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals;
- 10.3 (11) administrative law judge or compensation judge in the State Office of Administrative
10.4 Hearings or unemployment law judge in the Department of Employment and Economic
10.5 Development;
- 10.6 (12) member, regional administrator, division director, general counsel, or operations
10.7 manager of the Metropolitan Council;
- 10.8 (13) member or chief administrator of a metropolitan agency;
- 10.9 (14) director of the Division of Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement in the Department
10.10 of Public Safety;
- 10.11 (15) member or executive director of the Higher Education Facilities Authority;
- 10.12 (16) member of the board of directors or president of Enterprise Minnesota, Inc.;
- 10.13 (17) member of the board of directors or executive director of the Minnesota State High
10.14 School League;
- 10.15 (18) member of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority established in section 473.755;
- 10.16 (19) citizen member of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources;
- 10.17 ~~(20) manager of a watershed district, or member of a watershed management organization~~
10.18 ~~as defined under section 103B.205, subdivision 13;~~
- 10.19 ~~(21) supervisor of a soil and water conservation district;~~
- 10.20 ~~(22)~~ (20) director of Explore Minnesota Tourism;
- 10.21 ~~(23)~~ (21) citizen member of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council established in
10.22 section 97A.056;
- 10.23 ~~(24)~~ (22) citizen member of the Clean Water Council established in section 114D.30;
- 10.24 ~~(25)~~ (23) member or chief executive of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority
10.25 established in section 473J.07;
- 10.26 ~~(26)~~ (24) district court judge, appeals court judge, or supreme court justice;
- 10.27 ~~(27) county commissioner;~~
- 10.28 ~~(28)~~ (25) member of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission;

11.1 ~~(29)~~ (26) member of the Destination Medical Center Corporation established in section
11.2 469.41; or
11.3 ~~(30)~~ (27) chancellor or member of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges
11.4 and Universities.

11.5 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.04, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

11.6 Subd. 4. **Content.** (a) A report under this section must include information the board
11.7 requires from the registration form and the information required by this subdivision for the
11.8 reporting period.

11.9 (b) A lobbyist must report the specific subjects of interest for an entity represented by
11.10 the lobbyist on each report submitted under this section. A lobbyist must describe a specific
11.11 subject of interest in the report with enough information to show the particular issue of
11.12 importance to the entity represented.

11.13 (c) A lobbyist must report every state agency that had administrative action that the
11.14 represented entity sought to influence during the reporting period. The lobbyist must report
11.15 the specific subjects of interest for each administrative action and the revisor of statutes
11.16 rule draft number assigned to the administrative rulemaking.

11.17 (d) A lobbyist must report every political subdivision that considered official action that
11.18 the represented entity sought to influence during the reporting period. The lobbyist must
11.19 report the specific subjects of interest for each action.

11.20 (e) A lobbyist must report general lobbying categories and up to four specific subjects
11.21 of interest related to each general lobbying category on which the lobbyist attempted to
11.22 influence legislative action during the reporting period. If the lobbyist attempted to influence
11.23 legislative action on more than four specific subjects of interest for a general lobbying
11.24 category, the lobbyist, in consultation with the represented entity, must determine which
11.25 four specific subjects of interest were the entity's highest priorities during the reporting
11.26 period and report only those four subjects.

11.27 (f) A lobbyist must report the Public Utilities Commission project name for each rate
11.28 setting, power plant and powerline siting, or granting of certification of need before the
11.29 Public Utilities Commission that the represented entity sought to influence during the
11.30 reporting period.

11.31 (g) A lobbyist must report the amount and nature of each gift, item, or benefit, excluding
11.32 contributions to a candidate, equal in value to \$5 or more, given or paid to any official, as
11.33 defined in section 10A.071, subdivision 1, by the lobbyist or an employer or employee of

12.1 the lobbyist. The list must include the name and address of each official to whom the gift,
12.2 item, or benefit was given or paid and the date it was given or paid.

12.3 (h) A lobbyist must report each original source of money in excess of \$500 in any year
12.4 used for the purpose of lobbying to influence legislative action, administrative action, or
12.5 the official action of a political subdivision. The list must include the name, address, and
12.6 employer, or, if self-employed, the occupation and principal place of business, of each payer
12.7 of money in excess of \$500.

12.8 (i) On each report, a lobbyist must disclose the general lobbying categories that were
12.9 lobbied on in the reporting period.

12.10 (j) A lobbyist must report each expert witness that the lobbyist requested to communicate
12.11 with public or local officials as described in section 10A.01, subdivision 21, paragraph (b),
12.12 clause (8). The lobbyist must report the name of the expert witness; the employer, if any,
12.13 of the expert witness; the government entity that received the communication from the
12.14 expert witness; and the specific subject on which the expert witness communicated. The
12.15 designated lobbyist must also report this information if the expert witness is requested to
12.16 communicate by the principal or association that the lobbyist represents.

12.17 Sec. 12. **[10A.066] HANDBOOK FOR LOBBYING.**

12.18 (a) The board must publish on the board's website a handbook for lobbying written in
12.19 plain language. At a minimum, the handbook must clearly explain:

12.20 (1) lobbyist registration requirements, including:

12.21 (i) an explanation of when a person is required to register as a lobbyist and what specific
12.22 types of activities count toward reaching the dollar amount thresholds in section 10A.01,
12.23 subdivision 21; and

12.24 (ii) how registration requirements apply if a person is employed by a government entity;

12.25 (2) which activities and expenses do not count toward the dollar amount thresholds in
12.26 section 10A.01, subdivision 21, but are required to be reported as lobbying disbursements
12.27 on a principal's report; and

12.28 (3) any differences between lobbying the legislature, the executive branch, a political
12.29 subdivision, and the Public Utilities Commission.

12.30 (b) The board must regularly update the handbook to reflect changes to statutes and
12.31 rules. In developing and updating the handbook, the board must consult individuals who
12.32 are registered lobbyists but who are not full-time professional lobbyists, including lobbyists

13.1 for nonprofit organizations, small organizations, and organizations led by individuals who
13.2 are Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

13.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment, except
13.4 that the board is not required to publish the handbook until January 15, 2026.

13.5 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.07, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

13.6 Subdivision 1. **Disclosure of potential conflicts.** (a) A public official or a local official
13.7 elected to or appointed by a metropolitan governmental unit or by a political subdivision
13.8 with a population of over 50,000 located in the metropolitan area as defined in section
13.9 473.121, subdivision 2, who in the discharge of official duties would be required to take an
13.10 action or make a decision that would substantially affect the official's financial interests or
13.11 those of an associated business, unless the effect on the official is no greater than on other
13.12 members of the official's business classification, profession, or occupation, must take the
13.13 following actions:

13.14 (1) prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and
13.15 the nature of the potential conflict of interest;

13.16 (2) deliver copies of the statement to the official's immediate superior, if any; and

13.17 (3) if a member of the legislature ~~or of the,~~ a governing body of a metropolitan
13.18 governmental unit, or a political subdivision, deliver a copy of the statement to the presiding
13.19 officer of the body of service.

13.20 If a potential conflict of interest presents itself and there is insufficient time to comply
13.21 with clauses (1) to (3), the public or local official must orally inform the superior or the
13.22 official body of service or committee of the body of the potential conflict.

13.23 (b) For purposes of this section, "financial interest" means any ownership or control in
13.24 an asset that has the potential to produce a monetary return.

13.25 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

13.26 Subd. 2. **Required actions.** (a) If the official is not a member of the legislature or of the
13.27 governing body of a metropolitan governmental unit or by a political subdivision with a
13.28 population of over 50,000 located in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121,
13.29 subdivision 2, the superior must assign the matter, if possible, to another employee who
13.30 does not have a potential conflict of interest.

14.1 (b) If there is no immediate superior, the official must abstain, if possible, by assigning
14.2 the matter to a subordinate for disposition or requesting the appointing authority to designate
14.3 another to determine the matter. The official shall not chair a meeting, participate in any
14.4 vote, or offer any motion or discussion on the matter giving rise to the potential conflict of
14.5 interest.

14.6 (c) If the official is a member of the legislature, the house of service may, at the member's
14.7 request, excuse the member from taking part in the action or decision in question.

14.8 (d) If an official is not permitted or is otherwise unable to abstain from action in
14.9 connection with the matter, the official must file a statement describing the potential conflict
14.10 and the action taken. A public official must file the statement with the board and a local
14.11 official must file the statement with the governing body of the official's political subdivision.
14.12 The statement must be filed within a week of the action taken.

14.13 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.08, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

14.14 Subdivision 1. **Disclosure required.** (a) A public official or elected local official who
14.15 represents a client for a fee before an individual, board, commission, or agency that has
14.16 rulemaking authority in a hearing conducted under chapter 14, must disclose the official's
14.17 participation in the action to the board within 14 days after the public official's initial
14.18 appearance at a hearing. If the public official fails to disclose the participation by the date
14.19 that the disclosure was due, the board may impose a late filing fee of \$25 per day, not to
14.20 exceed \$1,000, starting on the day after the disclosure was due. The board must send notice
14.21 by certified mail to a public official who fails to disclose the participation within ten business
14.22 days after the disclosure was due that the public official may be subject to a civil penalty
14.23 for failure to disclose the participation. A public official who fails to disclose the participation
14.24 within seven days after the certified mail notice was sent by the board is subject to a civil
14.25 penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

14.26 (b) A public official or elected local official required to disclose representation under
14.27 this section shall provide the following information: name, address, and office held; name
14.28 and address of each client represented at the hearing; the name of the individual, board,
14.29 commission, or agency conducting the hearing and the date and location of the initial
14.30 appearance at the hearing; and a general description of the subject or subjects on which the
14.31 public official represented the client in the hearing.

14.32 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

14.33 Subdivision 1. **Time for filing.** An individual must file a statement of economic interest:

15.1 (1) within 60 days of accepting employment as a public official or a local official ~~in a~~
15.2 ~~metropolitan governmental unit~~;

15.3 (2) within 60 days of accepting employment by a charter school in a position in which
15.4 the person has authority to make or recommend major decisions regarding the expenditure
15.5 or investment of public money;

15.6 (3) within 60 days of assuming office as a district court judge, appeals court judge,
15.7 supreme court justice, ~~or county commissioner~~ soil and water conservation district supervisor,
15.8 manager of a watershed district, or member of a watershed management organization as
15.9 defined in section 103B.205, subdivision 13;

15.10 (3) (4) within 14 days after ~~filing~~ the end of the filing period for a candidate who filed
15.11 an affidavit of candidacy or petition to appear on the ballot for an elective state constitutional
15.12 or legislative office or an elective local office in a metropolitan governmental unit other
15.13 than county commissioner;

15.14 (5) in the case of an individual running for a charter school board, at least 14 days before
15.15 the election;

15.16 (6) in the case of an initial member of a charter school board, within 14 days of taking
15.17 office;

15.18 (4) (7) in the case of a public official requiring the advice and consent of the senate,
15.19 within 14 days after undertaking the duties of office; or

15.20 (5) (8) in the case of members of the Minnesota Racing Commission, the director of the
15.21 Minnesota Racing Commission, chief of security, medical officer, inspector of pari-mutuels,
15.22 and stewards employed or approved by the commission or persons who fulfill those duties
15.23 under contract, within 60 days of accepting or assuming duties.

15.24 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

15.25 Subd. 5. **Form; general requirements.** (a) A statement of economic interest required
15.26 by this section must be on a form prescribed by the board. Except as provided in subdivision
15.27 5b, the individual filing must provide the following information:

15.28 (1) the individual's name, address, occupation, and principal place of business;

15.29 (2) a listing of the name of each associated business and the nature of that association;

15.30 (3) a listing of all real property within the state, excluding homestead property, in which
15.31 the individual or the individual's spouse holds: (i) a fee simple interest, a mortgage, a contract
15.32 for deed as buyer or seller, or an option to buy, whether direct or indirect, if the interest is

16.1 valued in excess of \$2,500; or (ii) an option to buy, if the property has a fair market value
16.2 of more than \$50,000;

16.3 (4) a listing of all real property within the state in which a partnership of which the
16.4 individual or the individual's spouse is a member holds: (i) a fee simple interest, a mortgage,
16.5 a contract for deed as buyer or seller, or an option to buy, whether direct or indirect, if the
16.6 individual's share of the partnership interest is valued in excess of \$2,500; or (ii) an option
16.7 to buy, if the property has a fair market value of more than \$50,000. A listing under this
16.8 clause or clause (3) must indicate the street address and the municipality or the section,
16.9 township, range and approximate acreage, whichever applies, and the county in which the
16.10 property is located;

16.11 (5) a listing of any investments, ownership, or interests in property connected with
16.12 pari-mutuel horse racing in the United States and Canada, including a racehorse, in which
16.13 the individual directly or indirectly holds a partial or full interest or an immediate family
16.14 member holds a partial or full interest;

16.15 (6) a listing of the principal business or professional activity category of each business
16.16 from which the individual or the individual's spouse receives more than \$250 in any month
16.17 during the reporting period as an employee, if the individual or the individual's spouse has
16.18 an ownership interest of 25 percent or more in the business;

16.19 (7) a listing of each principal business or professional activity category from which the
16.20 individual or the individual's spouse received compensation of more than \$2,500 in the past
16.21 12 months as an independent contractor;

16.22 (8) a listing of the full name of each security with a value of more than \$10,000 owned
16.23 in part or in full by the individual or the individual's spouse, at any time during the reporting
16.24 period; ~~and~~

16.25 (9) for each stock or stock option reported under clause (8), a listing of the date or dates
16.26 and value of each purchase or sale of stock or exercise, sale, or transaction involving the
16.27 stock option in that entity during the reporting period, regardless of the value of the
16.28 transaction; and

16.29 (10) a listing of the full name of each virtual currency with a value of more than \$10,000
16.30 owned in part or in full by the individual or the individual's spouse at any time during the
16.31 reporting period;

17.1 (11) for each virtual currency reported under clause (10), a listing of the date or dates
17.2 and value of each purchase or sale of that virtual currency during the reporting period,
17.3 regardless of the value of the purchase or sale; and

17.4 (12) a listing of any contract, professional license, lease, or franchise that:

17.5 (i) is held by the individual or the individual's spouse or any business in which the
17.6 individual has an ownership interest of 25 percent or more; and

17.7 (ii) is entered into with, or issued by, the government agency on which the individual
17.8 serves as a public or local official.

17.9 (b) The business or professional categories for purposes of paragraph (a), clauses (6)
17.10 and (7), must be the general topic headings used by the federal Internal Revenue Service
17.11 for purposes of reporting self-employment income on Schedule C. This paragraph does not
17.12 require an individual to report any specific code number from that schedule. Any additional
17.13 principal business or professional activity category may only be adopted if the category is
17.14 enacted by law.

17.15 (c) For the purpose of calculating the amount of compensation received from any single
17.16 source in a single month, the amount shall include the total amount received from the source
17.17 during the month, whether or not the amount covers compensation for more than one month.

17.18 (d) For the purpose of determining the value of an individual's interest in real property,
17.19 the value of the property is the market value shown on the property tax statement.

17.20 (e) For the purpose of this section, "date of appointment" means the effective date of
17.21 appointment to a position.

17.22 (f) For the purpose of this section, "accepting employment as a public official" means
17.23 the effective date of the appointment to the position, as stated in the appointing authority's
17.24 notice to the board.

17.25 (g) The listings required in paragraph (a), clauses (3) to (9), must not identify whether
17.26 the individual or the individual's spouse is associated with or owns the listed item.

17.27 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

17.28 Subd. 5a. **Original statement; reporting period.** (a) An original statement of economic
17.29 interest required under subdivision 1, clause (1), must cover the calendar month before the
17.30 month in which the individual accepted employment as a public official or a local official
17.31 ~~in a metropolitan governmental unit.~~

(b) An original statement of economic interest required under subdivision 1, clauses (2), ~~(4)~~ (7), and ~~(5)~~ (8), must cover the calendar month before the month in which the individual assumed or undertook the duties of office.

(c) An original statement of economic interest required under subdivision 1, clause ~~(3)~~ (4), must cover the calendar month before the month in which the candidate filed the affidavit of candidacy.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 6a, is amended to read:

Subd. 6a. **Place of filing.** A public official required to file a statement under this section must file it with the board. A county commissioner, soil and water conservation district supervisor, manager of a watershed district, or member of a watershed management organization as defined in section 103B.205, subdivision 13, must file the statement with the board. A local candidate or local official required to file a statement under this section must file it with the governing body of the official's political subdivision. The governing body must maintain statements filed with it under this subdivision as public data. If an official position is defined as both a public official and as a local official ~~of a metropolitan governmental unit~~ under this chapter, the official must file the statement with the board.

Sec. 20. **[10A.174] INAUGURAL EVENT AND TRANSITION EXPENSES.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Inaugural event expenses" means expenses incurred for any event related to the individual's inauguration held between the general election of a person elected to a statewide office and January 31 of the year in which the officeholder takes office. In the event that a person fills a vacancy in a constitutional office, "inaugural event expenses" means expenses incurred for any event related to the individual's inauguration between the time that it was confirmed that the individual would assume the constitutional office and the date four weeks after the individual is sworn into office.

(c) "Transition expenses" means expenses incurred in preparing for the assumption of official duties as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, or attorney general. Expenses include but are not limited to establishment of a transition office, the dissolution of the office, office space and equipment, communications and technology support, consulting services, compensation and travel costs, and other reasonable expenses. Transition expenses do not include expenses that are incurred after the officeholder takes office.

Subd. 2. **Inaugural event and transition expenses; contributions.** A candidate or a candidate's principal campaign committee must not solicit or accept any contributions for or make any expenditure for inaugural event expenses or transition expenses except through the candidate's principal campaign committee or as otherwise prescribed by law.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.175, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5a. **Disbursement.** "Disbursement" means a purchase or payment subject to this chapter made by any person.

Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.176, is amended to read:

10A.176 COORDINATED EXPENDITURES.

Subdivision 1. **Definition; scope.** ~~An expenditure described in this section that expressly advocates for the election of the candidate or the defeat of the candidate's opponent is a coordinated expenditure and is not independent under section 10A.01, subdivision 18.~~ A disbursement is a coordinated expenditure and is not independent under section 10A.01, subdivision 18, where it:

(1) satisfies at least one of the content standards in subdivision 1a; and

(2) satisfies at least one of the conduct standards in subdivisions 2 to 8.

Subd. 1a. **Content standards.** A disbursement for any of the content outlined in this subdivision satisfies the content standard of this section if it is:

(1) a communication expressly advocating for the election or defeat of the candidate, as defined under section 10A.01, subdivision 16a;

(2) a communication that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the nomination, election, or defeat of the clearly identified candidate; or

(3) an electioneering communication, as defined under section 10A.201.

Subd. 2. **Conduct standard; fundraising.** (a) ~~An expenditure is a coordinated expenditure~~ A disbursement satisfies the conduct standard of this section if the expenditure ~~disbursement~~ is made on or after January 1 of the year the office will appear on the ballot by a spender for which the candidate, on or after January 1 of the year the office will appear on the ballot, has engaged in fundraising of money that is not general treasury money, as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 17c, of the spender.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, candidate fundraising includes:

20.1 (1) soliciting or collecting money for or to the spender that is not general treasury money;
20.2 and

20.3 (2) appearing for the spender as a speaker at an event raising money that is not general
20.4 treasury money.

20.5 (c) This subdivision does not apply to a candidate's fundraising on behalf of a party unit.

20.6 Subd. 3. **Conduct standard; relationship with spender.** ~~An expenditure is a coordinated~~
20.7 ~~expenditure~~ A disbursement satisfies the conduct standard of this section if the expenditure
20.8 disbursement is made on or after January 1 of the year the office will appear on the ballot
20.9 by a spender that:

20.10 (1) is not a party unit; and

20.11 (2) is an association, political committee, political fund, independent expenditure political
20.12 committee, or independent expenditure political fund, in which the candidate was a
20.13 chairperson, deputy chairperson, treasurer, or deputy treasurer on or after January 1 of the
20.14 year the office will appear on the ballot.

20.15 Subd. 4. **Conduct standard; consulting services.** (a) ~~An expenditure is a coordinated~~
20.16 ~~expenditure~~ A disbursement satisfies the conduct standard of this section if the expenditure
20.17 disbursement is made during an election segment for consulting services from a consultant
20.18 who has also provided consulting services to the candidate or the candidate's opponent
20.19 during that same election segment.

20.20 (b) This subdivision does not apply when the following conditions are met:

20.21 (1) the consultant assigns separate personnel to the spender and the candidate;

20.22 (2) the consultant has a written policy that describes the measures that the consultant
20.23 has taken to prohibit the flow of information between the personnel providing services to
20.24 the spender and the personnel providing services to the candidate;

20.25 (3) the written policy has been distributed to all personnel and clients covered by the
20.26 policy, including the candidate and the spender;

20.27 (4) the consultant has implemented the measures described in the written policy; and

20.28 (5) no information has been shared between the spender and the personnel that provided
20.29 services to the spender and the candidate and the personnel providing services to the
20.30 candidate.

20.31 Subd. 5. **Conduct standard; receiving information not publicly available.** ~~An~~
20.32 ~~expenditure is a coordinated expenditure~~ A disbursement satisfies the conduct standard of

21.1 this section if the ~~expenditure~~ disbursement is made after the spender receives from the

21.2 candidate information that is not publicly available regarding the candidate's campaign

21.3 plans, strategy, or needs.

21.4 Subd. 6. **Conduct standard; spender-provided information.** ~~An expenditure is a~~

21.5 ~~coordinated expenditure~~ A disbursement satisfies the conduct standard of this section if the

21.6 ~~expenditure~~ disbursement is made when:

21.7 (1) the spender provides information to the candidate regarding the ~~expenditure's~~

21.8 disbursement's contents, intended audience, timing, location or mode, volume, or frequency;

21.9 and

21.10 (2) the information is provided to the candidate before the ~~expenditure~~ disbursement is

21.11 communicated to the public.

21.12 Subd. 7. **Conduct standard; candidate's participation.** ~~An expenditure is a coordinated~~

21.13 ~~expenditure~~ A disbursement satisfies the conduct standard of this section if the ~~expenditure~~

21.14 disbursement is made with the candidate's participation in the following:

21.15 (1) any of the processes required for the creation and development of the ~~expenditure~~

21.16 disbursement, including budgeting decisions, media design, acquisition of graphics and

21.17 text, production, and distribution of the final product; or

21.18 (2) any decision regarding the content, timing, location, intended audience, volume of

21.19 distribution, or frequency of the ~~expenditure~~ disbursement.

21.20 Subd. 8. **Conduct standard; instructions or directions from candidate.** A disbursement

21.21 satisfies the conduct standard of this section if the disbursement is materially consistent

21.22 with instructions or directions from a candidate regarding the making of disbursements,

21.23 regardless of whether the instructions or directions are publicly available. The factors the

21.24 board must consider in determining whether a disbursement is consistent with instructions

21.25 or directions from a candidate under this clause include but are not limited to:

21.26 (1) noticeable placement of instructions or directions on a discrete webpage or portion

21.27 of a webpage containing one or more other factors identified in this paragraph;

21.28 (2) whether the instructions or directions include language indicating that information

21.29 should be communicated to others or indicates information is intended for voters, including

21.30 but not limited to the phrase "voters need to know";

21.31 (3) whether the instructions or directions include targeted audience information, such

21.32 as specific demographics or the location of intended or suggested recipients;

22.1 (4) whether the instructions or directions include suggested methods of communication,
22.2 including indications that recipients need to hear, see, see on the go, or receive information
22.3 in other similar manners; and

22.4 (5) whether there are additional documents linked to the instructions or directions to
22.5 provide verification that the recommended messaging would be effective.

22.6 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.177, is amended to read:

22.7 **10A.177 NONCOORDINATED EXPENDITURES DISBURSEMENTS.**

22.8 (a) Any of the following actions, taken alone, do not establish that an expenditure a
22.9 disbursement made by the spender is coordinated with the candidate:

22.10 (1) a candidate asks a spender not to make any expenditure to support the candidate or
22.11 oppose the candidate's opponent or any disbursement for an electioneering communication
22.12 that references the candidate or the candidate's opponent;

22.13 (2) a candidate provides to a spender names of potential donors, as long as the spender
22.14 does not state or suggest to the candidate that funds received from use of the donor list will
22.15 be used for independent expenditures to benefit the candidate;

22.16 (3) ~~an expenditure~~ a disbursement uses a photograph, video, or audio recording obtained
22.17 from a publicly available source or public event;

22.18 (4) ~~an expenditure~~ a disbursement uses information obtained from a biography, position
22.19 paper, press release, or similar material about the candidate from a publicly available source
22.20 or public event;

22.21 (5) the spender contributes to the candidate, makes an in-kind donation to the candidate,
22.22 or endorses the candidate;

22.23 (6) ~~an expenditure~~ a disbursement includes a hyperlink to the candidate's website or
22.24 social media page;

22.25 (7) ~~an expenditure~~ a disbursement appears in a news story, commentary, or editorial
22.26 ~~distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other~~
22.27 ~~periodical publication by any broadcasting station, including a cable or streaming television~~
22.28 operator, programmer, or producer; website; newspaper; magazine; or other periodical
22.29 publication, including any Internet or electronic publication. If the facility is owned or
22.30 controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate, the news story must:

22.31 (i) represent a bona fide news account communicated in a publication of general
22.32 circulation or on a licensed broadcasting facility; and

23.1 (ii) be part of a general pattern of campaign-related news accounts that give reasonably
23.2 equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the circulation or listening area;

23.3 (8) the spender discusses the candidate's position on a legislative or policy matter with
23.4 the candidate. This clause includes the sending, completion, and return of a survey conducted
23.5 by the spender to determine whether to endorse the candidate; or

23.6 (9) the spender invites the candidate to appear before the spender's members, employees,
23.7 or shareholders, including the candidate's participation in the event, unless the event promotes
23.8 the election of the candidate or the defeat of the candidate's opponent, or the candidate
23.9 requests or accepts campaign contributions at the event.

23.10 (b) Paragraph (a), clause (4), does not apply to publicly available instructions or directions
23.11 from a candidate regarding the making of expenditures under section 10A.176, subdivision
23.12 8.

23.13 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.20, is amended by adding a subdivision to
23.14 read:

23.15 Subd. 5a. **Report on personal contributions.** A candidate for constitutional or legislative
23.16 office that makes a contribution or loan to the candidate's principal campaign committee
23.17 that, in aggregate, exceeds the amount permitted by section 10A.27, subdivision 10, must
23.18 report the contribution or loan to the board by the next business day. A candidate must file
23.19 a new report each time that the reporting threshold is exceeded during an election cycle
23.20 segment.

23.21 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.201, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

23.22 Subd. 6. **Electioneering communication.** (a) "Electioneering communication" means
23.23 any broadcast, cable, satellite, telephone, or digital communication that:

23.24 (1) refers to a clearly identified candidate for state office;

23.25 (2) is publicly distributed ~~within 60 days before a general election for the office sought~~
23.26 ~~by the candidate, within 30 days before~~ after the start of the absentee voting period prior to
23.27 a the state primary or special election for the office sought by the candidate when the office
23.28 sought will be on the general or special election ballot through the date of the general or
23.29 special election for that office, or within 30 days before a convention of a political party
23.30 unit that has authority to endorse a candidate for the office sought by the candidate; and

23.31 (3) is targeted to the relevant electorate.

24.1 (b) A communication is not an electioneering communication if it:

24.2 (1) is publicly disseminated through a means of communication other than a broadcast,
24.3 cable, satellite television, or radio station, by telephone, in a digital format online, or by
24.4 other electronic means;

24.5 (2) appears in a news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities
24.6 of any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station, unless such facilities are
24.7 owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate, provided that
24.8 a news story distributed through a broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station
24.9 owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate is not an
24.10 electioneering communication if the news story meets the requirements described in Code
24.11 of Federal Regulations, title 11, section 100.132 (a) and (b);

24.12 (3) constitutes an expenditure or independent expenditure, provided that the expenditure
24.13 or independent expenditure is required to be reported under this chapter;

24.14 (4) constitutes a candidate debate or forum, or that solely promotes such a debate or
24.15 forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum;

24.16 (5) is paid for by a candidate;

24.17 (6) is a noncommercial solicitation for the purposes of opinion research, including but
24.18 not limited to opinion research designed for understanding the impact of exposure to political
24.19 messages and content, provided that the solicitation is not designed to influence respondents'
24.20 views by presenting biased or manipulative content under the guise of it being an opinion
24.21 poll, survey, or other form of scientific data collection; or

24.22 (7) is a communication disseminated by telephone, in a digital format online, or by other
24.23 electronic means that the recipient has affirmatively and voluntarily consented to receive
24.24 from the sender.

24.25 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.202, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

24.26 Subd. 4. **Disclaimer required.** An electioneering communication must include a
24.27 disclaimer ~~in the same manner as required for campaign material under~~ as required by
24.28 section 211B.04, subdivision 1, paragraph (e) 2a.

25.1 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.36, is amended to read:

25.2 **10A.36 REPRISALS PROHIBITED; PENALTY.**

25.3 (a) An employer, individual, or association must not engage in economic reprisals or
25.4 threaten loss of employment or physical coercion against an individual or association because
25.5 of that individual's or association's:

25.6 (1) political contributions or political activity including for becoming a candidate for
25.7 elected public office, unless precluded by other law; or

25.8 (2) refusal to communicate with public or local officials to influence a decision about a
25.9 legislative or administrative action or the official action of a political subdivision.

25.10 (b) This subdivision section does not apply to compensation for employment or, loss of
25.11 employment if, or economic reprisals:

25.12 (1) if the political affiliation or viewpoint of the employee is a bona fide occupational
25.13 qualification of the employment; or

25.14 (2) for communications described in paragraph (a), clause (2), if the individual's
25.15 responsibilities, through employment or contract, include communicating with public or
25.16 local officials.

25.17 (c) An individual or association injured by a violation of this section may bring a civil
25.18 action in district court for damages, injunctive relief, costs and reasonable attorney fees,
25.19 and any other relief the court deems just and equitable, including reinstatement of
25.20 employment.

25.21 (d) An employer, individual, or association that violates this section is guilty of a gross
25.22 misdemeanor. The board may refer a violation of this section to the appropriate county
25.23 attorney.

25.24 (e) For purposes of this section, "employer" means a person or entity that employs one
25.25 or more employees and includes an individual, corporation, partnership, association, business,
25.26 trust, nonprofit organization, group of persons, legislature, judicial branch, state, county,
25.27 town, city, school district, or other governmental subdivision.

25.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to violations
25.29 committed on or after that date and to causes of action accruing on or after that date.

Sec. 28. **[10A.52] MAJOR DECISION OF NONELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS.**

Subdivision 1. Major decision regarding the expenditure of public money. (a)

Attempting to influence a nonelected local official is lobbying if the nonelected local official may make, recommend, or vote on, as a member of the political subdivision's governing body, a major decision regarding an expenditure or investment of public money.

(b) The mere act of submitting an application for a grant or responding to a request for proposals is not lobbying. Communications of a purely administrative or technical nature regarding the submission of a grant application or response to requests for proposals are not lobbying.

Subd. 2. Actions that are a major decision regarding public funds. A major decision regarding the expenditure or investment of public money includes but is not limited to a decision on:

(1) the development and ratification of operating and capital budgets of a political subdivision, including development of the budget request for an office or department within the political subdivision;

(2) whether to apply for or accept state, federal, or private grant funding;

(3) selecting recipients for government grants from the political subdivision; or

(4) tax abatement, tax increment financing, or expenditures on public infrastructure used to support private housing or business developments.

Subd. 3. Actions that are not a major decision. A major decision regarding the expenditure of public money does not include:

(1) the purchase of goods or services with public funds in the operating or capital budget of a political subdivision;

(2) collective bargaining of a labor contract on behalf of a political subdivision; or

(3) participating in discussions with a party or a party's representative regarding litigation between the party and the political subdivision of the local official.

Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124E.03, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 11. Statement of economic interest. Members of charter school boards and persons employed as charter school directors and chief administrators are subject to the requirements of section 10A.09.

27.1 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211A.02, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

27.2 Subdivision 1. **When and where filed by committees or candidates.** (a) A committee
27.3 or a candidate who receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than \$750 in a
27.4 calendar year shall submit an initial report to the filing officer within 14 days after the
27.5 candidate or committee receives or makes disbursements of more than \$750 and must
27.6 continue to make the reports required by this subdivision until a final report is filed.

27.7 (b) In a year in which ~~a candidate receives contributions or makes disbursements of~~
27.8 ~~more than \$750 or~~ the candidate's name appears on the ballot, the candidate must file a
27.9 report:

27.10 (1) ten days before the primary or special primary if a primary is held in the jurisdiction,
27.11 regardless of whether the candidate is on the primary ballot. If a primary is not conducted,
27.12 the report is due ten days before the primary date specified in section 205.065;

27.13 (2) ten days before the general election or special election; and

27.14 (3) 30 days after a general or special election.

27.15 ~~The reporting obligations in this paragraph begin with the first report due after the reporting~~
27.16 ~~period in which the candidate reaches the spending threshold specified in paragraph (a).~~ A
27.17 candidate who did not file for office is not required to file reports required by this paragraph
27.18 that are due after the end of the filing period. A candidate whose name will not be on the
27.19 general election ballot is not required to file the reports required by clauses (2) and (3).

27.20 (c) Until a final report is filed, a candidate must file a report by January 31 of each year.
27.21 Notwithstanding subdivision 2, clause (4), the report required by this subdivision must only
27.22 include the information from the previous calendar year.

27.23 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211A.02, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

27.24 Subd. 2. **Information required.** The report to be filed by a candidate or committee must
27.25 include:

27.26 (1) the name of the candidate and office sought;

27.27 (2) the printed name, address, telephone number, signature, and email address, ~~if available,~~
27.28 of the person responsible for filing the report. If the person responsible for filing the report
27.29 does not have an email address, the person must include an attestation to that effect;

27.30 (3) the total cash on hand designated to be used for political purposes;

(4) the total amount of contributions received and the total amount of disbursements for the period from the last previous report to five days before the current report is due;

(5) if disbursements made to the same vendor exceed \$100 in the aggregate during the period covered by the report, the name and address for the vendor and the amount, date, and purpose for each disbursement; and

(6) the name, address, and employer, or occupation if self-employed, of any individual or entity that during the period covered by the report has made one or more contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$100, and the amount and date of each contribution. The filing officer must restrict public access to the address of any individual who has made a contribution that exceeds \$100 and who has filed with the filing officer a written statement signed by the individual that withholding the individual's address from the financial report is required for the safety of the individual or the individual's family.

Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Campaign material.** (a) A person who participates in the preparation or dissemination of campaign material ~~other than as provided in section 211B.05, subdivision 1,~~ that does not prominently include the name and address of the person or committee causing the material to be prepared or disseminated in a disclaimer substantially in the form provided in paragraph (b) or (c) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Except in cases covered by paragraph (c), the required form of disclaimer is: "~~Prepared and~~ Paid for by the committee, (address)" for material prepared and paid for by a principal campaign committee, or "~~Prepared and~~ Paid for by the committee, (address)" for material prepared and paid for by a person or committee other than a principal campaign committee. The address must be either the committee's mailing address or the committee's website, if the website includes the committee's mailing address. If the material is produced and disseminated without cost, the words "~~paid for~~" ~~may be omitted from~~ "Prepared by" may be used in place of "Paid for by" in the disclaimer. Except as required by paragraph (c), in the case of a candidate's or committee's website or social media page, the requirements of this subdivision are satisfied for the entire website or social media page when the disclaimer appears once on the website or social media home page.

(c) In the case of ~~broadcast~~ audio or video media, including audio or video media posted on a candidate or principal campaign committee's website, the required form of disclaimer is: "Paid for by the committee." If the material is produced and broadcast without cost, the required form of the disclaimer is: "The committee is responsible for the content of this message."

29.1 Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.04, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

29.2 Subd. 2. **Independent expenditures.** (a) ~~The required form of the disclaimer on a written~~
29.3 Except in cases covered by paragraph (b), the required form of disclaimer for an independent
29.4 expenditure is: "This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by (name
29.5 of entity participating in the expenditure), (address). It is not coordinated with or
29.6 approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." The address must be
29.7 either the entity's mailing address or the entity's website, if the website includes the entity's
29.8 mailing address. When a written independent expenditure is produced and disseminated
29.9 without cost, the words "and paid for" may be omitted from the disclaimer.

29.10 (b) ~~The required form of the disclaimer on a broadcast~~ an audio or video media
29.11 independent expenditure is: "This independent expenditure is paid for by (name of
29.12 entity participating in the expenditure). It is not coordinated with or approved by any
29.13 candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." When a broadcast an audio or video media
29.14 independent expenditure is produced and disseminated without cost, the following disclaimer
29.15 may be used: "..... (name of entity participating in the expenditure) is responsible for the
29.16 contents of this independent expenditure. It is not coordinated with or approved by any
29.17 candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it."

29.18 Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.04, is amended by adding a subdivision
29.19 to read:

29.20 Subd. 2a. **Electioneering communication.** (a) Except in cases covered by paragraph
29.21 (b), the required form of disclaimer for an electioneering communication is: Paid for by (name of entity participating in the communication), (address). It is not coordinated
29.22 with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it." The address
29.23 must be either the entity's mailing address or the entity's website, if the website includes
29.24 the entity's mailing address. When an electioneering communication is produced and
29.25 disseminated without cost, the words "Prepared by" may be used in place of "Paid for by"
29.26 in the disclaimer.

29.28 (b) The required form of the disclaimer on an audio or video media electioneering
29.29 communication is: " paid for by (name of entity participating in the communication).
29.30 It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible
29.31 for it." When an audio or video media electioneering communication is produced and
29.32 disseminated without cost, the following disclaimer may be used: "..... (name of entity
29.33 participating in the expenditure) is responsible for the contents of this communication. It is
29.34 not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it."

30.1 Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.04, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

30.2 Subd. 3. **Material that does not need a disclaimer.** (a) This section does not apply to
30.3 fundraising tickets, business cards, personal letters, or similar items that are clearly being
30.4 distributed by the candidate.

30.5 (b) This section does not apply to an individual or association that is not required to
30.6 register or report under chapter 10A or 211A.

30.7 (c) This section does not apply to the following:

30.8 (1) bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens, or similar small items on which the disclaimer
30.9 cannot be conveniently printed;

30.10 (2) skywriting, wearing apparel, or other means of displaying an advertisement of such
30.11 a nature that the inclusion of a disclaimer would be impracticable; and

30.12 (3) ~~online banner ads and similar~~ electronic communications that for which it would be
30.13 technologically infeasible. In this case, the communication must state the name of the person
30.14 who paid for, or in the case of a communication that is produced and disseminated without
30.15 cost, who is responsible for the communication and link directly to an online page that
30.16 includes only the disclaimer. The person who paid for or is responsible for the communication
30.17 must, at the request of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board or the Office of
30.18 Administrative Hearings, demonstrate why it was technologically infeasible to include a
30.19 disclaimer in the form required by subdivision 1, 2, or 2a.

30.20 ~~(d) This section does not modify or repeal section 211B.06.~~

30.21 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.04, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

30.22 Subd. 5. **Font size.** ~~For written communications other than an outdoor sign, website, or~~
30.23 ~~social media page,~~ (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c), the disclaimer must be
30.24 printed in 8-point font or larger with sufficient color contrast to be reasonably legible.

30.25 (b) For an outdoor sign, the font of the disclaimer must be a height of at least five percent
30.26 of the vertical height of the sign with sufficient color contrast to be reasonably legible.

30.27 (c) For websites and social media, the font of the disclaimer must be displayed large
30.28 enough and with sufficient color contrast to be reasonably legible.

30.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.** Paragraph (b) applies to outdoor signs printed
30.30 on or after January 1, 2026.

31.1 Sec. 37. **[211B.065] MISREPRESENTATION OF CAMPAIGN AUTHORITY.**

31.2 Subdivision 1. **Misrepresentation prohibited.** (a) A person must not:

31.3 (1) misrepresent the person or any committee or organization as speaking or writing or
31.4 otherwise acting for or on behalf of any real, potential, spurious, or nonexistent candidate,
31.5 political party, committee, fund, or organization with the intent to defraud; or

31.6 (2) willfully and knowingly participate in or conspire to participate in any plan, scheme,
31.7 or design to violate clause (1).

31.8 (b) A person must not:

31.9 (1) misrepresent the person as speaking, writing, or otherwise acting for or on behalf of
31.10 any real, potential, spurious, or nonexistent candidate, political party, committee, fund, or
31.11 organization or employee or agent of any such candidate, political party, or political
31.12 committee or organization when soliciting money or any other thing of value with the intent
31.13 to defraud; or

31.14 (2) willfully and knowingly participate in or conspire to participate in any plan, scheme,
31.15 or design to violate clause (1).

31.16 Subd. 2. **Criminal penalties; civil remedies.** (a) Except as otherwise provided, a person
31.17 who violates this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

31.18 (b) The attorney general, a county attorney, or a party injured by a violation of subdivision
31.19 1 may bring a civil action pursuant to section 8.31 to recover damages, together with costs
31.20 of investigation and reasonable attorney fees, and receive other equitable relief as determined
31.21 by the court. An action brought by an injured party under section 8.31, subdivision 3a,
31.22 benefits the public. In addition to all other damages, the court may impose a civil penalty
31.23 of up to \$1,000 for each violation.

31.24 (c) Civil remedies allowable under this section are cumulative and do not restrict any
31.25 other right or remedy otherwise available. The complaint process provided in sections
31.26 211B.31 to 211B.36 does not apply to violations of this section.

31.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to crimes
31.28 committed on or after that date and causes of action accruing on or after that date.

31.29 Sec. 38. **[211B.066] DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS**
31.30 **AND SAMPLE BALLOTS.**

31.31 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
31.32 the meanings given.

(b) "Person or entity" means any individual, committee, or association as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 6.

(c) "Sample ballot" means a document that is formatted and printed in a manner that so closely resembles an official ballot that it could lead a reasonable person to believe the document is an official ballot. A document that contains the names of particular candidates or ballot questions alongside illustrations of a generic ballot or common ballot markings is not a sample ballot as long as the document does not closely resemble an official ballot and would not lead a reasonable person to believe the document is an official ballot.

Subd. 2. **Requirements.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, any person or entity that mails an absentee ballot application or sample ballot to anyone in the state must comply with this section. This section does not apply to a unit of government or employee of that unit of government when discharging official election duties.

(b) The person or entity mailing the absentee ballot application or sample ballot must include the following statement: "This mailing is not an official election communication from a unit of government. This [absentee ballot application or sample ballot] has not been included at the request of a government official." If a sample ballot is enclosed, the statement must also include the following: "This is a sample ballot, not an official ballot. You cannot cast the enclosed sample ballot."

(c) The statement required in paragraph (b) must be printed in a typeface and format designed to be clearly visible at the time the mailing is opened. The person or entity sending the sample ballot or absentee ballot application must include the person or entity's name and street address in the return address position on the mailing envelope.

(d) If an absentee ballot application is included, the application fields must be blank and must not include the voter's name, address, or any other required information. Notwithstanding this subdivision, the county auditor or municipal clerk must not reject an absentee ballot application solely because of the inclusion of printed information on the application.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.13, is amended to read:

211B.13 BRIBERY, TREATING, AND SOLICITATION.

Subdivision 1. **Bribery, advancing money, and treating prohibited.** (a) A person who is guilty of a felony if the person willfully, directly or indirectly, advances, pays, gives, promises, provides a chance to win, or lends any money, food, liquor, clothing, entertainment,

33.1 or other thing of monetary value, or who offers, promises, or endeavors to obtain any money,
33.2 position, appointment, employment, or other valuable consideration, to or for a person, in
33.3 order to induce:

33.4 (1) a voter to refrain from voting, or to vote in a particular way, at an election,~~is guilty~~
33.5 ~~of a felony~~

33.6 (2) an individual to register to vote;

33.7 (3) a registered or eligible voter to sign a petition that is directly related to an election
33.8 during the period beginning on the first day of the absentee voting period for that election
33.9 and ending on election day.

33.10 (b) This section does not prevent a candidate from stating publicly preference for or
33.11 support of another candidate to be voted for at the same primary or election. Refreshments
33.12 of food or nonalcoholic beverages having a value up to \$5 are not prohibited under this
33.13 section if consumed on the premises at a private gathering or public meeting ~~are not~~
33.14 ~~prohibited under this section~~ or if offered on equal terms to participants or attendees without
33.15 regard to whether the recipient takes a specified action.

33.16 Subd. 2. **Certain solicitations prohibited.** A person may not knowingly solicit, receive,
33.17 or accept any money, property, or other thing of monetary value, or a promise ~~or~~, pledge,
33.18 or opportunity to win any of these that is a disbursement prohibited by this section or section
33.19 211B.15.

33.20 Subd. 3. **Civil enforcement.** In addition to other remedies, the attorney general or county
33.21 attorney may enforce this section pursuant to section 8.31.

33.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to crimes
33.23 committed on or after that date.

33.24 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.32, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

33.25 Subdivision 1. **Administrative remedy; exhaustion.** (a) Except as provided in paragraphs
33.26 (b) and (c), a complaint alleging a violation of chapter 211A or 211B must be filed with the
33.27 office. The complaint must be finally disposed of by the office before the alleged violation
33.28 may be prosecuted by a county attorney.

33.29 (b) Complaints arising under those sections and related to those individuals and
33.30 associations specified in section 10A.022, subdivision 3, must be filed with the Campaign
33.31 Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

34.1 (c) Violations of sections 211B.065, 211B.075, and 211B.076 may be enforced as
34.2 provided in those sections.

34.3 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.32, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

34.4 Subd. 4. **Proof of claim.** The burden of proving the allegations in the complaint is on
34.5 the complainant. ~~The standard of proof of a violation of section 211B.06, relating to false~~
34.6 ~~statements in paid political advertising or campaign material, is clear and convincing~~
34.7 ~~evidence.~~ The standard of proof of ~~any other~~ a violation of chapter 211A or 211B is a
34.8 preponderance of the evidence.

34.9 Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 211B.35, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

34.10 Subd. 2. **Disposition of complaint.** The panel must determine whether the violation
34.11 alleged in the complaint occurred and must make at least one of the following dispositions:

34.12 (a) The panel may dismiss the complaint.

34.13 (b) The panel may issue a reprimand.

34.14 (c) ~~The panel may find that a statement made in a paid advertisement or campaign~~
34.15 ~~material violated section 211B.06.~~

34.16 ~~(d)~~ The panel may impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for any violation of chapter
34.17 211A or 211B.

34.18 ~~(e)~~ (d) The panel may refer the complaint to the appropriate county attorney.

34.19 Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 383B.041, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

34.20 Subd. 5. **Economic interest disclosure; Special School District No. 1.** Every candidate
34.21 for school board in Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, must file an original statement
34.22 of economic interest with the school district within 14 days of ~~the filing of an affidavit or~~
34.23 ~~petition to appear on the ballot~~ the end of the candidate filing period. An elected official in
34.24 Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, must file the annual statement required in section
34.25 10A.09, subdivision 6, with the school district for every year that the individual serves in
34.26 office. An original and annual statement must contain the information listed in section
34.27 10A.09, subdivision 5. The provisions of section 10A.09, subdivisions 6a, 7, and 9, apply
34.28 to statements required under this subdivision.

35.1 Sec. 44. **CAMPAIGN SPENDING LIMITS STUDY.**

35.2 The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board must study the voluntary campaign
35.3 spending limits as provided in this section. By January 15, 2026, the board must report to
35.4 the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
35.5 over the board with its findings and recommendations. At a minimum, the board must study
35.6 and report on:

35.7 (1) the number of candidates that participate in the public subsidy program, broken down
35.8 by office;

35.9 (2) the number of candidates that do not participate in the public subsidy program, broken
35.10 down by office;

35.11 (3) historic trend data for the past ten years for the information in clauses (1) and (2);

35.12 (4) for candidates that do not participate in the public subsidy program, how much the
35.13 candidate and the candidate's opponent spends and how much is spent on independent
35.14 expenditures in the race;

35.15 (5) how other states set voluntary campaign spending limits, including:

35.16 (i) if other states distinguish between highly contested races and other races in the amount
35.17 of funding provided or spending allowed;

35.18 (ii) if other states have an automatic inflator on the subsidies and limits; and

35.19 (iii) the level of candidate participation over time in the programs; and

35.20 (6) any recommendations the board has regarding the current public subsidy program
35.21 in Minnesota and whether the current spending limits are appropriate.

35.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

35.23 Sec. 45. **RULEMAKING.**

35.24 The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board must amend Minnesota Rules, part
35.25 4503.0900, to conform to the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.174, regarding
35.26 transition expenses. The board may use the good cause exemption under Minnesota Statutes,
35.27 section 14.388, for purposes of this section.

35.28 Sec. 46. **REPEALER.**

35.29 (a) Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 211B.04, subdivision 4; 211B.06; and 211B.08,
35.30 are repealed.

36.1 (b) Minnesota Rules, part 4503.2000, subpart 2, is repealed.

36.2 (c) Minnesota Rules, part 4511.1100, is repealed.

36.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Paragraph (b) is effective the day following final enactment.

36.4 Sec. 47. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

36.5 Unless otherwise provided, this article is effective January 1, 2026.

36.6 **ARTICLE 2**

36.7 **ELECTION POLICY**

36.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 201.061, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

36.9 Subd. 3. **Election day registration.** (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register
36.10 on election day by appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the
36.11 individual maintains residence, by completing a registration application, making an oath in
36.12 the form prescribed by the secretary of state and providing proof of residence. An individual
36.13 may prove residence for purposes of registering by:

36.14 (1) presenting a driver's license or Minnesota identification card issued pursuant to
36.15 section 171.07;

36.16 (2) presenting any document approved by the secretary of state as proper identification;

36.17 (3) presenting a current student fee statement that contains the student's valid address
36.18 in the precinct together with a picture identification card; or

36.19 (4) having a voter who is registered to vote in the precinct, or an employee who provides
36.20 proof that they are employed by and working in a residential facility in the precinct and
36.21 vouching for a resident in the facility, sign an oath in the presence of the election judge
36.22 vouching that the voter or employee personally knows that the individual is a resident of
36.23 the precinct. A voter who has been vouched for on election day may not sign a proof of
36.24 residence oath vouching for any other individual on that election day. A voter who is
36.25 registered to vote in the precinct may sign up to eight proof-of-residence oaths on any
36.26 election day. This limitation does not apply to an employee of a residential facility described
36.27 in this clause. The secretary of state shall provide a form for election judges to use in
36.28 recording the number of individuals for whom a voter signs proof-of-residence oaths on
36.29 election day. The form must include space for the maximum number of individuals for
36.30 whom a voter may sign proof-of-residence oaths. For each proof-of-residence oath, the form
36.31 must include a statement that the individual: (i) is registered to vote in the precinct or is an

employee of a residential facility in the precinct, (ii) personally knows that the voter is a resident of the precinct, and (iii) is making the statement on oath. The form must include a space for the voter's printed name, signature, telephone number, and address.

The oath required by this subdivision and Minnesota Rules, part 8200.9939, must be attached to the voter registration application.

~~(b) The operator of a residential facility shall prepare a list of the names of its employees currently working in the residential facility and the address of the residential facility. The operator shall certify the list and provide it to the appropriate county auditor no less than 20 days before each election for use in election day registration.~~

~~(e)~~ (b) "Residential facility" means transitional housing as defined in section 256K.48, subdivision 1; a supervised living facility licensed by the commissioner of health under section 144.50, subdivision 6; a nursing home as defined in section 144A.01, subdivision 5; an assisted living facility licensed by the commissioner of health under chapter 144G; a veterans home operated by the board of directors of the Minnesota Veterans Homes under chapter 198; a residence licensed by the commissioner of human services to provide a residential program as defined in section 245A.02, subdivision 14; a residential facility for persons with a developmental disability licensed by the commissioner of human services under section 252.28; setting authorized to provide housing support as defined in section 256I.03, subdivision 10a; a shelter for battered women as defined in section 611A.37, subdivision 4; a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter or dwelling designed to provide temporary living accommodations for the homeless; a facility where a provider operates a residential treatment program as defined in section 245.462, subdivision 23; or a facility where a provider operates an adult foster care program as defined in section 245A.02, subdivision 6c.

~~(d)~~ (c) For tribal band members, an individual may prove residence for purposes of registering by:

(1) presenting an identification card issued by the tribal government of a tribe recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, that contains the name, address, signature, and picture of the individual; or

(2) presenting an identification card issued by the tribal government of a tribe recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, that contains the name, signature, and picture of the individual and also presenting one of the documents listed in Minnesota Rules, part 8200.5100, subpart 2, item B.

~~(e)~~ (d) A county, school district, or municipality may require that an election judge responsible for election day registration initial each completed registration application.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 201.061, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. **Additional proofs of residence permitted for students.** (a) If an eligible voter's name; student identification number, if available; and address within the precinct appear on a current residential housing list under section 135A.17 certified to the county auditor by the postsecondary educational institution, the voter may prove residence by presenting a current valid photo identification issued by a postsecondary educational institution in Minnesota; identification authorized in subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2); or identification authorized in subdivision 3, paragraph ~~(d)~~ (c), clause (1) or (2).

(b) This additional proof of residence for students must not be allowed unless the postsecondary educational institution submits to the county auditor no later than 60 days prior to the election a written agreement that the postsecondary educational institution will certify for use at the election accurate updated residential housing lists under section 135A.17. A written agreement is effective for the election and all subsequent elections held in that calendar year, including the November general election.

(c) The additional proof of residence for students must be allowed on an equal basis for voters who reside in housing meeting the requirements of section 135A.17, if the residential housing lists certified by the postsecondary educational institution meet the requirements of this subdivision.

(d) An updated residential housing list must be certified to the county auditor no later than ~~20~~ 35 days prior to each election. The certification must be dated and signed by the chief officer or designee of the postsecondary educational institution and must state that the list is current and accurate and includes only the names of persons residing in the institution's housing and, for students who do not live in the institution's housing, that it reflects the institution's records as of the date of the certification.

(e) This additional proof of residence for students must be allowed during the 18 days before an election and on election day. The county auditor shall instruct the election judges ~~of the precinct~~ in procedures for use of the list in conjunction with photo identification. The auditor shall supply a list to the election judges with the election supplies ~~for the precinct~~.

(f) The county auditor shall notify all postsecondary educational institutions in the county of the provisions of this subdivision.

39.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026, and applies to elections
39.2 held on or after February 6, 2026.

39.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 201.071, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

39.4 Subdivision 1. **Form.** Both paper and electronic voter registration applications must
39.5 contain the same information unless otherwise provided by law. A voter registration
39.6 application must contain spaces for the following required information: voter's first name,
39.7 middle name, and last name; voter's previous name, if any; voter's current address; voter's
39.8 previous address, if any; voter's date of birth; voter's municipality and county of residence;
39.9 voter's telephone number, if provided by the voter; date of registration; current and valid
39.10 Minnesota driver's license number or Minnesota state identification number, or if the voter
39.11 has no current and valid Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota state identification, the
39.12 last four digits of the voter's Social Security number; ~~a box to indicate a voter's preference~~
39.13 ~~to join the permanent absentee voter list;~~ and voter's signature. The paper registration
39.14 application must provide a space for a voter to provide a physical description of the location
39.15 of their residence, if the voter resides in an area lacking a specific physical address. The
39.16 description must be sufficient for the county auditor to identify the correct precinct for the
39.17 voter. The description may include the closest cross street or the nearest address to the
39.18 described location that is identified on a precinct map, and directions from that cross street
39.19 or address to the described location, including but not limited to the cardinal direction and
39.20 approximate distance to the location. The paper registration application may include the
39.21 voter's email address, if provided by the voter. The electronic voter registration application
39.22 must include the voter's email address. The registration application may include the voter's
39.23 interest in serving as an election judge, if indicated by the voter. The application must also
39.24 contain the following certification of voter eligibility:

39.25 "I certify that I:

39.26 (1) am at least 16 years old and understand that I must be at least 18 years old to be
39.27 eligible to vote;

39.28 (2) am a citizen of the United States;

39.29 (3) will have maintained residence in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding
39.30 election day;

39.31 (4) maintain residence at the address or location given on the registration form;

39.32 (5) am not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my right
39.33 to vote;

40.1 (6) have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;

40.2 (7) am not currently incarcerated for a conviction of a felony offense; and

40.3 (8) have read and understand the following statement: that giving false information is a
40.4 felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of not more than
40.5 \$10,000, or both."

40.6 The certification must include boxes for the voter to respond to the following questions:

40.7 "(1) Are you a citizen of the United States?" and

40.8 "(2) Are you at least 16 years old and will you be at least 18 years old on or before the
40.9 day of the election in which you intend to vote?"

40.10 And the instruction:

40.11 "If you checked 'no' to either of these questions, do not complete this form."

40.12 The form of the voter registration application and the certification of voter eligibility
40.13 must be as provided in this subdivision and approved by the secretary of state. Voter
40.14 registration forms authorized by the National Voter Registration Act must also be accepted
40.15 as valid. The federal postcard application form must also be accepted as valid if it is not
40.16 deficient and the voter is eligible to register in Minnesota.

40.17 An individual may use a voter registration application to apply to register to vote in
40.18 Minnesota or to change information on an existing registration.

40.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025, except that this section is
40.20 effective January 1, 2026, for the secretary of state's online voter registration application.

40.21 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 201.091, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

40.22 Subd. 5. **Copy of list to registered voter.** The county auditors and the secretary of state
40.23 ~~shall~~ must provide copies of the public information lists in electronic or other media to any
40.24 voter registered in Minnesota within ~~ten~~ five business days of receiving a complete written
40.25 or electronic request accompanied by payment of the cost of reproduction. The county
40.26 auditors and the secretary of state ~~shall~~ must make a copy of the list available for public
40.27 inspection without cost. An individual who inspects or acquires a copy of a public information
40.28 list ~~may~~ must not use any information contained in it for purposes unrelated to elections,
40.29 political activities, or law enforcement.

40.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

41.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 201.225, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

41.2 Subd. 2. **Technology requirements.** An electronic roster must:

41.3 (1) be able to be loaded with a data file that includes voter registration data in a file
41.4 format prescribed by the secretary of state;

41.5 (2) allow for data to be exported in a file format prescribed by the secretary of state;

41.6 (3) allow for data to be entered manually or by scanning a Minnesota driver's license or
41.7 identification card to locate a voter record or populate a voter registration application that
41.8 would be printed and signed and dated by the voter. The printed registration application
41.9 can be a printed form, a label printed with voter information to be affixed to a preprinted
41.10 form, a combination of a form and label, or an electronic record that the voter signs
41.11 electronically and is printed following its completion at the polling place;

41.12 (4) allow an election judge to update data that was populated from a scanned driver's
41.13 license or identification card;

41.14 (5) cue an election judge to ask for and input data that is not populated from a scanned
41.15 driver's license or identification card that is otherwise required to be collected from the voter
41.16 or an election judge;

41.17 (6) immediately alert the election judge if the voter has provided information that indicates
41.18 that the voter is not eligible to vote;

41.19 (7) immediately alert the election judge if the electronic roster indicates that a voter has
41.20 already voted in that precinct, the voter's registration status is challenged, or it appears the
41.21 voter maintains residence in a different precinct;

41.22 (8) provide immediate instructions on how to resolve a particular type of challenge when
41.23 a voter's record is challenged;

41.24 (9) provide for a printed voter signature certificate, containing the voter's name, address
41.25 of residence, date of birth, voter identification number, the oath required by section 204C.10,
41.26 and a space for the voter's original signature. The printed voter signature certificate can be
41.27 a printed form, a label printed with the voter's information to be affixed to the oath, or an
41.28 electronic record that the voter signs electronically and is printed following its completion
41.29 at the polling place;

41.30 (10) contain only preregistered voters within the precinct, and not contain preregistered
41.31 voter data on voters registered outside of the precinct, unless being utilized for a combined
41.32 polling place pursuant to section 204B.14, subdivision 2, absentee or early voting under

chapter 203B or for mail balloting on election day pursuant to section 204B.45, subdivision 2a;

(11) be only networked within the polling location on election day, except for the purpose of updating absentee ballot records;

(12) meet minimum security, reliability, and networking standards established by the Office of the Secretary of State in consultation with the Department of Information Technology Services;

(13) be capable of providing a voter's correct polling place; and

(14) perform any other functions necessary for the efficient and secure administration of the participating election, as determined by the secretary of state.

Electronic rosters used only for election day registration do not need to comply with clauses (1), (8), and (10). Electronic rosters used only for preregistered voter processing do not need to comply with clauses (4) and (5).

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective on June 1, 2025.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Application procedures.** (a) Except as otherwise allowed by subdivision 2 or by section 203B.11, subdivision 4, or 203B.29, an application for absentee ballots for any election:

(1) may be submitted in person at any time not later than the day before the election; or

(2) must be received by electronic facsimile device, by email, or by mail at any time not less than ~~one day~~ five days before the day of that election.

The county auditor shall prepare absentee ballot application forms in the format provided by the secretary of state and shall furnish them to any person on request. By January 1 of each even-numbered year, the secretary of state shall make the forms to be used available to auditors through electronic means. An application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be in writing. An application may be submitted in person, by electronic facsimile device, by electronic mail, or by mail to:

(1) the county auditor of the county where the applicant maintains residence; or

(2) the municipal clerk of the municipality, or school district if applicable, where the applicant maintains residence.

(b) An absentee ballot application may alternatively be submitted electronically through a secure website that shall be maintained by the secretary of state for this purpose. After 5:00 p.m. seven days prior to an election, the secretary of state must replace the electronic application with information detailing the available options to vote before and on the upcoming election day. Notwithstanding paragraph (d), the secretary of state must require applicants using the website to submit the applicant's email address and the applicant's:

(1) verifiable Minnesota driver's license number; or Minnesota state identification card number; or; and

(2) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number.

If an applicant does not possess both types of documents, the applicant must include the number for one type of document and must affirmatively certify that the applicant does not possess the other type of documentation. This paragraph does not apply to a town election held in March.

(c) An application submitted electronically under ~~this~~ paragraph (b) may only be transmitted to the county auditor for processing if the secretary of state has verified the application information matches the information in a government database associated with the applicant's driver's license number, state identification card number, or Social Security number. The secretary of state must review all unverifiable applications for evidence of suspicious activity and must forward any such application to an appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.

(d) An application shall be approved if it is timely received, signed and dated by the applicant, contains the applicant's name and residence and mailing addresses, date of birth, and at least one of the following:

(1) the applicant's Minnesota driver's license number;

(2) Minnesota state identification card number;

(3) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number; or

(4) a statement that the applicant does not have any of these numbers.

The county auditor or the municipal clerk or school district clerk, if applicable, must retain all applications. For an application is received after the deadline in paragraph (a), the official in charge of the ballot board must, within one day of receipt of the application, attempt to contact the applicant by telephone or email to notify the applicant of opportunities to vote in the election. The official must document the attempts made to contact the applicant.

(e) To be approved, the application must contain an oath that the information contained on the form is accurate, that the applicant is applying on the applicant's own behalf, and that the applicant is signing the form under penalty of perjury.

(f) An applicant's full date of birth, Minnesota driver's license or state identification number, and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number must not be made available for public inspection. An application may be submitted to the county auditor or municipal clerk by an electronic facsimile device. An application mailed or returned in person to the county auditor or municipal clerk on behalf of a voter by a person other than the voter must be deposited in the mail or returned in person to the county auditor or municipal clerk within ~~ten~~ seven days after it has been dated by the voter and the person must make a reasonable effort to ensure the application is received no later than six days before the election the deadline in paragraph (a).

(g) An application under this subdivision ~~may~~ must contain ~~an application under subdivision 5~~ a space to apply to automatically receive an absentee ballot under subdivision 5.

(h) For purposes of this section, "mail" means an absentee ballot application delivered to the secretary of state, county auditor, or municipal clerk by the United States Postal Service or a commercial carrier.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Paragraph (g) is effective on January 1, 2026, as it applies to the secretary of state's online absentee ballot website. Paragraph (g) is effective July 1, 2025, as it applies to all other absentee ballot applications. The remainder of this section is effective July 1, 2025.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The full-time clerk of any city or town shall administer the provisions of sections 203B.04 to 203B.15 and 203B.30 if:

- (1) the county auditor of that county has designated the clerk to administer them; or
- (2) the clerk has given the county auditor of that county notice of intention to administer them.

The designation or notice must specify whether the clerk will be responsible for the administration of a ballot board as provided in section 203B.121 and whether the municipality's office will be designated an absentee voting location pursuant to section 203B.081, subdivision 1, or only for early voting pursuant to section 203B.081, subdivision 1a, or the alternative procedure pursuant to section 203B.081, subdivision 3.

A clerk of a city that is located in more than one county may only administer the provisions of sections 203B.04 to 203B.15 and 203B.30 if the clerk has been designated by each of the county auditors or has provided notice to each of the county auditors that the city will administer absentee voting. A clerk may only administer the provisions of sections 203B.04 to 203B.15 and 203B.30 if the clerk has technical capacity to access the statewide voter registration system in the secure manner prescribed by the secretary of state. The secretary of state must identify hardware, software, security, or other technical prerequisites necessary to ensure the security, access controls, and performance of the statewide voter registration system. A clerk must receive training approved by the secretary of state on the use of the statewide voter registration system before administering this section. A clerk may not use the statewide voter registration system until the clerk has received the required training. The county auditor must notify the secretary of state of any municipal clerk who will be administering the provisions of this section and the duties that the clerk will administer.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.08, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Marking and return by voter.** (a) An eligible voter who receives absentee ballots as provided in this chapter shall mark them in the manner specified in the directions for casting the absentee ballots. The ~~return~~ signature envelope containing marked ballots may be mailed as provided in the directions for casting the absentee ballots, may be left with the county auditor or municipal clerk who transmitted the absentee ballots to the voter, or may be left in a drop box as provided in section 203B.082. If delivered in person, the ~~return~~ signature envelope must be submitted to the county auditor or municipal clerk by 8:00 p.m. on election day.

(b) The voter may designate an agent to deliver in person the sealed ~~absentee ballot~~ ~~return~~ signature envelope to the county auditor or municipal clerk or to deposit the ~~return~~ signature envelope in the mail. An agent may deliver or mail the ~~return~~ signature envelopes of not more than three voters in any election. Any person designated as an agent who tampers with either the ~~return~~ signature envelope or the voted ballots or does not immediately mail or deliver the ~~return~~ signature envelope to the county auditor or municipal clerk is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.08, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Procedures on receipt of ballots.** When absentee ballots are returned to a county auditor or municipal clerk, that official shall stamp or initial and date the ~~return~~

signature envelope and place it in a locked ballot container or other secured and locked space with other ~~return~~ signature envelopes received by that office. Within five days after receipt, the county auditor or municipal clerk shall deliver to the ballot board all ~~ballots~~ signature envelopes received, except that during the 14 days immediately preceding an election, the county auditor or municipal clerk shall deliver all ~~ballots~~ signature envelopes received to the ballot board within three days. ~~Ballots~~ Signature envelopes received on election day after 8:00 p.m. shall be marked as received late by the county auditor or municipal clerk, and must not be delivered to the ballot board.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.081, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Temporary locations.** (a) A county auditor or municipal clerk authorized under section 203B.05 to administer voting before election day may designate additional polling places with days and hours that differ from those required by section 203B.085. A designation authorized by this subdivision must be made at least 47 days before the election. As soon as practicable and no later than five business days after designating an additional polling place under this subdivision, the county auditor or municipal clerk must post on the county's or municipality's website the address of the polling place and the dates and times the polling place will be available for voting. The county auditor or municipal clerk must provide notice to the secretary of state at the time that the designations are made. As soon as practicable and no later than five business days after receiving the notice, the secretary of state must post on the secretary of state's website the address of the polling place and the dates and times the polling place will be available for voting.

(b) At the request of a federally recognized Indian Tribe with a reservation or off-reservation Tribal lands in the county, the county auditor must establish an additional polling place for at least one day on the Indian reservation or off-reservation Tribal lands on a site agreed upon by the Tribe and the county auditor that is accessible to the county auditor by a public road.

(c) At the request of a postsecondary institution or the student government organization of a postsecondary institution in the county or municipality, the county auditor or a municipal clerk authorized to administer absentee voting under section 203B.05 must establish an additional temporary polling place for the state general election or the odd-year city general election for at least one day at a location agreed upon by the institution and the county auditor or municipal clerk that:

(1) is accessible to the public;

(2) satisfies the requirements of state and federal law; and

(3) is on the institution's campus or is within one-half mile of the institution's campus and is reasonably accessible to the institution's students.

A request must be made no later than May 31 before an election and the request is valid only for that election. This paragraph only applies to a postsecondary institution that provides on-campus student housing to 100 or more students. Nothing in this paragraph prevents the county auditor or municipal clerk from engaging in a dialogue with the entity that made the request regarding potential alternative locations for a temporary polling place that does not meet the requirements of clause (3). An entity that made a request for a temporary polling place may withdraw its request by notifying the county auditor or municipal clerk.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective September 1, 2025.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** (a) Each full-time municipal clerk or school district clerk who has authority under section 203B.05 to administer absentee voting laws must designate election judges to deliver absentee ballots in accordance with this section. The county auditor must also designate election judges to perform the duties in this section. A ballot may be delivered only to an eligible voter who is a temporary or permanent resident or patient in one of the following facilities located in the municipality in which the voter maintains residence: a health care facility, hospital, or veterans home operated by the board of directors of the Minnesota veterans homes under chapter 198. The ballots must be delivered by two election judges, each of whom is affiliated with a different major political party. When the election judges deliver or return ballots as provided in this section, they must travel together in the same vehicle. Both election judges must be present when an applicant completes the certificate of eligibility and marks the absentee ballots, and may assist an applicant as provided in section 204C.15. The election judges must deposit the return envelopes containing the marked absentee ballots in a sealed container and return them to the clerk on the same day that they are delivered and marked.

(b) If a health care professional at the facility or hospital determines it is necessary to ensure the health and safety of election judges, the voter, or others at the facility or hospital, two employees of the facility or hospital may receive a ballot from the election judges and deliver the ballot to an individual voter in place of election judges, notwithstanding other requirements of this section. The employees must not in any manner request, persuade, induce, or attempt to persuade or induce the voter to vote for any particular political party or candidate. Both employees must be present when an applicant completes the certificate of eligibility and marks the absentee ballots, and may assist an applicant as provided in

48.1 section 204C.15. The employees must return the ballot to the election judges immediately
48.2 after the voter has finished voting.

48.3 ~~(b)~~ (c) At the discretion of a full-time municipal clerk, school district clerk, or county
48.4 auditor, absentee ballots may be delivered in the same manner as prescribed in paragraph
48.5 (a) to a shelter for battered women as defined in section 611A.37, subdivision 4, or to an
48.6 assisted living facility licensed under chapter 144G.

48.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 1, 2025.

48.8 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.121, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

48.9 Subdivision 1. **Establishment; applicable laws.** (a) The governing body of each county,
48.10 municipality, and school district with responsibility to accept and reject absentee ballots or
48.11 to administer early voting must, by ordinance or resolution, establish a ballot board. The
48.12 board must consist of a sufficient number of election judges appointed as provided in sections
48.13 204B.19 to 204B.22, except the provisions of section 204B.19, subdivision 5, relating to
48.14 party balance in the appointment of judges and to duties to be performed by judges of
48.15 different major political parties do not apply to a county election not held in conjunction
48.16 with a state election. The board may include deputy county auditors or deputy city clerks
48.17 who have received training in the processing and counting of absentee ballots. Each member
48.18 of the ballot board must be provided adequate training on the processing and counting of
48.19 absentee ballots, including but not limited to instruction on accepting and rejecting absentee
48.20 ballots, storage of absentee ballots, timelines and deadlines, the role of the ballot board,
48.21 procedures for opening absentee ballot envelopes, procedures for counting absentee ballots,
48.22 and procedures for reporting absentee ballot totals.

48.23 (b) Each jurisdiction must pay a reasonable compensation to each member of that
48.24 jurisdiction's ballot board for services rendered during an election.

48.25 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this section, all provisions of the Minnesota Election
48.26 Law apply to a ballot board.

48.27 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.121, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

48.28 Subd. 4. **Opening of envelopes.** (a) After the close of business on the 19th day before
48.29 the election, the ballots from ~~secrecy~~ ballot envelopes within the signature envelopes marked
48.30 "Accepted" may be opened, duplicated as needed in the manner provided in section 206.86,
48.31 subdivision 5, initialed by the members of the ballot board, and deposited in the appropriate
48.32 ballot box. If more than one voted ballot is enclosed in the ballot envelope, the ballots must

49.1 be returned in the manner provided by section 204C.25 for return of spoiled ballots, and
49.2 may not be counted.

49.3 (b) Accepted signature envelopes must be segregated by precinct and processed in
49.4 accordance with this subdivision on a precinct-by-precinct basis. Precincts within a
49.5 combination polling place established in section 205A.11, subdivision 2, may be processed
49.6 together. At each step, members of the ballot board must notify the official responsible for
49.7 the ballot board if there is a discrepancy in any count required by paragraphs (c) to (e) and
49.8 note it in the ballot board incident log.

49.9 (c) Before opening accepted signature envelopes, two members of the ballot board must
49.10 count and record the number of envelopes and ensure that the count matches either the
49.11 number of accepted signature envelopes provided by the official responsible for the ballot
49.12 board or the number of signature envelopes accepted by the ballot board that day.

49.13 (d) Two members of the ballot board must remove the ballots from the ballot envelopes.
49.14 The governing body responsible for the ballot board must retain all ballot envelopes through
49.15 the contest period of that election.

49.16 (e) After ballots have been removed from the ballot envelopes, two members of the
49.17 ballot board must count and record the number of ballots to ensure the count matches the
49.18 number of accepted signature envelopes, accounting for any empty envelopes or spoiled
49.19 ballots, which must be noted on the ballot board incident log.

49.20 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.121, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

49.21 Subd. 5. **Storage and counting of absentee ballots.** (a) On a day on which absentee
49.22 ballots are inserted into a ballot box, two members of the ballot board must:

49.23 (1) remove the ballots from the ballot box at the end of the day;

49.24 (2) without inspecting the ballots, ensure that the number of ballots removed from the
49.25 ballot box is equal to the number of ~~voters whose absentee ballots were accepted~~ from the
49.26 tally in subdivision 4 that were to be inserted into the ballot box that day; and

49.27 (3) seal and secure all voted and unvoted ballots present in that location at the end of
49.28 the day.

49.29 (b) After the polls have closed on election day, two members of the ballot board must
49.30 count the ballots, tabulating the vote in a manner that indicates each vote of the voter and
49.31 the total votes cast for each candidate or question. In state primary and state general elections,
49.32 the results must indicate the total votes cast for each candidate or question in each precinct

and report the vote totals tabulated for each precinct. The count must be recorded on a summary statement in substantially the same format as provided in section 204C.26. The ballot board ~~shall~~ must submit at least one completed summary statement to the county auditor or municipal clerk. The county auditor or municipal clerk may require the ballot board to submit a sufficient number of completed summary statements to comply with the provisions of section 204C.27, or the county auditor or municipal clerk may certify reports containing the details of the ballot board summary statement to the recipients of the summary statements designated in section 204C.27.

~~In state primary and state general elections, These vote totals shall~~ must be added to the vote totals on the summary statements of the returns for the appropriate precinct. ~~In other elections, these vote totals may be added to the vote totals on the summary statement of returns for the appropriate precinct or may be reported as a separate total.~~

The count ~~shall~~ must be public. No vote totals from ballots may be made public before the close of voting on election day.

(c) In addition to the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b), if the task has not been completed previously, the members of the ballot board must verify as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after the end of the hours for voting, that voters whose absentee ballots arrived after the rosters were marked or supplemental reports were generated and whose ballots were accepted did not vote in person on election day. An absentee ballot submitted by a voter who has voted in person on election day must be rejected. All other accepted absentee ballots must be opened in accordance with the procedures outlined in subdivision 4, except for the absentee ballots cast using the alternative procedure in section 203B.081, subdivision 3, duplicated if necessary, and counted by members of the ballot board. The vote totals from these ballots must be incorporated into the totals with the other absentee ballots and handled according to paragraph (b).

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.17, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Website security.** (a) The secretary of state shall maintain a log of each Internet Protocol address used to submit an absentee ballot application electronically under this section, and must monitor the log, volume of website use, and other appropriate indicators for suspicious activity. Evidence of suspicious activity that cannot be resolved by the secretary of state must be forwarded to an appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.

(b) The electronic absentee ballot application system must be secure. The website shall maintain the confidentiality of all users and preserve the integrity of the data submitted.

51.1 The secretary of state shall employ security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity
51.2 of absentee ballot applications submitted electronically pursuant to this section. All data
51.3 sent and received through the website must be encrypted.

51.4 (c) The secretary of state must provide ongoing testing and monitoring to ensure continued
51.5 security. The secretary of state must work with the chief information officer as defined in
51.6 section 16E.01, subdivision 1, or another security expert to annually assess the security of
51.7 the system. The security assessment must include a certification signed by the secretary of
51.8 state that states that adequate security measures are in place. The certification must also be
51.9 signed by the chief information officer or another security expert affirming that the
51.10 assessment is accurate. The secretary of state must submit the security assessment to the
51.11 legislative auditor and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees in the
51.12 senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over elections by January 1
51.13 of each year, ~~except that the first annual security assessment must be submitted by September~~
51.14 ~~30, 2014, and no report is required for January 1, 2015.~~

51.15 (d) In developing the electronic absentee ballot application system, the secretary of state
51.16 must consult with the chief information officer or the chief's designee to ensure the site is
51.17 secure.

51.18 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.23, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

51.19 Subd. 2. **Duties.** (a) The absentee ballot board must examine all returned absentee ballot
51.20 envelopes for ballots issued under sections 203B.16 to 203B.27 and accept or reject the
51.21 absentee ballots in the manner provided in section 203B.24. If the certificate of voter
51.22 eligibility is not printed on the signature envelope, the certificate must be attached to the
51.23 ballot envelope.

51.24 (b) The absentee ballot board must immediately examine the signature envelopes or
51.25 certificates of voter eligibility that are attached to the ballot envelopes and mark them
51.26 "accepted" or "rejected" during the 45 days before the election. If an envelope has been
51.27 rejected at least five days before the election, the ballots in the envelope must be considered
51.28 spoiled ballots and the official in charge of the absentee ballot board must provide the voter
51.29 with a replacement absentee ballot and envelopes in place of the spoiled ballot.

51.30 (c) If a county has delegated the responsibility for administering absentee balloting to
51.31 a municipality under section 203B.05, accepted absentee ballots must be delivered to the
51.32 appropriate municipality's absentee ballot board, except as otherwise provided in this
51.33 paragraph. If a municipality and county agree that the county's ballot board retains
51.34 responsibility for ballots issued pursuant to sections 203B.16 to 203B.27, absentee ballots

52.1 issued pursuant to these sections that are accepted must be opened, counted, and retained
52.2 by the county's absentee ballot board. The absentee ballot board with the authority to open
52.3 and count the ballots must do so in accordance with section 203B.121, subdivisions 4 and
52.4 5.

52.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

52.6 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.29, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

52.7 Subdivision 1. **Emergency response providers.** Any eligible Minnesota voter who is
52.8 a trained or certified emergency response provider or utility worker who is deployed in
52.9 response to any state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or any
52.10 governor of any state within the United States during the time period authorized by law for
52.11 absentee voting or on election day may request that ballots, instructions, and a certificate
52.12 of voter eligibility be transmitted to the voter electronically. Upon receipt of a properly
52.13 completed application requesting electronic transmission, the county auditor must
52.14 electronically transmit the requested materials to the voter. The absentee ballot application
52.15 deadlines in section 203B.04, subdivision 1, do not apply to this subdivision. The county
52.16 auditor is not required to provide return postage to voters to whom ballots are transmitted
52.17 electronically.

52.18 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.29, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

52.19 Subd. 2. **Reasonable accommodation for voter with disability.** Any eligible Minnesota
52.20 voter with a print disability, including any voter with disabilities that interfere with the
52.21 effective reading, writing, or use of printed materials, may request that ballots, instructions,
52.22 and a certificate of voter eligibility be transmitted to the voter electronically in an accessible
52.23 format that meets Election Assistance Commission minimum accessibility requirements.
52.24 Upon receipt of a properly completed application requesting electronic transmission, the
52.25 county auditor shall electronically transmit the requested materials to the voter. The absentee
52.26 ballot application deadlines in section 203B.04, subdivision 1, do not apply to this
52.27 subdivision. The county auditor must also mail the voter materials required under section
52.28 203B.07.

52.29 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.30, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

52.30 Subd. 3. **Processing of ballots.** Each day when early voting occurs, the early voting
52.31 officials must:

53.1 (1) remove and secure ballots cast during the early voting period following the procedures
 53.2 in section 203B.121, subdivision 5, paragraph (a), noting the date, voting location, and
 53.3 number of ballots cast;

53.4 (2) without inspecting the ballots, ensure that the number of ballots removed from the
 53.5 ballot box is equal to the number of voter certificates that were signed by voters in subdivision
 53.6 2, paragraph (b); and

53.7 (3) seal and secure all voted and unvoted ballots present in that location at the end of
 53.8 the day.

53.9 The absentee ballot board must count the ballots after the polls have closed on election
 53.10 day following the procedures in section 203B.121, subdivision 5, paragraph (b).

53.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective upon the revisor of statutes' receipt of
 53.12 the early voting certification and applies to elections held on or after the 85th day after the
 53.13 revisor of statutes receives the certification.

53.14 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.06, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

53.15 Subdivision 1. **Form of affidavit.** (a) An affidavit of candidacy shall state the name of
 53.16 the office sought and, except as provided in subdivision 4, shall state that the candidate:

53.17 (1) is an eligible voter;

53.18 (2) has no other affidavit on file as a candidate for any office at the same primary or
 53.19 next ensuing general election, except as authorized by subdivision 9; and

53.20 (3) is, or will be on assuming the office, 21 years of age or more, and will have maintained
 53.21 residence in the district from which the candidate seeks election for 30 days before the
 53.22 general election.

53.23 (b) An affidavit of candidacy must include a statement that the candidate's name as
 53.24 written on the affidavit for ballot designation is the candidate's true name or the name by
 53.25 which the candidate is commonly and generally known in the community: and:

53.26 (1) the phonetic spelling or an explanation for the pronunciation of the full name
 53.27 designated for the ballot; or

53.28 (2) a certification that the candidate is directing the official responsible for programming
 53.29 materials for the election to use the applicable technology's default pronunciation of the
 53.30 candidate's name.

(c) An affidavit of candidacy for partisan office shall also state the name of the candidate's political party or political principle, stated in three words or less.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.06, subdivision 1b, is amended to read:

Subd. 1b. **Address, electronic mail address, and telephone number.** (a) An affidavit of candidacy must state a telephone number where the candidate can be contacted. An affidavit must also state the candidate's or campaign's nongovernment issued electronic mail address or an attestation that the candidate and the candidate's campaign do not possess an electronic mail address. Except for affidavits of candidacy for (1) judicial office, (2) the office of county attorney, or (3) county sheriff, an affidavit must also state the candidate's current address of residence as determined under section 200.031, or at the candidate's request in accordance with paragraph (c), the candidate's campaign contact address. When filing the affidavit, the candidate must present the filing officer with the candidate's valid driver's license or state identification card that contains the candidate's current address of residence, or documentation of proof of residence authorized for election day registration in section 201.061, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2); clause (3), ~~item (ii)~~; or paragraph (d). If an original bill is shown, the due date on the bill must be within 30 days before or after the beginning of the filing period or, for bills without a due date, dated within 30 days before the beginning of the filing period. If the address on the affidavit and the documentation do not match, the filing officer must not accept the affidavit. The form for the affidavit of candidacy must allow the candidate to request, if eligible, that the candidate's address of residence be classified as private data, and to provide the certification required under paragraph (c) for classification of that address.

(b) If an affidavit for an office where a residency requirement must be satisfied by the close of the filing period is filed as provided by paragraph (c), the filing officer must, within one business day of receiving the filing, determine whether the address provided in the affidavit of candidacy is within the area represented by the office the candidate is seeking. For all other candidates who filed for an office whose residency requirement must be satisfied by the close of the filing period, a registered voter in this state may request in writing that the filing officer receiving the affidavit of candidacy review the address as provided in this paragraph, at any time up to one day after the last day for filing for office. If requested, the filing officer must determine whether the address provided in the affidavit of candidacy is within the area represented by the office the candidate is seeking. If the filing officer determines that the address is not within the area represented by the office, the filing officer

must immediately notify the candidate and the candidate's name must be removed from the ballot for that office. A determination made by a filing officer under this paragraph is subject to judicial review under section 204B.44.

(c) If the candidate requests that the candidate's address of residence be classified as private data, the candidate must list the candidate's address of residence on a separate form to be attached to the affidavit. The candidate must also certify on the affidavit that either: (1) a police report has been submitted, an order for protection has been issued, or the candidate has a reasonable fear in regard to the safety of the candidate or the candidate's family; or (2) the candidate's address is otherwise private pursuant to Minnesota law. The address of residence provided by a candidate who makes a request for classification on the candidate's affidavit of candidacy and provides the certification required by this paragraph is classified as private data, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, but may be reviewed by the filing officer as provided in this subdivision.

~~(d) The requirements of this subdivision do not apply to affidavits of candidacy for a candidate for: (1) judicial office; (2) the office of county attorney; or (3) county sheriff.~~

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Petitions for presidential electors and alternates. (a) This subdivision section does not apply to candidates for presidential elector or alternate nominated by major political parties. Major party candidates for presidential elector or alternate are certified under section 208.03. Other presidential electors or alternates are nominated by petition pursuant to this section.

(b) On petitions nominating presidential electors or alternates, the names of the candidates for president and vice-president shall be added to the political party or political principle stated on the petition. One petition may be filed to nominate a slate of presidential electors equal in number to the number of electors to which the state is entitled and an alternate for each elector nominee.

(c) In addition to the petition, each nominated candidate must submit a signed, notarized affidavit of candidacy for president or vice president that includes the following information:

(1) the candidate's name in the form as it should appear on the ballot;

(2) the candidate's campaign address, website, phone number, and email address;

(3) the name of the political party or political principle stated on the petition;

56.1 (4) the office sought by the candidate; and

56.2 (5) a declaration that the candidate is aware of and will follow all applicable election

56.3 laws and campaign finance laws.

56.4 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.09, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

56.5 Subd. 1a. **Absent candidates.** (a) A candidate for special district, county, state, or federal
56.6 office who will be absent from the state during the filing period may submit a properly
56.7 executed affidavit of candidacy, the appropriate filing fee, and any necessary petitions in
56.8 person to the filing officer. The candidate shall state in writing the reason for being unable
56.9 to submit the affidavit during the filing period. The affidavit, filing fee, if any, and petitions
56.10 must be submitted to the filing officer during the seven days immediately preceding the
56.11 candidate's absence from the state. Nominating petitions may be signed during the 14 days
56.12 immediately preceding the date when the affidavit of candidacy is filed.

56.13 (b) A candidate for special district, county, state, or federal office who will be absent
56.14 from the state during the entire filing period or who must leave the state for the remainder
56.15 of the filing period and who certifies to the secretary of state that the circumstances constitute
56.16 an emergency and were unforeseen, may submit a properly executed affidavit of candidacy
56.17 by facsimile device or by transmitting electronically a scanned image of the affidavit and
56.18 proof of residence required in section 204B.06, subdivision 1b, to the secretary of state
56.19 during the filing period. The candidate shall state in writing the specific reason for being
56.20 unable to submit the affidavit by mail or by hand during the filing period or in person prior
56.21 to the start of the filing period. The affidavit of candidacy, filing fee, if any, and any necessary
56.22 petitions must be received by the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing.
56.23 If the candidate is filing for a special district or county office, the secretary of state shall
56.24 forward the affidavit of candidacy, filing fee, if any, and any necessary petitions to the
56.25 appropriate filing officer. Copies of a proof of residence submitted under this subdivision
56.26 are private data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

56.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

56.28 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.09, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

56.29 Subd. 2. **Other elections.** (a) Affidavits of candidacy and nominating petitions for city,
56.30 town or other elective offices shall be filed during the time and with the official specified
56.31 in chapter 205 or other applicable law or charter, except as provided for a special district
56.32 candidate under subdivision 1a. Affidavits of candidacy and applications filed on behalf of
56.33 eligible voters for school board office shall be filed during the time and with the official

specified in chapter 205A or other applicable law. Affidavits of candidacy, including proof of residence required in section 204B.06, subdivision 1b, and nominating petitions filed under this subdivision must be submitted by mail or by hand, notwithstanding chapter 325L, or any other law to the contrary, and must be received by the appropriate official within the specified time for the filing of affidavits and petitions for the office. Copies of a proof of residence submitted by mail are private data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

(b) The official receiving the filing shall notify the official responsible for preparing the ballot of the names of the candidates placed on the ballot, any changes to candidates, or other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day of receiving the filing or change or immediately following the close of the filing period, whichever is sooner, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative notification timeline.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.09, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Write-in candidates.** (a) A candidate for county, state, or federal office who wants write-in votes for the candidate to be counted must file a written request with the filing office for the office sought not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the ~~seventh~~ 19th day before the general election. The filing officer shall provide copies of the form to make the request. The filing officer shall not accept a written request later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing a written request.

(b) The governing body of a statutory or home rule charter city may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. The resolution may:

(1) require the candidate to file a written request with the chief election official no later than the ~~seventh~~ 19th day before the city election if the candidate wants to have the candidate's write-in votes individually recorded; or

(2) require that write-in votes for an individual candidate only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate.

If the governing body of the statutory or home rule charter city adopts a resolution authorized by this paragraph, the resolution must be adopted and the city clerk must notify the county auditor before the first day of filing for office. A resolution adopted under this paragraph

remains in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the governing body of the statutory or home rule charter city.

(c) The governing body of a township, school district, hospital district, park district, soil and water district, or other ancillary elected district may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. The resolution may require that write-in votes for an individual candidate only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate. If a governing body adopts a resolution authorized by this paragraph, the resolution must be adopted and the clerk must notify the county auditor before the first day of filing for office. A resolution adopted under this paragraph remains in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the governing body.

(d) A candidate for president of the United States who files a request under this subdivision must include the name of a candidate for vice president of the United States. The request must also include the name of at least one candidate for presidential elector. The total number of names of candidates for presidential elector on the request may not exceed the total number of electoral votes to be cast by Minnesota in the presidential election.

(e) A candidate for governor who files a request under this subdivision must file jointly with another individual seeking nomination as a candidate for lieutenant governor. A candidate for lieutenant governor who files a request under this subdivision must file jointly with another individual seeking nomination as a candidate for governor.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective on January 1, 2026.

Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.14, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Separate precincts; combined polling place.** (a) The following shall constitute at least one election precinct:

(1) each city ward; and

(2) each town and each statutory city.

(b) A single, accessible, combined polling place may be established no later than November 1 if a presidential nomination primary is scheduled to occur in the following year or May 1 of any other year:

(1) for any city of the third or fourth class, any town, or any city having territory in more than one county, in which all the voters of the city or town shall cast their ballots;

(2) for contiguous precincts in the same municipality;

(3) for up to four contiguous municipalities located entirely outside the metropolitan area, as defined by section 200.02, subdivision 24, that are contained in the same county; or

(4) for noncontiguous precincts located in one or more counties.

Subject to the requirements of paragraph (c), a single, accessible, combined polling place may be established after May 1 of any year in the event of an emergency.

A copy of the ordinance or resolution establishing a combined polling place must be filed with the county auditor within 30 days after approval by the governing body, and the county auditor must provide notice within ten days to the secretary of state, in a manner and including information prescribed by the secretary of state. A polling place combined under clause (3) must be approved by the governing body of each participating municipality. A polling place combined under clause (4) must be approved by the governing body of each participating municipality and the secretary of state and may be located outside any of the noncontiguous precincts. A municipality withdrawing from participation in a combined polling place must do so by filing a resolution of withdrawal with the county auditor no later than October 1 if a presidential nomination primary is scheduled to occur in the following year or April 1 of any other year, and the county auditor must provide notice within ten days to the secretary of state, in a manner and including information prescribed by the secretary of state.

The secretary of state shall provide a separate polling place roster for each precinct served by the combined polling place, ~~except that~~. In a precinct that uses electronic rosters, the secretary of state shall provide separate data files for each precinct and the election official responsible for the electronic rosters may combine the files as necessary to be loaded onto one or more electronic rosters provided that the requirements under section 201.225, subdivision 2, are met. A single set of election judges may be appointed to serve at a combined polling place. The number of election judges required must be based on the total number of persons voting at the last similar election in all precincts to be voting at the combined polling place. Separate ballot boxes must be provided for the ballots from each precinct. The results of the election must be reported separately for each precinct served by the combined polling place, except in a polling place established under clause (2) where one of the precincts has fewer than ten registered voters, in which case the results of that precinct must be reported in the manner specified by the secretary of state.

(c) If a local elections official determines that an emergency situation preventing the safe, secure, and full operation of a polling place on election day has occurred or is imminent,

the local elections official may combine two or more polling places for that election pursuant to this subdivision. To the extent possible, the polling places must be combined and the election conducted according to the requirements of paragraph (b), except that:

(1) polling places may be combined after May 1 and until the polls close on election day;

(2) any city or town, regardless of size or location, may establish a combined polling place under this paragraph;

(3) the governing body is not required to adopt an ordinance or resolution to establish the combined polling place;

(4) a polling place combined under paragraph (b), clause (3) or (4), must be approved by the local election official of each participating municipality;

(5) the local elections official must immediately notify the county auditor and the secretary of state of the combination, including the reason for the emergency combination and the location of the combined polling place. As soon as possible, the local elections official must also post a notice stating the reason for the combination and the location of the combined polling place. The notice must also be posted on the governing board's website, if one exists. The local elections official must also notify the election judges and request that local media outlets publicly announce the reason for the combination and the location of the combined polling place; and

(6) on election day, the local elections official must post a notice in large print in a conspicuous place at the polling place where the emergency occurred, if practical, stating the location of the combined polling place. The local election official must also post the notice, if practical, in a location visible by voters who vote from their motor vehicles as provided in section 204C.15, subdivision 2. If polling place hours are extended pursuant to section 204C.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the posted notices required by this paragraph must include a statement that the polling place hours at the combined polling place will be extended until the specified time.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.14, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

Subd. 4a. **Municipal boundary adjustment procedure.** A change in the boundary of an election precinct that has occurred as a result of a municipal boundary adjustment made under chapter 414 that is effective more than ~~21~~ 46 days before a regularly scheduled election takes effect at the scheduled election.

61.1 A change in the boundary of an election precinct that has occurred as a result of a
61.2 municipal boundary adjustment made under chapter 414 that is effective ~~less than 21~~ 46 or
61.3 fewer days before a regularly scheduled election takes effect the day after the scheduled
61.4 election.

61.5 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.16, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

61.6 Subd. 1a. **Notice to voters.** (a) If the location of a polling place has been changed, the
61.7 governing body establishing the polling place shall send to every affected household with
61.8 at least one registered voter in the precinct a nonforwardable mailed notice stating the
61.9 location of the new polling place at least 25 days before the next election. The secretary of
61.10 state shall prepare a sample of this notice. A notice that is returned as undeliverable must
61.11 be forwarded immediately to the county auditor. This subdivision does not apply to a polling
61.12 place location that is changed on election day under section 204B.175.

61.13 (b) If the location of a polling place has been changed, the local official for the governing
61.14 body establishing the polling place must post a notice in large print and in a conspicuous
61.15 place at the closed polling place, if practical, stating the location of the new polling place.
61.16 The local election official must also post the notice, if practical, in a location visible by
61.17 voters who vote from their motor vehicles as provided in section 204C.15, subdivision 2.
61.18 The notice must be in all languages required under section 204B.295 for that precinct. The
61.19 notice must be posted for each special, primary, and general election until a November
61.20 presidential election or redistricting has occurred. The secretary of state shall prepare a
61.21 sample of this notice.

61.22 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.175, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

61.23 Subd. 3. **Notice.** (a) Upon making the determination to relocate a polling place, the local
61.24 election official must immediately notify the county auditor and the secretary of state. The
61.25 notice must include the reason for the relocation and the reason for the location of the new
61.26 polling place. As soon as possible, the local election official must also post a notice stating
61.27 the reason for the relocation and the location of the new polling place. The notice must also
61.28 be posted on the website of the public body, if there is one. The local election official must
61.29 also notify the election judges and request that local media outlets publicly announce the
61.30 reason for the relocation and the location of the polling place. If the relocation occurs more
61.31 than 14 days prior to the election, the local election official must mail a notice to the impacted
61.32 voters of the reason for the relocation and the location of the polling place.

(b) On election day, the local election official must post a notice in large print in a conspicuous place at the polling place where the emergency occurred, if practical, stating the location of the new polling place. The local election official must also post the notice, if practical, in a location visible by voters who vote from their motor vehicles as provided in section 204C.15, subdivision 2. If polling place hours are extended pursuant to section 204C.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the posted notices required by this paragraph must include a statement that the polling place hours at the new polling place will be extended until the specified time. Notices required by this paragraph must be in all languages required under section 204B.295 for that precinct.

Sec. 30. **[204B.182] CHAIN OF CUSTODY PLANS.**

(a) The county auditor must develop a county elections chain of custody plan to be used in all state, county, municipal, school district, and special district elections held in that county. If any of the political subdivisions cross county lines, the affected counties must make efforts to ensure that the elections chain of custody procedures affecting the local jurisdiction are uniform throughout the jurisdiction. County auditors must file the elections chain of custody plans with the secretary of state.

(b) The chain of custody plan must account for both the physical and cyber security of elections-related materials. The plan must include sample chain of custody documentation.

(c) The secretary of state may provide additional guidance to counties on elections chain of custody best practices and planning.

(d) A municipal clerk, school district clerk, or special district clerk must utilize either the county chain of custody plan or create a local chain of custody plan for use in local elections not held in conjunction with federal, state, or county elections that meets or exceeds the requirements of the county elections chain of custody plan. Any plan adopted under this paragraph must be adopted and filed with the secretary of state and the county auditor at least 84 days before the first election in which it will be used.

(e) Each political subdivision clerk who develops a local elections chain of custody plan pursuant to paragraph (d) and each county auditor must review their respective elections chain of custody plan prior to each state primary election. Any revisions to the elections chain of custody plan must be completed and filed with the secretary of state by June 1 prior to the state primary election.

63.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and
63.2 county auditors must file an elections chain of custody plan with the secretary of state by
63.3 June 1, 2026.

63.4 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.21, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

63.5 Subdivision 1. **Appointment lists; duties of political parties and secretary of state.** (a)
63.6 On ~~May~~ March 1 in a year in which there is an election for a partisan political office, each
63.7 major political party ~~shall~~ must prepare a list of eligible voters who have indicated within
63.8 the last 24 months they are willing to act as election judges in each election precinct. The
63.9 list provided by the party must indicate:

63.10 (1) which eligible voters are willing to travel to a precinct outside of their home
63.11 jurisdiction to act as an election judge, and the jurisdictions to which each eligible voter is
63.12 willing to travel for that purpose;

63.13 (2) which eligible voters are willing to serve on a ballot board; and

63.14 (3) each eligible voter's residential address, telephone number, and email address, along
63.15 with the date the eligible voter indicated their willingness to act as an election judge.

63.16 (b) The political parties ~~shall~~ must furnish the lists electronically to the secretary of state,
63.17 in a format specified by the secretary of state. The secretary of state must combine the data
63.18 received from each political party under this subdivision and must process the data to locate
63.19 the precinct in which the address provided for each potential election judge is located. If
63.20 the data submitted by a political party is insufficient for the secretary of state to locate the
63.21 proper precinct or does not include the eligible voter's telephone number, email address,
63.22 and date the eligible voter indicated their willingness to act as an election judge, the
63.23 associated name must not appear in any list forwarded to an appointing authority under this
63.24 subdivision. The secretary of state ~~shall~~ must notify political parties of any proposed election
63.25 judges with addresses that could not be located in a precinct.

63.26 (c) By ~~May~~ March 15, the secretary of state ~~shall~~ must furnish electronically to the
63.27 county auditor a list of the appropriate names for each election precinct and ballot board in
63.28 the jurisdiction of the appointing authority, and a list of the names of individuals residing
63.29 outside of the jurisdiction who indicated a willingness to travel to that jurisdiction to act as
63.30 an election judge, noting the political party affiliation of each individual on the list. The
63.31 county auditor must promptly forward the appropriate names to the appropriate municipal
63.32 clerk within seven days of receipt.

63.33 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

64.1 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.21, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

64.2 Subd. 2. **Appointing authority; powers and duties.** (a) Election judges for precincts
64.3 in a municipality ~~shall~~ and for a municipality's ballot board must be appointed by the
64.4 governing body of the municipality. Election judges for a county ballot board, for precincts
64.5 in unorganized territory, and for performing other election-related duties assigned by the
64.6 county auditor ~~shall~~ must be appointed by the county board. Election judges for a precinct
64.7 composed of two or more municipalities must be appointed by the governing body of the
64.8 municipality or municipalities responsible for appointing election judges as provided in the
64.9 agreement to combine for election purposes. ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section,~~
64.10 ~~appointments shall be made from the list of voters who maintain residence in each precinct,~~
64.11 ~~furnished pursuant to subdivision 1, subject to the eligibility requirements and other~~
64.12 ~~qualifications established or authorized under section 204B.19. At least two election judges~~
64.13 ~~in each precinct must be affiliated with different major political parties. If no lists have been~~
64.14 ~~furnished or if additional election judges are required after all listed names in that~~
64.15 ~~municipality have been exhausted, the appointing authority may appoint other individuals~~
64.16 ~~who meet the qualifications to serve as an election judge, including persons on the list~~
64.17 ~~furnished pursuant to subdivision 1 who indicated a willingness to travel to the municipality,~~
64.18 ~~and persons who are not affiliated with a major political party. Election judges must meet~~
64.19 all eligibility requirements and other qualifications established or authorized under section
64.20 204B.19. At least two election judges in each precinct and serving on the ballot board must
64.21 be affiliated with different major political parties.

64.22 (b) Within 30 days of receipt of the list furnished pursuant to this section, the appointing
64.23 authority must contact each voter who maintains residence in the jurisdiction about their
64.24 interest in serving as an election judge in the next 24 months. The communication must:

64.25 (1) identify the opportunities available for the person to serve as an election judge;

64.26 (2) include the qualifications necessary to serve as an election judge, information about
64.27 the required training, and the dates and times at which the person must be available to
64.28 perform those duties; and

64.29 (3) explain how the person may apply for appointment as an election judge.

64.30 Any person on the list furnished pursuant to subdivision 1 who does not respond to the
64.31 appointing authority within 14 days or does not apply to become an election judge and
64.32 complete election judge training before the next state general election is deemed to have
64.33 waived their interest in appointment to any election judge position.

(c) Prior to each election, when appointing election judges, an appointing authority must first exhaust the list of individuals who responded to the communication in paragraph (b) who maintain residence in each precinct or, for appointment to a ballot board, who maintain residence in a jurisdiction covered by the ballot board. An appointing authority may exhaust the list furnished pursuant to subdivision 1 by contacting each person once who appears on the list. This communication must include the specific dates, times, and locations at which the person must be available to perform the various duties. Any individual from the list who does not respond within seven days to express an availability to serve is deemed to have waived interest in serving for that election. For legislative special elections, this period is shortened to three days.

(d) If no lists have been furnished, or when lists have been furnished, after the processes in paragraphs (b) and (c) are complete, then an appointing authority may appoint other individuals who meet the qualifications to serve as an election judge.

(e) An individual who is appointed from a source other than the list furnished pursuant to subdivision 1 must provide to the appointing authority the individual's major political party affiliation or a statement that the individual does not affiliate with any major political party. An individual who refuses to provide the individual's major political party affiliation or a statement that the individual does not affiliate with a major political party must not be appointed as an election judge. The appointments ~~shall~~ must be made at least 25 days before the election at which the election judges will serve, except that the appointing authority may pass a resolution authorizing the appointment of additional election judges within the 25 days before the election if the appointing authority determines that additional election judges will be required.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.24, is amended to read:

204B.24 ELECTION JUDGES; OATH.

Each election judge shall sign the following oath before assuming the duties of the office:

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that:

(1) I will perform the duties of election judge according to law and the best of my ability and will diligently endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting this election.

(2) I will perform my duties in a fair and impartial manner and not attempt to create an advantage for my party or for any candidate.

(3) In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 211B.075, I will not share information about voting that I know to be materially false and will not intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent a person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in casting a ballot or registering to vote, except as specifically required by law."

The oath shall be attached to the summary statement of the election returns of that precinct. If there is no individual present who is authorized to administer oaths, the election judges may administer the oath to each other.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.25, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Trained election judges; number required.** Each election precinct in which less than 100 individuals voted at the last state general election shall have at least two election judges who are members of different major political parties who have received training as required in this section. ~~In every other election precinct,~~ No individual may serve as an election judge who has not received training as required by subdivision 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 35. **[204B.275] ELECTION REPORTING SYSTEM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** "Election reporting system" means the computerized central statewide database for offices, candidates, ballot questions, and unofficial results developed and maintained by the secretary of state. The system facilitates the collection, aggregation, reporting, and secure sharing of unofficial election results to the public.

Subd. 2. **Authority.** The secretary of state must maintain an election reporting system as provided in this section.

Subd. 3. **Entry of names.** (a) For federal and state elections, the county auditor must enter in the election reporting system the names of all candidates who have filed for office with the county auditor no later than one day after the filing is received. Within one day of receiving notification and no later than one day after the withdrawal period closes, the county auditor must enter in the election reporting system the names of candidates for city, town, school district, or other elective office for which the county auditor has been notified. For any candidate who files by nominating petition or a petition in place of filing fee, the county auditor must enter in the election reporting system the name of the candidate within one day after the petition has been reviewed and determined to meet all legal requirements.

(b) The secretary of state must enter in the election reporting system the names of all candidates who have filed for office with the secretary of state no later than one day after the filing is received. For any candidate who files by nominating petition or a petition in place of filing fee, the secretary of state must enter in the election reporting system the name of the candidate within one day after the petition has been reviewed and determined to meet all legal requirements.

Subd. 4. **Results reporting testing.** At least seven days prior to any federal or state primary, general, or special election, the county auditor must test the results reporting functions in the election reporting system maintained by the secretary of state. The test must include the entry of vote totals for all candidates or ballot question responses within each contest or ballot question, and the county auditor must verify that the predetermined test results are displayed. The county auditor must report to the secretary of state that the test has been conducted, and no errors are apparent. If errors occur during the test, the county auditor must work with the secretary of state to resolve all issues and retest until resolved.

Subd. 5. **Reporting results.** For federal and state elections, as soon as practicable after delivery of the returns, the county auditor must report all unofficial election results in the elections reporting system.

Subd. 6. **Unofficial results.** Results reported to the election reporting system are unofficial results. Election results are not official until after the canvassing board certifies the result of the election.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective on June 1, 2025.

Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.28, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and for absentee ballots in section 204B.35, subdivision 4, the county auditor shall complete the preparation of the election materials for which the auditor is responsible at least four days before every state primary and state general election. At any time after all election materials are available from the county auditor but not later than ~~four days~~ the day before the election each municipal clerk shall secure from the county auditor:

(1) the forms that are required for the conduct of the election;

(2) any printed voter instruction materials furnished by the secretary of state;

(3) any other instructions for election officers; and

(4) a sufficient quantity of the official ballots, registration files, envelopes for ballot returns, and other supplies and materials required for each precinct in order to comply with the provisions of the Minnesota Election Law. The county auditor may furnish the election supplies to the municipal clerks in the same manner as the supplies are furnished to precincts in unorganized territory pursuant to section 204B.29, subdivision 1.

(b) The county auditor must prepare and make available election materials for early voting to municipal clerks designated to administer early voting under section 203B.05 on or before the 19th day before the election.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.44, is amended to read:

204B.44 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS; REMEDY.

(a) Any individual may file a petition in the manner provided in this section for the correction of any of the following errors, omissions, or wrongful acts which have occurred or are about to occur:

(1) an error or omission in the placement or printing of the name or description of any candidate or any question on any official ballot, including the placement of a candidate on the official ballot who is not eligible to hold the office for which the candidate has filed;

(2) any other error in preparing or printing any official ballot;

(3) failure of the chair or secretary of the proper committee of a major political party to execute or file a certificate of nomination;

(4) any wrongful act, omission, or error of any election judge, municipal clerk, county auditor, canvassing board or any of its members, the secretary of state, or any other individual charged with any duty concerning an election.

(b) The petition shall describe the error, omission, or wrongful act and the correction sought by the petitioner. The petition shall be filed with any judge of the supreme court in the case of an election for state or federal office or any judge of the district court in that county in the case of an election for county, municipal, or school district office. The petitioner shall serve a copy of the petition on the officer, board or individual charged with the error, omission, or wrongful act, on all candidates for the office in the case of an election for state, federal, county, municipal, or school district office, and on any other party as required by the court. Upon receipt of the petition the court shall immediately set a time for a hearing on the matter and order the officer, board or individual charged with the error, omission or

wrongful act to correct the error or wrongful act or perform the duty or show cause for not doing so. In the case of a review of a candidate's eligibility to hold office, the court may order the candidate to appear and present sufficient evidence of the candidate's eligibility. The court shall issue its findings and a final order for appropriate relief as soon as possible after the hearing. Failure to obey the order is contempt of court.

(c) Any service required by this section on a candidate may be accomplished by electronic mail sent to the address the candidate provided on their affidavit of candidacy pursuant to section 204B.06, subdivision 1b, or by any other means permitted by law.

(d) If all candidates for an office and the officer, board, or individual charged with the error, omission, or wrongful act unanimously agree in writing:

(1) that an error, omission, or wrongful act occurred; and

(2) on the appropriate correction for the error, omission, or wrongful act,
then the officer, board, or individual charged with the error, omission, or wrongful act must correct the error in the manner agreed to without an order from the court. Such agreement must address, at a minimum, how the correction will take place and, if the correction involves a change to a ballot, how voters who have received or returned an incomplete ballot will be notified of the change and what, if any, steps voters who have returned an incorrect ballot can take to receive a corrected replacement ballot.

The officer, board, or individual must notify the secretary of state in writing of the error and proposed correction within one business day of receiving notification of the candidate's written agreement and must not distribute any ballots reflecting the proposed correction for two business days unless the secretary of state waives this notice period. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude any person from filing a petition under this section alleging that the written agreement constitutes an error, omission, or wrongful act that requires correction by the court.

(e) Any candidate for an office who does not enter into an agreement under paragraph (d) and who does not prevail at any subsequent proceeding involving a petition filed under this section must pay the costs and disbursements of the prevailing party or parties unless the court determines that the candidate's position was substantially justified or such costs and disbursements would impose undue hardship or otherwise be inequitable.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an official may correct any official ballot without order from the court if the ballot is not in compliance with sections 204B.35 to 204B.37 or any rules promulgated under sections 204B.35 to 204B.37.

70.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective June 1, 2025.

70.2 Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204B.45, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

70.3 Subd. 2. **Procedure; voting prior to election day.** Notice of the election and the special
70.4 mail procedure must be given at least ten weeks prior to the election. Not more than 46 days
70.5 nor later than ~~14~~ 28 days before a ~~regularly scheduled~~ any election ~~and not more than 30~~
70.6 ~~days nor later than 14 days before any other election~~, the auditor shall mail ballots by
70.7 nonforwardable mail to all voters registered in the city, town, or unorganized territory. No
70.8 later than 14 days before the election, the auditor must make a subsequent mailing of ballots
70.9 to those voters who register to vote after the initial mailing but before the 20th day before
70.10 the election. Eligible voters not registered at the time the ballots are mailed may apply for
70.11 ballots as provided in chapter 203B. Ballot return envelopes, with return postage provided,
70.12 must be preaddressed to the auditor or clerk and the voter may return the ballot by mail or
70.13 in person to the office of the auditor or clerk. The auditor or clerk must appoint a ballot
70.14 board to examine the mail and absentee ballot return envelopes and mark them "accepted"
70.15 or "rejected" within three days of receipt if there are 14 or fewer days before election day,
70.16 or within five days of receipt if there are more than 14 days before election day. The board
70.17 may consist of deputy county auditors or deputy municipal clerks who have received training
70.18 in the processing and counting of mail ballots, who need not be affiliated with a major
70.19 political party. Election judges performing the duties in this section must be of different
70.20 major political parties, unless they are exempt from that requirement under section 205.075,
70.21 subdivision 4, or ~~section 205A.10~~, or they are performing duties for a county election not
70.22 held in conjunction with a state election. If an envelope has been rejected at least five days
70.23 before the election, the ballots in the envelope must remain sealed and the auditor or clerk
70.24 shall provide the voter with a replacement ballot and return envelope in place of the spoiled
70.25 ballot. If the ballot is rejected within five days of the election, the envelope must remain
70.26 sealed and the official in charge of the ballot board must attempt to contact the voter by
70.27 telephone or email to notify the voter that the voter's ballot has been rejected. The official
70.28 must document the attempts made to contact the voter.

70.29 If the ballot is accepted, the county auditor or municipal clerk must mark the roster to
70.30 indicate that the voter has already cast a ballot in that election. After the close of business
70.31 on the 19th day before the election, the ballots from return envelopes marked "Accepted"
70.32 may be opened, duplicated as needed in the manner provided by section 206.86, subdivision
70.33 5, initialed by the members of the ballot board, and deposited in the ballot box.

71.1 In all other respects, the provisions of the Minnesota Election Law governing deposit
71.2 and counting of ballots apply.

71.3 The mail and absentee ballots for a precinct must be counted together and reported as
71.4 one vote total. No vote totals from mail or absentee ballots may be made public before the
71.5 close of voting on election day.

71.6 The costs of the mailing shall be paid by the election jurisdiction in which the voter
71.7 maintains residence. Any ballot received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election must be
71.8 counted.

71.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective November 15, 2025, for elections held
71.10 on or after January 1, 2026.

71.11 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204C.08, subdivision 1d, is amended to read:

71.12 Subd. 1d. **Voter's Bill of Rights.** The county auditor shall prepare and provide to each
71.13 polling place sufficient copies of a poster setting forth the Voter's Bill of Rights as set forth
71.14 in this section. Before the hours of voting are scheduled to begin, the election judges shall
71.15 post it in a conspicuous location or locations in the polling place. The Voter's Bill of Rights
71.16 is as follows:

71.17 "VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

71.18 For all persons residing in this state who meet federal voting eligibility requirements:

71.19 (1) You have the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting in a state, federal,
71.20 or regularly scheduled election without reduction to your pay, personal leave, or vacation
71.21 time on election day for the time necessary to appear at your polling place, cast a ballot,
71.22 and return to work.

71.23 (2) If you are in line at your polling place any time before 8:00 p.m., you have the right
71.24 to vote.

71.25 (3) If you can provide the required proof of residence, you have the right to register to
71.26 vote and to vote on election day.

71.27 (4) If you are unable to sign your name, you have the right to orally confirm your identity
71.28 with an election judge and to direct another person to sign your name for you.

71.29 (5) You have the right to request special assistance when voting.

71.30 (6) If you need assistance, you may be accompanied into the voting booth by a person
71.31 of your choice, except by an agent of your employer or union ~~or a candidate.~~

72.1 (7) You have the right to bring your minor children into the polling place and into the
72.2 voting booth with you.

72.3 (8) You have the right to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for conviction of a
72.4 felony offense.

72.5 (9) If you are under a guardianship, you have the right to vote, unless the court order
72.6 revokes your right to vote.

72.7 (10) You have the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence
72.8 your vote.

72.9 (11) If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot before it is submitted, you have the right
72.10 to receive a replacement ballot and vote.

72.11 (12) You have the right to file a written complaint at your polling place if you are
72.12 dissatisfied with the way an election is being run.

72.13 (13) You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth with you.

72.14 (14) You have the right to take a copy of this Voter's Bill of Rights into the voting booth
72.15 with you."

72.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

72.17 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204C.09, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

72.18 Subdivision 1. **Counting and initialing.** (a) Before the voting begins, at least two election
72.19 judges must certify the number of ballots delivered to the precinct. Election judges may
72.20 conduct this count, presuming that the total count provided for prepackaged ballots is correct.
72.21 As each package is opened, two judges must count the ballots in the package to ensure that
72.22 the total count provided for the package is correct. Any discrepancy must be noted on the
72.23 incident log.

72.24 (b) Before the voting begins, or as soon as possible after it begins, at least two election
72.25 judges shall each initial ~~the backs of all~~ the ballots. The election judges shall not otherwise
72.26 mark the ballots.

72.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

73.1 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 204C.10, is amended to read:

73.2 **204C.10 POLLING PLACE ROSTER; VOTER SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE;**
73.3 **VOTER RECEIPT.**

73.4 (a) An individual seeking to vote shall sign a polling place roster or voter signature
73.5 certificate which states that the individual:

73.6 (1) is at least 18 years old;

73.7 (2) is a citizen of the United States;

73.8 (3) has maintained residence in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding the election;

73.9 (4) maintains residence at the address or location shown;

73.10 (5) is not under a guardianship in which the court order revokes the individual's right to
73.11 vote;

73.12 (6) has not been found by a court of law to be legally incompetent to vote;

73.13 (7) has the right to vote because, if the individual was convicted of a felony, the individual
73.14 is not currently incarcerated for that conviction;

73.15 (8) is registered; and

73.16 (9) has not already voted in the election.

73.17 The roster must also state: "I understand that deliberately providing false information
73.18 is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment and a fine of not more than
73.19 \$10,000, or both."

73.20 (b) At the presidential nomination primary, the polling place roster must also state: "I
73.21 am in general agreement with the principles of the party for whose candidate I intend to
73.22 vote." This statement must appear separately from the statements required in paragraph (a).
73.23 The felony penalty provided for in paragraph (a) does not apply to this paragraph.

73.24 (c) A judge may, before the applicant signs the roster or voter signature certificate,
73.25 confirm the applicant's name, address, and date of birth.

73.26 (d) After the applicant signs the roster or voter signature certificate, the judge shall give
73.27 the applicant a voter's receipt. The voter shall deliver the voter's receipt to the judge in
73.28 charge of ballots as proof of the voter's right to vote, and thereupon the judge shall hand to
73.29 the voter the ballot. The voters' receipts must be maintained during the time for notice of
73.30 filing an election contest.

(e) Whenever a challenged status appears on the polling place roster, an election judge must ensure that the challenge is concealed or hidden from the view of any voter other than the voter whose status is challenged.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective on September 1, 2025.

Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205.13, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Affidavit of candidacy.** (a) An individual who is eligible and desires to become a candidate for an office to be voted for at the municipal general election shall file an affidavit of candidacy with the municipal clerk. Candidates for a special election to fill a vacancy held as provided in section 412.02, subdivision 2a, must file an affidavit of candidacy for the specific office to fill the unexpired portion of the term. Subject to the approval of the county auditor, the town clerk may authorize candidates for township offices to file affidavits of candidacy with the county auditor. The affidavit shall be in the same form as that in section 204B.06. The municipal clerk shall also accept an application signed by not less than five voters and filed on behalf of an eligible voter in the municipality whom they desire to be a candidate, if service of a copy of the application has been made on the candidate and proof of service is endorsed on the application being filed. Upon receipt of the proper filing fee, the clerk shall place the name of the candidate on the official ballot without partisan designation.

(b) The municipal clerk shall notify the official responsible for preparing the ballot of the names of the candidates placed on the ballot, any changes to candidates, and other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day of receiving the filing or change or immediately following the close of the filing period, whichever is sooner, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative notification timeline.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205.13, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Filing period.** In a city nominating candidates at a primary, an affidavit of candidacy for a city office voted on in November must be filed no more than 84 days nor less than 70 days before the city primary. In municipalities that do not hold a primary, an affidavit of candidacy must be filed no more than 70 days and not less than 56 days before the municipal general election held in March in any year, or a special election not held in conjunction with another election, and no more than ~~98~~ 112 days nor less than ~~84~~ 98 days

before the municipal general election held in November of any year. The municipal clerk's office must be open for filing from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the filing period.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205.185, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Canvass of returns, certificate of election, ballots, disposition.** (a) Between the third and ~~tenth~~ 14th days after an election, the governing body of a city conducting any election including a special municipal election, or the governing body of a town conducting the general election in November shall act as the canvassing board, canvass the returns, and declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each municipal office and the results of the election any ballot questions. The governing body of a town conducting the general election in March shall act as the canvassing board, canvass the returns, and shall declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each town office and the results of the election any ballot question within two days after an election.

(b) After the time for contesting elections has passed, the municipal clerk shall issue a certificate of election to each successful candidate. In case of a contest, the certificate shall not be issued until the outcome of the contest has been determined by the proper court.

(c) In case of a tie vote, the canvassing board having jurisdiction over the municipality shall determine the result by lot. The clerk of the canvassing board shall certify the results of the election to the county auditor, and the clerk shall be the final custodian of the ballots and the returns of the election.

Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205A.06, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Affidavit of candidacy.** (a) An individual who is eligible and desires to become a candidate for an office to be voted on at the election must file an affidavit of candidacy with the school district clerk. The affidavit must be in the form prescribed by section 204B.06. The school district clerk shall also accept an application signed by at least five voters and filed on behalf of an eligible voter in the school district whom they desire to be a candidate, if service of a copy of the application has been made on the candidate and proof of service is endorsed on the application being filed. No individual shall be nominated by nominating petition for a school district elective office. Upon receipt of the proper filing fee, the clerk shall place the name of the candidate on the official ballot without partisan designation.

(b) The school district clerk shall notify the official responsible for preparing the ballot of the names of the candidates placed on the ballot, any changes to candidates, and other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day of receiving the filing or change or immediately following the close of the filing period, whichever is sooner, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative notification timeline.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205A.06, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Filing period.** In school districts that have adopted a resolution to choose nominees for school board by a primary election, affidavits of candidacy must be filed with the school district clerk no earlier than the 84th day and no later than the 70th day before the second Tuesday in August in the year when the school district general election is held. In all other school districts, affidavits of candidacy must be filed no earlier than the 98th ~~112th~~ day and no later than the ~~84th~~ 98th day before the school district general election.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2026.

Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205A.10, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Canvass of returns, certificate of election, ballots, disposition.** Between the third and ~~tenth~~ 14th days after a school district election other than a recount of a special election conducted under section 126C.17, subdivision 9, or 475.59, the school board shall canvass the returns and declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each school district office and the results of the election any ballot question. After the time for contesting elections has passed, the school district clerk shall issue a certificate of election to each successful candidate. If there is a contest, the certificate of election to that office must not be issued until the outcome of the contest has been determined by the proper court. If there is a tie vote, the school board shall determine the result by lot. The clerk shall deliver the certificate of election to the successful candidate by personal service or certified mail. The successful candidate shall file an acceptance and oath of office in writing with the clerk within 30 days of the date of mailing or personal service. A person who fails to qualify prior to the time specified shall be deemed to have refused to serve, but that filing may be made at any time before action to fill the vacancy has been taken. The school district clerk shall certify the results of the election to the county auditor, and the clerk shall be the final custodian of the ballots and the returns of the election.

A school district canvassing board shall perform the duties of the school board according to the requirements of this subdivision for a recount of a special election conducted under section 126C.17, subdivision 9, or 475.59.

Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 205A.11, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Combined polling place.** (a) When no other election is being held in a school district, the school board may designate combined polling places at which the voters in those precincts may vote in the school district election.

(b) By December 31 of each year, the school board must designate, by resolution, any changes to combined polling places. The combined polling places designated in the resolution are the polling places, unless a change is made in accordance with this paragraph or:

(1) pursuant to section 204B.175; or

(2) because a polling place has become unavailable.

(c) If the school board designates combined polling places pursuant to this subdivision, polling places must be designated throughout the district, taking into account both geographical distribution and population distribution. A combined polling place must be at a location designated for use as a polling place by a county or municipality, except as provided in this paragraph. If the municipality conducts elections by mail balloting pursuant to section 204B.45, the school board may designate a polling place not used by the municipality if the polling place satisfies the requirements in section 204B.16, subdivisions 4 to 7.

(d) In school districts that have organized into separate board member election districts under section 205A.12, a combined polling place for a school general election must be arranged so that it does not include more than one board member election district.

Sec. 49. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 206.83, is amended to read:

206.83 TESTING OF VOTING SYSTEMS.

At least three days before voting equipment is used, the official in charge of elections shall have the voting system tested to ascertain that the system will correctly mark ballots using all methods supported by the system, including through assistive technology, and count the votes cast for all candidates and on all questions. Public notice of the time and place of the test must be given at least ~~two~~ five days in advance by publication once in official newspapers. The test must be observed by at least two election judges, who are not of the same major political party, and must be open to representatives of the political parties,

candidates, the press, and the public. The test must be conducted by (1) processing a preaudited group of ballots ~~punched or~~ marked to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each question in the contest, and must include for each office one or more ballot cards which have votes in excess of the number allowed by law in order to test the ability of the voting system tabulator and electronic ballot marker to reject those votes; and (2) processing an additional test deck of ballots marked using the electronic ballot marker for the precinct, including ballots marked using the electronic ballot display, audio ballot reader, and any assistive voting technology used with the electronic ballot marker. If any error is detected, the cause must be ascertained and corrected and an errorless count must be made before the voting system may be used in the election. After the completion of the test, the programs used and ballot cards must be sealed, retained, and disposed of as provided for paper ballots.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective on September 1, 2025.

Sec. 50. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 368.47, is amended to read:

368.47 TOWNS MAY BE DISSOLVED.

(1) When the voters residing within a town have failed to elect any town officials for more than ten years continuously;

(2) when a town has failed for a period of ten years to exercise any of the powers and functions of a town;

(3) when the estimated market value of a town drops to less than \$165,000;

(4) when the tax delinquency of a town, exclusive of taxes that are delinquent or unpaid because they are contested in proceedings for the enforcement of taxes, amounts to 12 percent of its market value; or

(5) when the state or federal government has acquired title to 50 percent of the real estate of a town,

which facts, or any of them, may be found and determined by the resolution of the county board of the county in which the town is located, according to the official records in the office of the county auditor, the county board by resolution may declare the town, naming it, dissolved and no longer entitled to exercise any of the powers or functions of a town.

In Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties, before the dissolution is effective the voters of the town shall express their approval or disapproval. The town clerk shall, upon a petition signed by a majority of the registered voters of the town, filed with the clerk at least ~~60~~ 84

79.1 days before a regular or special town election, give notice at the same time and in the same
79.2 manner of the election that the question of dissolution of the town will be submitted for
79.3 determination at the election. ~~At the election the question shall be voted upon by a separate~~
79.4 ~~ballot.~~ The form of the question under this chapter shall be substantially in the following
79.5 form: "Shall the town of ... be dissolved?" ~~The ballot shall be deposited in a separate ballot~~
79.6 ~~box and~~ The result of the voting canvassed, certified, and returned in the same manner and
79.7 at the same time as other facts and returns of the election. If a majority of the votes cast at
79.8 the election are for dissolution, the town shall be dissolved. If a majority of the votes cast
79.9 at the election are against dissolution, the town shall not be dissolved.

79.10 When a town is dissolved under sections 368.47 to 368.49 the county shall acquire title
79.11 to any telephone company or other business conducted by the town. The business shall be
79.12 operated by the board of county commissioners until it can be sold. The subscribers or
79.13 patrons of the business shall have the first opportunity of purchase. If the town has any
79.14 outstanding indebtedness chargeable to the business, the county auditor shall levy a tax
79.15 against the property situated in the dissolved town to pay the indebtedness as it becomes
79.16 due.

79.17 Sec. 51. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 375.20, is amended to read:

79.18 **375.20 BALLOT QUESTIONS.**

79.19 If the county board may do an act, incur a debt, appropriate money for a purpose, or
79.20 exercise any other power or authority, only if authorized by a vote of the people, the question
79.21 may be submitted at a special or general election, by a resolution specifying the matter or
79.22 question to be voted upon. If the question is to authorize the appropriation of money, creation
79.23 of a debt, or levy of a tax, it shall state the amount. Notice of the election shall be given as
79.24 in the case of special elections. If the question submitted is adopted, the board shall pass an
79.25 appropriate resolution to carry it into effect. In the election the form of the ballot shall be:
79.26 "Shall (here state the substance of the resolution to be submitted)?, Yes No.....". The
79.27 county board may call a special county election upon a question to be held within ~~74~~ 84
79.28 days after a resolution to that effect is adopted by the county board. Upon the adoption of
79.29 the resolution the county auditor shall post and publish notices of the election, as required
79.30 by section 204D.22, subdivisions 2 and 3. The election shall be conducted and the returns
79.31 canvassed in the manner prescribed by sections 204D.20 to 204D.27, so far as practicable.

80.1 Sec. 52. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 414.09, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

80.2 Subd. 3. **Elections of municipal officers.** (a) An order approving an incorporation or
80.3 consolidation pursuant to this chapter, or an order requiring an election under section 414.031,
80.4 subdivision 4a, shall set a date for an election of new municipal officers ~~not less than 45~~
80.5 ~~days nor more than 60 days after the issuance of such order~~ in accordance with the uniform
80.6 election dates defined in section 205.10, subdivision 3a.

80.7 (b) The chief administrative law judge shall appoint an acting clerk for election purposes,
80.8 at least three election judges who shall be residents of the new municipality, and shall
80.9 designate polling places within the new municipality.

80.10 (c) The acting clerk shall prepare the official election ballot pursuant to section 205.17.

80.11 (d) Any person eligible to hold municipal office may file an affidavit of candidacy ~~not~~
80.12 ~~more than four weeks nor less than two weeks before the date designated in the order for~~
80.13 ~~the election~~ pursuant to section 205.13.

80.14 (e) The election shall be conducted in conformity with the charter and the laws for
80.15 conducting municipal elections insofar as applicable.

80.16 (f) Any person eligible to vote at a township or municipal election within the area of the
80.17 new municipality, is eligible to vote at such election.

80.18 (g) Any excess in the expense of conducting the election over receipts from filing fees
80.19 shall be a charge against the new municipality; any excess of receipts shall be deposited in
80.20 the treasury of the new municipality.

80.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective June 1, 2025.

80.22 Sec. 53. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 447.32, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

80.23 Subd. 4. **Candidates; ballots; certifying election.** (a) A person who wants to be a
80.24 candidate for the hospital board shall file an affidavit of candidacy for the election either
80.25 as member at large or as a member representing the city or town where the candidate
80.26 maintains residence. The affidavit of candidacy must be filed with the city or town clerk
80.27 ~~not more than 98~~ 112 days nor less than ~~84~~ 98 days before the first Tuesday after the first
80.28 Monday in November of the year in which the general election is held. The city or town
80.29 clerk must forward the affidavits of candidacy to the clerk of the hospital district or, for the
80.30 first election, the clerk of the most populous city or town immediately after the last day of
80.31 the filing period. A candidate may withdraw from the election by filing an affidavit of

81.1 withdrawal with the clerk of the district no later than 5:00 p.m. two days after the last day
81.2 to file affidavits of candidacy.

81.3 (b) Voting must be by secret ballot. The clerk shall prepare, at the expense of the district,
81.4 necessary ballots for the election of officers. Ballots must be prepared as provided in the
81.5 rules of the secretary of state. The ballots must be marked and initialed by at least two judges
81.6 as official ballots and used exclusively at the election. Any proposition to be voted on may
81.7 be printed on the ballot provided for the election of officers. The hospital board may also
81.8 authorize the use of voting systems subject to chapter 206. Enough election judges may be
81.9 appointed to receive the votes at each polling place. The election judges shall act as clerks
81.10 of election, count the ballots cast, and submit them to the board for canvass.

81.11 (c) Between the third and 14th days after an election, the board must act as the canvassing
81.12 board, canvass the returns, and declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest
81.13 number of votes for each hospital district office and the results of any ballot questions.

81.14 (d) After canvassing the election, the board shall issue a certificate of election to the
81.15 candidate who received the largest number of votes cast for each office. The clerk shall
81.16 deliver the certificate to the person entitled to it in person or by certified mail. Each person
81.17 certified shall file an acceptance and oath of office in writing with the clerk within 30 days
81.18 after the date of delivery or mailing of the certificate. The board may fill any office as
81.19 provided in subdivision 1 if the person elected fails to qualify within 30 days, but qualification
81.20 is effective if made before the board acts to fill the vacancy.

81.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Paragraph (a) is effective January 1, 2026.

81.22 **Sec. 54. TRANSITION TO NEW VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS;**
81.23 **ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS.**

81.24 (a) Notwithstanding the requirements of article 2, section 3, a completed voter registration
81.25 application submitted by a voter is not deficient for purposes of registering that voter if the
81.26 application form was printed or provided to the voter prior to July 1, 2025. On or after July
81.27 1, 2025, an election official must not print or copy a blank voter registration application
81.28 that does not include modifications required by section 3. An election official may distribute
81.29 copies of registration applications that were printed prior to the effective date.

81.30 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of article 2, section 6, a completed absentee ballot
81.31 application submitted by a voter is not deficient for purposes of applying for an absentee
81.32 ballot if the application was printed or provided to the voter prior to July 1, 2025. On or

- 82.1 after July 1, 2025, an election official must not print, copy, or distribute a blank absentee
- 82.2 ballot application that does not include the modifications required by section 6.

- 82.3 Sec. 55. **REPEALER.**
- 82.4 Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 206.57, subdivision 5b; and 209.06, are repealed.

- 82.5 Sec. 56. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**
- 82.6 Unless otherwise provided, this article is effective July 1, 2025."
- 82.7 Amend the title accordingly