

S.F. No. 3096 – Elections Budget and Policy Omnibus Bill (1st Engrossment)

Author: Senator Bonnie S. Westlin

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

Date: April 15, 2025

S.F. 3096 is the Elections Budget and Policy Omnibus Bill. **Article 1** includes appropriation and related language. This article includes amendments from committee and S.F. 828 (Boldon). **Article 2** includes provisions related to campaign finance and the fair campaign practices act. This article includes amendments from committee and S.F. 863 (Putnam); S.F. 1259 (Draheim); S.F. 1662 (Westlin); S.F. 1812 (Westlin); SF 1851 (Westlin); S.F. 1854 (Westlin); S.F. 1915 (Boldon); S.F. 1996 (Marty); S.F. 2021 (Westlin); S.F. 2232 (Koran); SF 2236 (Gustafson); S.F. 2386 (Marty); S.F. 2412 (Cwodziński); S.F. 2562 (Westlin); and S.F. 2768 (Westlin). **Article 3** includes provisions related to elections and election administration. This article includes amendments from committee and S.F. 600 (Koran); S.F. 2232 (Koran); S.F. 2384 (Westlin); S.F. 2488 (Koran); S.F. 2489 (Koran); and S.F. 2846 (Boldon).

Article 1 – Elections Appropriations

Sections 1 to 4 make appropriations and transfers for the Secretary of State and Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board as detailed on the spreadsheet prepared by Andrew Erickson.

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 202A.20, subd. 2; Reporting caucus results] requires the secretary of state to report to the public the results of a preference ballot if a major political party conducts a preference ballot instead of participating in the presidential nomination primary.

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 207A.11; Presidential nomination primary established] provides a cross-reference to section 7, which provides circumstances when the presidential nomination primary is not held.

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 207A.17; Party payment for costs] requires the secretary of state to bill major political parties for the party's portion of the presidential nomination primary. If a party does not pay the party's portion by October 1 in the year preceding the presidential election, that party is not permitted to participate in the presidential nomination primary. If no

major political party pays their portion, a presidential nomination primary will not be held in the following year.

Section 8 [Working group on local candidate campaign finance reporting] establishes a working group to:

- (1) examine and make recommendations on whether local candidate campaign finance reports should be filed with the Board instead of local filing officers;
- (2) assess the extent to which local filing officers are able to provide support to local candidates and the public related to campaign finance reports;
- (3) review local candidate reporting requirements and changes that should be made if reports were to be filed with the Board;
- (4) study the potential budgetary and staffing impact of the potential increase of reports being made to the Board and the ability of the Board to support local candidates in filing reports;
- (5) study local campaign finance reporting requirements and make any recommendations to changes on the laws; and
- (6) propose draft legislation to implement any of the working group's recommendations.

The working group must report to the legislature by January 15, 2026. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 9 [Voter outreach; secretary of state] requires the secretary of state to conduct voter outreach efforts across the state with the goal of increasing voter turnout. The secretary must focus on the counties with the lowest voter turnout in the last two general elections. The secretary must provide voter outreach materials in the three most common non-English language and other language required for a language minority district.

Section 10 [Repealer] repeals the voting equipment grant account.

Article 2 – Campaign Finance Policy

Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 5.51; Expenses of Secretary of State-Elect] establishes a \$50,000 transfer from the general fund contingent account to provide for the establishment of transition offices and payment expenses of the secretary of state-elect. This is from S.F. 2386 (Marty).

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 6.93; Expenses of State Auditor-Elect] establishes a \$50,000 transfer from the general fund contingent account to provide for the establishment of transition offices and payment expenses of the state auditor-elect. This is from S.F. 2386 (Marty).

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 8.40; Expenses of Attorney General-Elect] establishes a \$75,000 transfer from the general fund contingent account to provide for the establishment of transition offices and payment expenses of the attorney-elect. This is from S.F. 2386 (Marty).

Section 4 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 16a; Expressly advocates] changes the phrase “expressly advocating” to “expressly advocates” in the definition of the term. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 16c; Expert witness] provides a definition of “expert witness” for purposes of chapter 10A. This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 18; Independent expenditure] amends the definition of “independent expenditure” to include expenditures that are not coordinated with a candidate and that promote, support, attack, or oppose 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. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 21; Lobbyist] amends the definition of lobbyist. The exclusion for nonelected local officials and employees of political subdivisions is amended so that time spent urging others to communicate with public or local officials; monitoring legislative or administrative action; and related research, analysis, and dissemination of information do not count toward the 50-hour threshold. The expert witness exclusion is amended so that an expert witness who communicates with public or local officials, other than the PUC, is excluded if the communication occurs at a public meeting or is made available to the general public. This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 8 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 24; Metropolitan governmental unit] amends the definition of “metropolitan governmental unit” to include a regional railroad authority in the seven-county metro area and to list the metropolitan agencies instead of using a cross reference. Strikes references to the seven metro area counties and cities with a population over 50,000 in the metropolitan area because they are included in the definition of “political subdivision.” This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 9 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 26; Noncampaign disbursement] amends the definition of “noncampaign disbursement” to include transition expenses and inaugural event expenses as defined in a later section. This is from S.F. 2386 (Marty).

Section 10 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 35; Public official] strikes watershed district managers, watershed management organization members, soil and water conservation district supervisors, and county commissioners from the definition of “public official.” This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 11 [Minn. Stat. 10A.04, subd. 4; Content] requires a lobbyist to report each expert witness that the lobbyist requested to communicate with public or local officials on the lobbyist report. The designated lobbyist must report this information if the expert witness is requested to communicate by the principal or association that the lobbyist represents. This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 12 [Minn. Stat. 10A.066; Handbook for Lobbying] requires the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“Board”) to publish on the Board’s website a handbook for lobbying written in plain language. This section is effective the day following final enactment and the first handbook must be published by January 15, 2026. This is from S.F. 2021 (Westlin).

Section 13 [Minn. Stat. 10A.07, sub. 1; Disclosure of potential conflicts] requires public officials or local officials elected to or appointed by a political subdivision to disclose potential conflicts of interest. This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 14 [Minn. Stat. 10A.07, subd. 2; Required actions] makes a conforming change to add a reference to officials of a political subdivision in the statute about conflicts of interest. This was not included in but is related to S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 15 [Minn. Stat. 10A.08, subd. 1; Disclosure required] requires elected local officials to disclose their representation of clients in certain situations. This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 16 [Minn. Stat. 10A.09, subd. 1; Time for filing] amends the section on the time for filing a statement of economic interest. Requires all local officials elected or employed by political subdivisions and individuals affiliated with charter schools to file statements of economic interest. Specifies timelines for filing for soil and water conservation district supervisors, managers of watershed districts, and members of watershed management organizations. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty) and S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 17 [Minn. Stat. 10A.09, subd. 5; Form; general requirements] requires additional reporting relating to stock and stock option transactions on the statement of economic interest. Requires disclosure relating to virtual currency on the statement of economic interest. This is from S.F. 1259 (Draheim) and S.F. 2768 (Westlin).

Section 18 [Minn. Stat. 10A.09, subd. 5a; Original statement; reporting period] adjusts the cross-references for the reporting periods for the statements of economic interest. This was not included in but is related to S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 19 [Minn. Stat. 10A.09, subd. 6; Place for filing] specifies where certain officials file statements of economic interest. Makes a conforming change by striking a reference to a metropolitan governmental unit. This is from S.F. 2562 (Westlin).

Section 20 [Minn. Stat. 10A.174; Inaugural event and transition expenses] defines “inaugural event expenses” and “transition expenses.” Provides that a candidate or the candidate’s principal campaign committee must not solicit or accept any contributions for or make any expenditures for inaugural event expenses or transition expenses except through the candidate’s principal campaign committee or as provided through the statutes providing state resources for transition funds. This is from S.F. 2386 (Marty).

Section 21 [Minn. Stat. 10A.175, subd. 5a; Disbursement] defines “disbursement” for purposes of the statutes on coordinated expenditures. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 22 [Minn. Stat. 10A.176; Coordinated expenditures] amends the statute on coordinated expenditures. Provides that a disbursement is a coordinated expenditure and is not independent when it satisfies at least one of the content standards and at least one of the conduct standards. Replaces “expenditure” with “disbursement.” Subdivision 8 establishes a

new conduct standard. A disbursement satisfies the conduct standards of this subdivision if the disbursement is materially consistent with instructions or directions from a candidate regarding the making of the disbursements, regardless of whether the instructions or directions are available publicly. These types of disbursements or the communications that result from the disbursements are often called “redboxing.” This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 23 [Minn. Stat. 10A.177; Noncoordinated Disbursements] amends the law on what actions do not, taken alone, establish a coordinated disbursement. Throughout, the “expenditure” is replaced by “disbursement.” A candidate asking a spender not to make a disbursement for an electioneering communication that references the candidate or the candidate’s opponent is not, by itself, a coordinated disbursement. Amends how news and broadcast publications are described to include additional types of media. Provides for what happens if a facility is owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate. Clarifies that the clause regarding publicly available information does not apply to information providing instructions or directions to voters (i.e. redboxing). This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 24 [Minn. Stat. 10A.20, subd. 5a; Report on personal contributions] requires a candidate for constitutional or legislative office to report to the board the next business day when they make a contribution or loan to their own campaign committee that exceeds the contribution limit. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 25 [Minn. Stat. 10A.201, subd. 6; Electioneering communication] extends the timeline for electioneering communication so that the period for electioneering communications begins after the start of the absentee voting period before the primary or special election and continues through the date of the general or special election. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 26 [Minn. Stat. 10A.202, subd. 4; Disclaimer required] amends the cross reference for electioneering communications disclaimer to refer to a new subdivision that provides a specific disclaimer for electioneering communications. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 27 [Minn. Stat. 10A.36; Reprisals prohibited; penalty] prohibits employers, individuals, and associations from engaging in economic reprisals or threatening loss of employment or physical coercion against an individual or association because of that individual’s or association’s refusal to communicate with public or local officials about a legislative or administrative action or the official action of a political subdivision. Specifies that political activity includes becoming a candidate for elected public office. Allows an individual or association injured by a violation of this section to bring a civil action for damages. Adds employers to the list of entities subject to the gross misdemeanor penalty. Allows the Board to refer violations of this section to the appropriate county attorney. Defines “employer.” This is from S.F. 863 (Putnam) and S.F. 1854 (Westlin).

Sec. 28 [Minn. Stat. 10A.52; Major Decision of nonelected officials] codifies a Board Rule and amends the rule by adding the language in subdivision 1, paragraph (b). This section provides guidance on what constitutes a major decision of nonelected local officials regarding the expenditure of public money. This is from S.F. 1662 (Westlin).

Section 29 [Minn. Stat. 124E.03; Statement of economic interest] states that the laws related to statements of economic interest apply to members of charter school boards and persons employed as charter school directors and chief administrators. This is from S.F. 2412 (Cwodziński).

Section 30 [Minn. Stat. 211A.02, subd. 1; When and where filed by committees or candidates] specifies that certain local candidate reports are only required in a year in which the candidate is on the ballot (and not every year). Deletes unnecessary language. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 31 [Minn. Stat. 211A.02, subd. 2; Information required] requires a local candidate or committee report to include an email address. If the person responsible for filing the report does not have an email address, the person must include an attestation to that effect. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 32 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 1; Campaign material] amends requirements for disclaimers on campaign material. Except for audio or video media, in the case of a candidate's or committee's website or social media page, the disclaimer requirements are satisfied when the disclaimer appears once on the home page. Changes "broadcast media" to "audio or video media." This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 33 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 2; Independent expenditures] specifies that the disclaimer for independent expenditures in paragraph (a) applies to everything except audio or video media independent expenditures, which are covered by paragraph (b). Changes the term "broadcast media" to "audio or video media." This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 34 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 2a; Electioneering communications] provides disclaimers for electioneering communications. Paragraph (b) applies to audio or video media electioneering communications. Paragraph (a) applies to all other electioneering communications. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 35 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 3; Material that does not need a disclaimer] amends the law on material that does not need a disclaimer. Provides that electronic communications for which it would be technologically infeasible to include a disclaimer does not need to include a disclaimer. Instead, it must include the name of the person who paid for the communication and a link to an online page that includes only the disclaimer. This replaces a current law that refers to online banner ads and other similar electronic communications and required a link to a page with a disclaimer. Strikes a reference to a section being repealed. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty) and SF 2236 (Gustafson).

Section 36 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 5; Font size] amends the law on font size for outdoor signs, websites, or social media pages. Paragraph (b) is effective on January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Section 37 [Minn. Stat. 211B.065; Misrepresentation of campaign authority] prohibits a person from misrepresenting the person or committee or organization as speaking or acting

on behalf of any real, potential, or nonexistent candidate, party, committee, fund, or organization with intent to defraud or when soliciting money with the intent to defraud. A person must not willfully and knowingly participate in or conspire to participate or plan to do any of these things. A person who violates this law is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. The attorney general, a county attorney, or a party injured by a violation of the law may bring a civil action to recover damages and receive equitable relief. This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date and causes of actions accruing on or after that date. This is from SF 1851 (Westlin).

Section 38 [Minn. Stat. 211B.065; Distribution of absentee ballot applications and sample ballots] requires a person or entity, except a unit of government or an election official, that mails absentee ballot applications or sample ballots to include specified statements on the application or sample ballot and the envelope. If an absentee ballot application is included, the application fields must be blank. This section is effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 39 [Minn. Stat. 211B.13; Bribery, treating, and solicitation] amends the law on bribery, treating, and solicitation as it relates to voters and voting-related activity. Expands the list of felonies for voting and election-related activities. Provides that the attorney general or county attorney may enforce this section. This section is effective August 1, 2025, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date. This is from S.F. 1812 (Westlin).

Section 40 [Minn. Stat. 211B.32, subd. 1; Administrative remedy; exhaustion] provides that the section on misrepresentation on campaign authority is enforced as provided in that section instead of by the administrative process through the Office of Administrative Hearings, which is the generally applicable process for chapter 211B. This is from SF 1851 (Westlin).

Section 41 [Minn. Stat. 211B.32, subd. 4; Proof of claim] strikes a cross-reference to a statute being repealed. This is from S.F. 2236 (Gustafson).

Section 42 [Minn. Stat. 211B.35, subd. 2; Disposition of claim] strikes a cross-reference to a statute being repealed. This is from S.F. 2236 (Gustafson).

Section 43 [Minn. Stat. 383B.041, subd. 5; Economic interest disclosure; Special School District No. 1] specifies that candidates for school board in Special School District No. 1, must file a statement of economic interest within 14 days of the end of the candidate filing period, instead of within 14 days of filing for office.

Section 44 [Campaign Spending Limits Study] requires the Board to study the voluntary campaign spending limits and report to the legislature by January 15, 2026. This is from S.F. 1915 (Boldon).

Section 45 [Rulemaking] requires the Board to amend one of its rules to conform to the provisions in this article related to transition expenses. The Board may use the good cause exemption. This is from S.F. 2386 (Marty).

Section 46 [Repealer], paragraph (a) repeals Minn. Stat. section 211B.04, subd. 4, which relates to disclaimer requirements on websites and social media pages. It also repeals sections 211B.06 and 211B.08, which have both been found to be unconstitutional. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty) and S.F. 2236 (Gustafson).

Paragraph (b) repeals Minnesota Rules, part 4503.2000, subpart 2, which relates to disclaimers on broadcast media and social media platforms. This is from S.F. 1996 (Marty).

Paragraph (c) repeals Minnesota Rule, part 4511.1100, which relates to major decisions of nonelected local officials. This is from S.F. 1662 (Westlin).

Section 47 [Effective date] provides that this section is effective January 1, 2026, unless otherwise provided.

Article 3 – Election Policy

Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 201.054, subd. 1; Registration] clarifies that an individual may update voter registration at the same time a person may register to vote.

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 201.054, subd. 2; Prohibition; penalty] prohibits an individual from intentionally misrepresenting the individual's identity when updating a registration.

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 201.056; Signature of registered voters; marks allowed] extends the current law on signatures by registered voters to voters who are updating registration.

Section 4 [Minn. Stat. 201.061, subd. 1; Prior to election day] allows voters to update voter registration prior to election day by submitting a voter registration application in the same manner as a voter who is registering to vote.

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 201.061, subd. 3; Election day registration] strikes the requirement for a residential facility operator to prepare a list of employee names to be certified to the county auditor to be used for vouching for residential facility residents. Instead requires employees to provide proof that they are employed by and working in the residential facility before vouching for a resident. Adds references to updating voter registration. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 201.061, subd. 3a; Additional proofs of residence permitted for students] requires an updated residential housing list to be certified to the county auditor no later than 35 days before each election, instead of 20 days. Specifies that additional proof of residence for students must be allowed during the 18 days before an election and on election day. This section is effective January 1, 2026, and applies to elections held on or after February 6, 2026. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 201.061, subd. 4; Registration by election judges; procedures] provides that updates to registration on election day are handled by election judges in the same manner as registrations.

Section 8 [Minn. Stat. 201.061, subd. 5; Unregistered voters; penalty] strikes a reference to precincts where voter registration is not required.

Section 9 [Minn. Stat. 201.061, subd. 7; Record of attempted registrations] requires election judges to attempt to keep a record of the number of individuals who attempt to update a voter registration on election day but who cannot provide proof of residence.

Section 10 [Minn. Stat. 201.071, subd. 1; Form] strikes a requirement that the voter registration application include a box to indicate a voter's preference to join the permanent absentee voter list. This section is effective July 1, 2025, except that it is effective January 1, 2026, for the secretary of state's online voter registration application. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 11 [Minn. Stat. 201.071, subd. 4; Change of registration] requires a county auditor who receives notice of an update of a registration record to check the statewide voter registration system to determine whether that individual voted in more than one precinct in the most recent election.

Section 12 [Minn. Stat. 201.091, subd. 5; Copy of list to registered voter] requires the secretary state and county auditors to provide the public information list within 5 business days of receiving a complete request, instead of the 10 days required by current law. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2488 (Koran).

Section 13 [Minn. Stat. 201.091, subd. 8; Registration places] allows a person with a disability to be assisted by a designated individual when updating a voter registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity and strikes a reference to preregistration.

Section 14 [Minn. Stat. 201. 121, subd. 1; Entry of registration information] makes a conforming change to require county auditors to update information in the statewide voter information system.

Section 15 [Minn. Stat. 201.121, subd. 3; Postelection sampling] requires postelection sampling to include voters who updated voter registration information on election day.

Section 16 [Minn. Stat. 201.13, subd. 3; Use of change of address system] makes conforming changes to refer to making updates (instead of changes).

Section 17 [Minn. Stat. 201.14; Court administrator of district court; report changes of name] makes conforming changes to refer to the county auditor updating voter's records with information from name change reports, instead of changing the record. Updates terminology for consistency.

Section 18 [Minn. Stat. 201.161, subd. 4; Department of Human Services] allows individuals to update voter registrations as part of applications with the Department of Human Services.

Section 19 [Minn. Stat. 201.161, subd. 5; Other agencies and units of government] prohibits updating using the automatic voter registration process to update voter registration with an agency until the agency has been approved to use the automatic registration process.

Section 20 [Minn. Stat. 201.161, subd. 8; Effective date of registration] provides that the effective date for the voter registration or the update to a voter registration through automatic voter registration is the date the county auditor processes the application. Makes conforming changes relating to updating voter registration.

Section 21 [Minn. Stat. 201.162; Duties of state agencies] requires state agencies and other entities to provide assistance for updating voter registration. Makes conforming changes relating to updating voter registration. Updates terminology for consistency.

Section 22 [Minn. Stat. 201.225, subd. 2; Technology requirements] allows an electronic roster to contain preregistered voter data on voters for multiple precincts in the case of a combined polling place. Replaces references to preregistered voters with references to registered voters. Allows electronic rosters to be used for updating voter registration. This section is effective June 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 23 [Minn. Stat. 201.225, subd. 5; Election day] allows precincts to use electronic rosters for updating voter registration. Replaces references to preregistered voters with references to registered voters.

Section 24 [Minn. Stat. 201.275; Investigations; prosecutions] provides where a matter relates to a voter registration submitted electronically, alleged violations may be investigated and prosecuted in the county where the individual updated a voter registration.

Section 25 [Minn. Stat. 203B.04, subd. 1; Application procedures] amends the deadlines for submitting absentee ballot applications, depending on how the application is returned. After 5 pm seven days before an election, the secretary of state must replace the electronic absentee ballot application with information about options to vote for the upcoming election. Applicants using the online absentee application must provide both a driver's license number or state ID card number and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. The county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk must retain all applications. If an application is received after the deadline for receipt, the official in charge of the ballot board must attempt to contact the applicant to notify the applicant of opportunities to vote in the election. Requires the absentee ballot application to include a space to apply to automatically receive an absentee ballot. This section is effective July 1, 2025, except the provisions relating to the online application are effective July 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran) and S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 26 [Minn. Stat. 203B.04, subd. 4; Registration at time of application; updating registration] allows an absentee voter who needs to update their registration to do so by including a completed voter registration application with their absentee ballot.

Section 27 [Minn. Stat. 203B.05, subd. 1; Generally] requires the designation or notice that a municipality will administer absentee voting to specify whether the municipality's office will

be designated as an absentee voting location or only an early voting location. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 28 [Minn. Stat. 206B.06, subd. 4; Registration check] provides that if an absentee voter needs to update the voter's registration, the county auditor, municipal clerk, or election judge must include a voter registration application among the election materials provided to the applicant.

Section 29 [Minn. Stat. 203B.07, subd. 1; Delivery of envelopes, directions] provides that when a voter registration application is sent to an absentee voter applicant, the directions must also include instructions for updating the voter's registration.

Section 30 [Minn. Stat. 203B.07, subd. 3; Eligibility certificate] requires the eligibility certificate to be modified to reference updates to voter registration.

Section 31 [Minn. Stat. 203B.08, subd. 1; Marking and return by voter] updates terminology regarding absentee voting envelopes to refer to the proper type of envelope. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 32 [Minn. Stat. 203B.08, subd. 3; Procedures on receipt of ballots] updates terminology regarding absentee voting envelopes to refer to the proper type of envelope. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 33 [Minn. Stat. 203B.081, subd. 4; Temporary locations] requires the county auditor and secretary of state to post notice of absentee polling places on their respective websites. The notices must include the polling place's address and the dates and times the polling place will be open for voting. Allows a federally recognized Indian Tribe with off-reservation Tribal lands to request an additional polling place to be on that land. This section is effective September 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 600 (Koran) and S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 34 [Minn. Stat. 203B.11, subd. 1; Generally] provides that if a health care professional at a health care facility determines it is necessary to ensure the health and safety of election judges, the voter, or others at the facility, two employees of the facility may receive a ballot from the election judges and deliver the ballot to the voter instead of the election judges. This section is effective September 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 35 [Minn. Stat. 203B. 121, subd. 2; Duties of ballot board; absentee ballots] updates the list of cross-references to statutes where party balance requirements for election judges do not apply.

Section 36 [Minn. Stat. 203B.121, subd. 4; Opening of envelopes] amends the handling of absentee ballot signature envelopes. This requires counting, cross-checking, and accounting for empty signature and ballot envelopes at various steps in the process. Discrepancies in the count must be noted in the ballot board incident log and reported to the official responsible for the ballot board. All envelopes must be retained for the duration of the contest period. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 37 [Minn. Stat. 203B.121, subd. 5; Storage and counting of absentee ballots]

requires two members of the ballot board to make sure that the number of absentee ballots removed from the ballot box is equal to the number of absentee ballots from the tally of absentee ballots from the tally of ballots that were inserted into the ballot box that day. Requires absentee vote totals to be added to the vote totals on summary statements for the appropriate precinct in all elections. Makes technical and conforming changes. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 38 [Minn. Stat. 203B.17, subd. 3; Website security] strikes a reference to report due dates that have already passed. This section is in the author's amendment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 39 [Minn. Stat. 203B.23, subd. 2; Duties] specifies that if a county administers UOCAVA absentee voting, the county opens, counts, and retains the ballots. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 40 [Minn. Stat. 203B.29, subd. 1; Emergency response providers] specifies that the absentee ballot application deadlines in an earlier section do not apply to emergency response providers requesting absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 41 [Minn. Stat. 203B.29, subd. 3; Reasonable accommodation for voter with disability] specifies that the absentee ballot application deadlines in an earlier section do not apply to voters with a disability requesting absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 42 [Minn. Stat. 203B.30, subd. 2; Voting procedure] provides that a voter whose name or address has changed must update the voter's registration at the time of early voting. This section is effective upon the revisor of statute's receipt of the early voting certification and applies to elections held on or after the 85th day after the revisor receives the certification.

Section 43 [Minn. Stat. 203B.30, subd. 3; Processing of ballots] requires the early voting official to take certain actions to remove, secure, and document ballots each day during the early voting period. This section is effective upon the revisor of statute's receipt of the early voting certification and applies to elections held on or after the 85th day after the revisor receives the certification. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 44 [Minn. Stat. 204B.06, subd. 1; Form of affidavit] requires an affidavit of candidacy to include a phonetic spelling or pronunciation of the candidate's name or a certification that the candidate will use the applicable technology's default pronunciation. This section is effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 45 [Minn. Stat. 204B.06, subd. 1b; Address, electronic mail address, and telephone number] specifies that candidates for judicial office, county attorney, and county sheriff are not required to include the candidate's address of residence on the affidavit of candidacy. Candidates for these offices must include a phone number and email address. If a

bill is used as proof of residence for office, the bill must be recent. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 46 [Minn. Stat. 204B.07, subd. 2; Petitions for presidential electors and alternates] specifies that the section, as opposed to the subdivision, does not apply to candidates for presidential elector nominated by major political parties. Requires each nominated candidate to submit a petition and a signed, notarize affidavit of candidacy for president or vice president that includes information about the candidate and a declaration that the candidate will follow applicable election and campaign finance laws. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 47 [Minn. Stat. 204B.09, subd. 1a; Absent candidates] requires a candidate who is absent during the filing period to include proof of residence with the affidavit of candidacy. The copy of the proof of residence is private data on individuals. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 48 [Minn. Stat. 204B.09, subd. 2; Other elections] requires proof of residence filed with affidavits of candidacy be filed during the filing period. Copies of proof of residence submitted by mail are private data on individuals. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 49 [Minn. Stat. 204B.09, subd. 3; Write-in candidates] requires a candidate for county, state, or federal office who wants write-in votes to be counted to file a request not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the 19th day before the general election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the general election. For cities that adopt a resolution requiring candidates to request to have write-in votes counted, the request must be filed no later than the 19th day before the election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the election. This section is effective on January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 50 [Minn. Stat. 204B.14, subd. 2; Separate precincts; combined polling place] allows election officials responsible for electronic rosters to combine precinct data files as necessary to be loaded onto electronic rosters for combined polling places. This section is effective June 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 51 [204B.14, subd. 4a; Municipal boundary adjustment procedure] changes the deadline for when a municipal boundary adjustment will take effect for an election from 21 days before an election to 46 days before an election. This prevents the change from taking place in the middle of the absentee voting period. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 52 [204B.16; Notice to voters] requires a notice to be posted in a conspicuous place if a polling place is changed. The notice must be posted at the closed polling place and must include the location of the new polling place. If a precinct is required to provide election materials in languages other than English, the sign must also be in the additional languages. The notice must be posted at each election until the next general presidential election or until redistricting has occurred. The secretary of state must prepare a sample notice. This is from S.F. 2846 (Boldon).

Section 53 [Minn. Stat. 204B.175, subd. 3; Notice] amends the statute related to notices that must be posted when a polling-place changes on election day due to an emergency. If a precinct is required to provide election materials in languages other than English, the sign must also be in the additional languages. This was not included in but is related to S.F. 2846 (Baldon).

Section 54 [Minn. Stat. 204B.182; Chain of custody plans] requires the county auditor to develop a county elections chain of custody plan for elections in the county. The plan must account for both physical and cyber security of elections-related materials. A municipal clerk, school district clerk, or special district clerk must either use the county plan or create a local chain of custody plan for use in local elections not held in conjunction with federal, state, or county elections. This section is effective the day following final enactment and county auditors must file a plan with the secretary of state by June 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 55 [Minn. Stat. 204B.21; subd. 1; Appointment lists; duties of political parties and secretary of state] amends the process for political parties providing lists of individuals willing to serve as election judges. Specifies information that must be included on the lists. If the required information is not included on the list, the name must not be forwarded to an appointing authority. The deadlines are moved up by one month. This section is effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 56 [Minn. Stat. 204B.21, subd. 2; Appointing authority; powers and duties] requires appointing authorities to first exhaust the list of voters provided by the political parties before appointing other individuals to serve as election judges. This section is effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 57 [Minn. Stat. 204B.21, subd. 2a; Election judges; party balance] provides that election judge party balance requirements do not apply to a county election not held in conjunction with a state or federal election.

Section 58 [Minn. Stat. 204B.24; Election judges; oath] adds a statement to the election judge oath that the judge will not share information about voting that the judge knows to be materially false and that the judge will not intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent a person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person in voting. This section is effective June 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 59 [Minn. Stat. 204B.25, subd. 3; Trained election judges; number required] removes an exception that allows untrained election judges to serve in precincts where less than 100 individuals voted in the last state general election. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 60 [Minn. Stat. 204B.275; Election reporting system] requires the secretary of state to maintain an election reporting system. Assigns responsibilities and timelines for entering candidate names into the system. Requires testing prior to elections. Requires county auditor to report unofficial election results in the system for federal and state elections. Specifies

that the results in the system are unofficial and election results are not official until after the canvassing board certifies the result of the election. This section is effective on June 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 61 [Minn. Stat. 204B.28, subd. 2; Election supplies; duties of county auditors and clerks] allows municipal clerks to secure certain election supplies from the county auditor until the day before the election, as opposed to of four days before the election in current law. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 62 [Minn. Stat. 204B.44; Errors and omissions; remedy] provides that service on a candidate may be accomplished by an email sent to the address the candidate provided on the affidavit of candidacy. Provides a process for all parties to agree on a remedy to correct an error, omission, or wrongful act without a court order. Provides for a candidate who does not prevail in a court proceeding to pay the costs and disbursements for the prevailing party in certain circumstances. An official may correct an official ballot without a court order if the ballot is not in compliance with laws and rules on ballot format. This section is effective on June 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 63 [Minn. Stat. 204B.45, subd. 2; Procedure; voting prior to election day] requires jurisdictions that conduct elections by mail to send ballots no later than 28 days before any election, rather than the current 14 days. Election judges are not required to be from different major political parties if they are performing duties for a county election not held in conjunction with a state election. This section is effective November 15, 2025, for elections held on or after January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran) and S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 64 [Minn. Stat. 204C.05, subd. 2; Voters in line at closing] adds a reference to individuals in line to update voter registration in the section on voters in line at the close of voting. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 65 [Minn. Stat. 204C.06, subd. 1; Persons allowed near polling place] allows persons updating their registration to be near a polling place. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 66 [Minn. Stat. 204C.06, subd. 2; Individuals allowed in polling place; identification] allows a voter who is updating their registration to be in a polling place while updating registration or voting. Updates terminology.

Section 67 [Minn. Stat. 204C.06, subd. 6; Peace officers] adds a reference to updating registration in the section on when peace officers may be summoned to restore the peace.

Section 68 [Minn. Stat. 204C.08, subd. 1d; Voter's bill of rights] adds a reference to updating voter registration on election day. Strikes a reference to a prohibition on a candidate from assisting voters, consistent with a consent decree entered into in *Dai Thao et al. v. Minnesota Secretary of State*, No. 62-CV-20-1044 (Minn. Dist. Ct. 2020). This section is effective the day following final enactment, except that the provision on updating voter registration is effective on January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 69 [Minn. Stat. 204C.09, subd. 1; Counting and initialing] strikes the requirement that election judges initial the backs of ballots, which allows judges to initial the ballot on either side. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 70 [Minn. Stat. 204C.10; Polling place roster; voter signature certificate; voter receipt] adds a reference to the location of residence in the polling place roster statement. This section is effective September 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 71 [Minn. Stat. 205.13, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the municipal clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 72 [Minn. Stat. 204C.15, subd. 3; Voting lines] specifies that upon request of the voter, two election judges will assist a voter with a disability. Allows the election judges to assist with updating the voter's registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 73 [Minn. Stat. 204C.24, subd. 1; Information requirements] requires precinct summary statements to include the number of voters updating registrations in that precinct.

Section 74 [Minn. Stat. 204C.32, subd. 1; County canvass] provides that the county canvassing report after the state primary must include the number of individuals who updated voter registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 75 [Minn. Stat. 204C.33, subd. 1; County canvass] the county canvassing report after the state general election must include the number of individuals who updated voter registration. Rewrites a sentence for clarity.

Section 76 [Minn. Stat. 205.07, subd. 4; Election judges; party balance] provides that election judge party balance requirements do not apply to a city election that is not held in conjunction with a state or federal election.

Section 77 [Minn. Stat. 205.075, subd. 4; Election judges; party balance] updates cross references in the section on election judge party balance requirements for town elections not held in conjunction with state or federal elections. Updates terminology.

Section 78 [Minn. Stat. 205.13, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the municipal clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 79 [Minn. Stat. 205.13, subd. 1a; Filing period] changes the filing period for municipal elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the municipal general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 80 [Minn. Stat. 205.185, subd. 3; Canvass of returns, certificate of election, ballots, disposition] extends the deadline for a city canvassing board to complete the canvass to the 14th day after the after an election (instead of the 10th day after the election). Requires the city or town canvassing board to declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for municipal office. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 81 [Minn. Stat. 205A.01, subd. 1; Affidavit of candidacy] requires the school district clerk to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. The notification must be made within one business day or immediately following the close of the filing period, unless the clerk and official agree to an alternative timeline. This section is effective the day following final enactment. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 82 [Minn. Stat. 205A.06, subd. 1a; Filing period] changes the filing period for school district elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the school general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran).

Section 83 [Minn. Stat. 205A.10, subd. 2; Election, conduct] updates cross references in the section on election judge party balance requirements for school district elections not held in conjunction with state or federal elections. Updates terminology.

Section 84 [Minn. Stat. 205A.10, subd. 3; Canvass of returns, certificate of election, ballots, disposition] extends the deadline for a school district canvassing board to complete the canvass to the 14th day after an election (instead of the 10th day after the election). Requires the school board to canvass the returns and to declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for school district office. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 85 [Minn. Stat. 205A.11, subd. 2; Combined polling place] provides that if a municipality conducts elections by mail, the school board may designate a polling place not used by the municipality. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 86 [Minn. Stat. 206.83; Testing of Voting Systems] requires public notice of the time and place of the testing of voting systems to be given at least five days in advance, instead of the two days required by current law. Strikes a reference to “punched” ballots. Specifies that it applies to each question in the contest. This section is effective on September 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2489 (Koran).

Section 87 [Minn. Stat. 368.47; Towns may be dissolved] strikes obsolete references to separate ballots and separate ballot boxes. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 88 [Minn. Stat. 375.20; Ballot questions] changes the timeline for calling a special county election. The election may be held within 84 days after a resolution is adopted, instead of within 74 days under current law. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 89 [Minn. Stat. 414.09, subd. 3; Elections of municipal officers] requires the election of municipal officers held after incorporation or consolidation to be held on a uniform election date. Requires ballots to follow the ballot formatting laws. Requires candidates to file affidavits of candidacy in the same manner as other municipal candidates. This section is effective June 1, 2025. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 90 [Minn. Stat. 447.32, subd. 4; Candidates; ballots; certifying election] changes the filing period for hospital board elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. Provides that a hospital district board must act as a canvassing board and between the 3rd and 14th day after an election, canvass the returns and declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for hospital district office and the results of any ballot questions. The changes related to the filing period are effective January 1, 2026. This is from S.F. 2232 (Koran) and S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 91 [Transition to new voter registration applications; absentee ballot applications] provides for a transition to new voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications to accommodate for the changes to the forms related voters being able to apply to automatically receive an absentee ballot. This was not included in but relates to S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 92 [Repealer] repeals Minn. Stats. 206.57, subd. 5b, which is a township voting equipment study that was completed in 2016. It also repeals 209.06, which relates to inspection of ballots. This is from S.F. 2384 (Westlin).

Section 93 [Effective date] provides that this article is effective July 1, 2025, unless otherwise provided.



Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, fiscal, and analytical services to the Minnesota Senate. This document can be made available in different formats upon request.

www.senate.mn/scrfa/home | 651-296-4791
95 University Ave. W., STE 3300, Saint Paul, MN, 55155