

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to elections; making policy, technical, and clarifying changes to
1.3 various provisions related to election law, including provisions related to
1.4 redistricting, voting, vacancies in nomination, and other election administration
1.5 provisions; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections
1.6 103C.225, subdivision 3; 103C.305, subdivision 3; 103C.311, subdivision
1.7 2; 204B.18, subdivision 2; 204B.32, subdivision 1; 204B.36, subdivision 1;
1.8 204C.19, subdivision 2; 204C.25; 204C.27; 204D.08, subdivision 6; 204D.11,
1.9 subdivisions 1, 4, 5, 6; 204D.13, subdivision 3; 204D.14, subdivisions 1, 3;
1.10 204D.15, subdivision 3; 204D.16; 204D.165; 205.17, subdivisions 1, 3; 205A.08,
1.11 subdivision 1; 206.61, subdivision 4; 208.04, subdivisions 1, 2; proposing coding
1.12 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 2; 204B; repealing Minnesota
1.13 Statutes 2012, sections 2.444; 2.484; 204B.12, subdivision 2a; 204B.13,
1.14 subdivision 6; 204B.42; 204D.11, subdivisions 2, 3; 205.17, subdivisions 2, 4;
1.15 205A.08, subdivision 4.

1.16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.17 **ARTICLE 1**

1.18 **REDISTRICTING**

1.19 Section 1. **[2.395] THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT.**

1.20 Subdivision 1. **Senate district.** Senate District 39 consists of that district as
1.21 described in the order of the Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel in Hippert v. Ritchie,
1.22 No. A11-152 (February 21, 2012).

1.23 Subd. 2. **House of representatives districts.** Notwithstanding the order of the
1.24 Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel in Hippert v. Ritchie, No. A11-152 (February
1.25 21, 2012), Senate District 39, as described in that order, is divided into two house of
1.26 representatives districts as follows:

2.1 (a) House of Representatives District 39A consists of that district as described in
2.2 file L39A-1, on file with the Geographic Information Systems Office of the Legislative
2.3 Coordinating Commission and published on its Web site on March 9, 2012.

2.4 (b) House of Representatives District 39B consists of that district as described in
2.5 file L39B-1, on file with the Geographic Information Systems Office of the Legislative
2.6 Coordinating Commission and published on its Web site on March 9, 2012.

2.7 **Sec. 2. [2.495] FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT.**

2.8 Subdivision 1. **Senate district.** Senate District 49 consists of that district as
2.9 described in the order of the Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel in Hippert v. Ritchie,
2.10 No. A11-152 (February 21, 2012).

2.11 Subd. 2. **House of representatives districts.** Notwithstanding the order of the
2.12 Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel in Hippert v. Ritchie, No. A11-152 (February 21,
2.13 2012), Senate District 49 is divided into two house of representatives districts as follows:

2.14 (a) House of Representatives District 49A consists of the district as described in
2.15 that order, with the modification contained in file L49A-2, on file with the Geographic
2.16 Information Systems Office of the Legislative Coordinating Commission and published on
2.17 its Web site on March 28, 2012.

2.18 (b) House of Representatives District 49B consists of the district as described in
2.19 that order, with the modification contained in file L49B-2, on file with the Geographic
2.20 Information Systems Office of the Legislative Coordinating Commission and published on
2.21 its Web site on March 28, 2012.

2.22 **Sec. 3. REPEALER.**

2.23 Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 2.444; and 2.484, are repealed.

2.24 **Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.25 This article is effective for the state primary and state general elections conducted
2.26 in 2014 for terms of office beginning on the first Monday in January of 2015, and for all
2.27 elections held thereafter.

2.28 **ARTICLE 2**

2.29 **VACANCIES IN NOMINATION**

2.30 **Section 1. [204B.131] VACANCY IN NOMINATION; NONPARTISAN OFFICE.**

3.1 Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** A vacancy in nomination for a nonpartisan office
3.2 must be filled in the manner provided by this section. A vacancy in nomination for a
3.3 nonpartisan office exists when:

3.4 (1) a candidate for any nonpartisan office, for which one or two candidates filed,
3.5 withdraws as provided in section 204B.12, subdivision 1; or

3.6 (2) a candidate for any nonjudicial nonpartisan office, for which only one or two
3.7 candidates filed or who was nominated at a primary, dies more than 79 days before the
3.8 date of the general election.

3.9 Subd. 2. **Procedure for filling vacancy.** A vacancy in nomination for a nonpartisan
3.10 office may be filled by filing an affidavit of candidacy and paying a filing fee, or by filing
3.11 an affidavit of candidacy and filing a petition in place of a filing fee, in the manner
3.12 provided in sections 204B.06, 204B.09, and 204B.11. All documents and fees required by
3.13 this subdivision must be filed within five days after the vacancy in nomination occurs.
3.14 There must be a two-day period for withdrawal of candidates after the last day for filing.

3.15 If the vacancy in nomination resulted from a withdrawal during the withdrawal
3.16 period held on the 68th to 69th day before the primary, and if, at the end of the withdrawal
3.17 period to fill the vacancy in nomination, there are more than two candidates, the
3.18 candidates' names must appear on the primary ballot. In all other cases, the candidates'
3.19 names must appear on the general election ballot.

3.20 **Sec. 2. REPEALER.**

3.21 Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 204B.12, subdivision 2a; and 204B.13,
3.22 subdivision 6, are repealed.

3.23 **Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3.24 This article is effective the day following final enactment and applies to vacancies in
3.25 nomination occurring on or after that date.

3.26 **ARTICLE 3**

3.27 **ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

3.28 **Section 1.** Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 103C.225, subdivision 3, is amended to
3.29 read:

3.30 **Subd. 3. **Referendum.**** ~~(a) Within 60 days after the petition is received by the state~~
3.31 ~~board, it shall give due notice of the holding of a referendum, schedule the referendum at~~
3.32 ~~the next general election, and cooperate with county election officials to accomplish the~~
3.33 ~~election in the most expedient manner. Upon receipt of a petition, the state board shall~~

4.1 provide written notice to the secretary of state and the county auditor of each county in
4.2 which the district is located no later than 74 days before the state general election. The
4.3 notice must include the date of the election and the title and text of the question to be
4.4 placed on the ballot. Prior to the referendum, the state board shall facilitate the preparation
4.5 of a plan to continue the administration of the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the
4.6 district, including the functions of the district board.

4.7 (b) ~~The question shall be submitted by ballots, upon which the words "For terminating~~
4.8 ~~the existence of~~ appear on the ballot in the following form: "Shall the (name
4.9 of the soil and water conservation district to be here inserted)" and "Against terminating
4.10 the existence of the (name of the soil and water conservation district to be here
4.11 inserted)" shall be printed, with a square before each proposition and a direction to insert
4.12 an X mark in the square before one or the other be terminated?".

4.13 (c) Only eligible voters in the district may vote in the referendum.

4.14 (d) Informalities in the conduct of the referendum or matters relating to the
4.15 referendum do not invalidate the referendum, or result of the referendum, if due notice has
4.16 been given and the referendum has been fairly conducted.

4.17 (e) The state board shall publish the result of the referendum.

4.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 103C.305, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

4.19 Subd. 3. **Ballots.** Ballots shall be prepared by the county auditor. The names of
4.20 candidates shall be placed on the ~~"canary ballot" described in section 204D.11, subdivision~~
4.21 ~~3~~ state general election ballot. The office title printed on the ballot must be either "Soil
4.22 and Water Conservation District Supervisor" or "Conservation District Supervisor," based
4.23 upon the district from which the supervisor is to be elected.

4.24 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 103C.311, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

4.25 Subd. 2. **Supervisors elected by districts.** (a) The district board, with the approval
4.26 of the state board, may by resolution provide that supervisors will be elected by supervisor
4.27 districts as provided in this subdivision.

4.28 (b) The supervisor districts must be composed of precincts established by county and
4.29 municipal governing bodies under section 204B.14. The districts must be compact, include
4.30 only contiguous territory, and be substantially equal in population. The districts must be
4.31 numbered in a regular series. The districts must be drawn by the county board of the county
4.32 containing the largest area of the soil and water conservation district, in consultation with
4.33 the district board and with the approval of the state board. The boundaries of the districts
4.34 must be redrawn after each decennial federal census as provided in section 204B.135. A

5.1 certified copy of the resolution establishing supervisor districts must be filed by the chair
5.2 of the district board with the county auditor of the counties where the soil and water
5.3 conservation district is located, with the state board, and with the secretary of state ~~at least~~
5.4 ~~30 days before the first date candidates may file for the office of supervisor.~~ and the filings
5.5 must occur within 80 days of the time when the legislature has been redistricted or at least
5.6 15 weeks before the state primary election in a year ending in two, whichever comes first.

5.7 (c) Each supervisor district is entitled to elect one supervisor. A supervisor must be a
5.8 resident of the district from which elected.

5.9 (d) The district board shall provide staggered terms for supervisors elected by
5.10 district. After each redistricting, there shall be a new election of supervisors in all the
5.11 districts at the next general election, except that if the change made in the boundaries of a
5.12 district is less than five percent of the average population of all the districts, the supervisor
5.13 in office at the time of the redistricting shall serve for the full term for which elected. The
5.14 district board shall determine by lot the seats to be filled for a two-year term, a four-year
5.15 term, and a six-year term.

5.16 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204B.18, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

5.17 Subd. 2. **Ballot boxes.** ~~Each polling place shall be provided with one ballot box for~~
5.18 ~~each kind of ballot to be cast at the election. The boxes shall be substantially the same color~~
5.19 ~~as the ballots to be deposited in them. Each box shall be of sufficient size and shall have a~~
5.20 ~~sufficient opening to receive and contain all the ballots likely to be deposited in it. When~~
5.21 ~~buff or goldenrod ballot boxes are required, a separate box must be provided for each school~~
5.22 ~~district for which ballots are to be cast at that polling place. The number and name of the~~
5.23 ~~school district must appear conspicuously on the top of each buff or goldenrod ballot box.~~

5.24 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204B.32, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5.25 Subdivision 1. **Payment.** (a) The secretary of state shall pay the compensation for
5.26 presidential electors, ~~the cost of printing the pink paper ballots,~~ and all necessary expenses
5.27 incurred by the secretary of state in connection with elections.

5.28 (b) The counties shall pay the compensation prescribed in section 204B.31, clauses
5.29 (b) and (c), ~~the cost of printing the canary ballots, the white ballots, the pink state general~~
5.30 election ballots when machines are used, the state partisan primary ballots, and the
5.31 state and county nonpartisan primary ballots, all necessary expenses incurred by county
5.32 auditors in connection with elections, and the expenses of special county elections.

5.33 (c) Subject to subdivision 2, the municipalities shall pay the compensation prescribed
5.34 for election judges and sergeants at arms, the cost of printing the municipal ballots,

6.1 providing ballot boxes, providing and equipping polling places and all necessary expenses
6.2 of the municipal clerks in connection with elections, except special county elections.

6.3 (d) The school districts shall pay the compensation prescribed for election judges
6.4 and sergeants-at-arms, the cost of printing the school district ballots, providing ballot
6.5 boxes, providing and equipping polling places and all necessary expenses of the school
6.6 district clerks in connection with school district elections not held in conjunction with
6.7 state elections. When school district elections are held in conjunction with state elections,
6.8 the school district shall pay the costs of printing the school district ballots, providing ballot
6.9 boxes and all necessary expenses of the school district clerk.

6.10 All disbursements under this section shall be presented, audited, and paid as in
6.11 the case of other public expenses.

6.12 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204B.36, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.13 Subdivision 1. **Type.** All ballots shall be printed with black ink on paper of sufficient
6.14 thickness to prevent the printing from being discernible from the back. ~~All ballots of the~~
6.15 ~~same color shall be substantially uniform in style of printing, size, thickness and shade of~~
6.16 ~~color. When the ballots of a particular color vary in shade, those used in any one precinct~~
6.17 ~~shall be of the same shade.~~ All ballots shall be printed in easily readable type with suitable
6.18 lines dividing candidates, offices, instructions and other matter printed on ballots. The
6.19 name of each candidate shall be printed in capital letters. The same type shall be used for
6.20 the names of all candidates on the same ballot.

6.21 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204C.19, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

6.22 Subd. 2. **Ballots; order of counting.** Except as otherwise provided in this
6.23 subdivision, the ballot boxes shall be opened, the votes counted, and the total declared ~~one~~
6.24 ~~box at a time in the following order: the white box, the pink box, the canary box, the light~~
6.25 ~~green box, the blue box, the buff box, the goldenrod box, the gray box, and then the other~~
6.26 ~~kinds of ballots voted at the election. If enough election judges are available to provide~~
6.27 ~~counting teams of four or more election judges for each box, more than one box may be~~
6.28 ~~opened and counted at the same time.~~ The election judges on each counting team shall be
6.29 evenly divided between the major political parties. The numbers entered on the summary
6.30 sheet shall not be considered final until the ballots in all the boxes have been counted and
6.31 corrections have been made if ballots have been deposited in the wrong boxes.

6.32 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204C.25, is amended to read:

6.33 **204C.25 DISPOSITION OF BALLOTS.**

7.1 After the count and the summary statements have been completed, in the presence
7.2 of all the election judges, the counted, defective, and blank ballots shall be placed in
7.3 envelopes ~~marked or printed to distinguish the color of the ballots contained~~, and the
7.4 envelopes shall be sealed. The election judges shall sign each envelope over the sealed part
7.5 so that the envelope cannot be opened without disturbing the continuity of the signatures.
7.6 The number ~~and kind~~ of ballots in each envelope, the name of the town or city, and the
7.7 name of the precinct shall be plainly written upon the envelopes. The number and name of
7.8 the district must be plainly written on envelopes containing school district ballots. The
7.9 spoiled ballots shall be placed in separate envelopes and returned with the unused ballots
7.10 to the county auditor or municipal or school district clerk from whom they were received.

7.11 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204C.27, is amended to read:

7.12 **204C.27 DELIVERY OF RETURNS TO COUNTY AUDITORS.**

7.13 One or more of the election judges in each precinct shall deliver two sets of
7.14 summary statements; all spoiled ~~white, pink, canary, and gray~~ ballots; and the envelopes
7.15 containing the ~~white, pink, canary, and gray~~ ballots either directly to the municipal clerk
7.16 for transmittal to the county auditor's office or directly to the county auditor's office as
7.17 soon as possible after the vote counting is completed but no later than 24 hours after the
7.18 end of the hours for voting. One or more election judges shall deliver the remaining set
7.19 of summary statements and returns, all unused and spoiled municipal and school district
7.20 ballots, the envelopes containing municipal and school district ballots, and all other things
7.21 furnished by the municipal or school district clerk, to the municipal or school district
7.22 clerk's office within 24 hours after the end of the hours for voting. The municipal or school
7.23 district clerk shall return all polling place rosters and completed voter registration cards to
7.24 the county auditor within 48 hours after the end of the hours for voting.

7.25 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.08, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

7.26 Subd. 6. **State and county nonpartisan primary ballot.** The state and county
7.27 nonpartisan primary ballot shall be headed "State and County Nonpartisan Primary
7.28 Ballot." It shall be printed ~~on canary paper~~ in the manner provided in the rules of the
7.29 secretary of state. The names of candidates for nomination to the Supreme Court, Court of
7.30 Appeals, district court, and all county offices shall be placed on this ballot.

7.31 No candidate whose name is placed on the state and county nonpartisan primary
7.32 ballot shall be designated or identified as the candidate of any political party or in any
7.33 other manner except as expressly provided by law.

8.1 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.2 Subdivision 1. **White State general election ballot; rules.** The names of
8.3 the candidates for all ~~partisan~~ state and federal offices, all proposed constitutional
8.4 amendments, all county offices and questions, and all judicial offices voted on at the state
8.5 general election shall be placed on a single ballot ~~printed on white paper which~~ that shall
8.6 be known as the "~~white~~ state general election ballot." This ballot shall be prepared by the
8.7 county auditor subject to the rules of the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall
8.8 adopt rules for preparation and time of delivery of the ~~white~~ state general election ballot.

8.9 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.11, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

8.10 Subd. 4. **Special federal white ballot.** (a) The names of all candidates for the
8.11 offices of president and vice-president of the United States and senator and representative
8.12 in Congress shall be placed on a ballot ~~printed on white paper which~~ that shall be known
8.13 as the "special federal ~~white~~ ballot."

8.14 (b) This ballot shall be prepared by the county auditor in the same manner as
8.15 the ~~white~~ state general election ballot and shall be subject to the rules adopted by the
8.16 secretary of state pursuant to subdivision 1. This ballot must be prepared and furnished
8.17 in accordance with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act,
8.18 United States Code, title 42, section 1973ff.

8.19 (c) The special federal ~~white~~ ballot shall be the only ballot sent to citizens of
8.20 the United States who are eligible to vote by absentee ballot for federal candidates in
8.21 Minnesota.

8.22 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.11, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

8.23 Subd. 5. **Ballot headings.** The ~~white, pink, and special federal white~~ ballot
8.24 containing the offices and questions in subdivisions 1 and 4, shall be headed with the
8.25 words "State General Election Ballot." The ~~canary ballot shall be headed with the words~~
8.26 ~~"County and Judicial Nonpartisan General Election Ballot."~~

8.27 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.11, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

8.28 Subd. 6. **Gray Judicial ballot.** When the ~~canary ballot would be longer than 30~~
8.29 ~~inches or when it would not be possible to place all offices on a single ballot card~~ for the
8.30 state general election, the judicial offices ~~that should be placed on the canary ballot~~ may be
8.31 placed instead on a separate gray judicial ballot. The gray judicial ballot shall be prepared
8.32 by the county auditor in the manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state.

9.1 The ~~gray~~ judicial ballot must be headed with the words: "Judicial Nonpartisan
9.2 General Election Ballot." Separate ballot boxes must be provided for these ~~gray~~ judicial
9.3 ballots.

9.4 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.13, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

9.5 Subd. 3. **Nominees by petition; placement on ballot.** The names of candidates
9.6 nominated by petition for a partisan office voted on at the state general election shall be
9.7 placed on the ~~white~~ state general election ballot after the names of the candidates for that
9.8 office who were nominated at the state primary. ~~Prior to the state primary~~ No later than
9.9 11 weeks before the state general election, the secretary of state shall determine by lot
9.10 the order of candidates nominated by petition. The drawing of lots must be by political
9.11 party or principle. The political party or political principle of the candidate as stated on
9.12 the petition shall be placed after the name of a candidate nominated by petition. The word
9.13 "nonpartisan" shall not be used to designate any partisan candidate whose name is placed
9.14 on the ~~white~~ state general election ballot by nominating petition.

9.15 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.14, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

9.16 Subdivision 1. **Rotation of names.** The names of candidates for nonpartisan offices
9.17 on the ~~primary~~ state general election ballot and the judicial nonpartisan general election
9.18 ballot shall be rotated in the manner provided for rotation of names on state partisan
9.19 primary ballots by section 204D.08, subdivision 3.

9.20 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.14, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

9.21 Subd. 3. **Uncontested judicial offices.** Judicial offices for a specific court for
9.22 which there is only one candidate filed must appear after all other judicial offices for that
9.23 same court on the ~~primary~~ ballot.

9.24 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.15, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

9.25 Subd. 3. **Sample ~~pink~~ ballot; constitutional amendments.** Four weeks before the
9.26 state general election the secretary of state shall file sample copies of the ~~pink~~ ballot
9.27 portion of the state general election ballot that contains the proposed constitutional
9.28 amendments in the Secretary of State's Office for public inspection. Three weeks before
9.29 the state general election the secretary of state shall ~~mail~~ transmit sample copies of the
9.30 ~~pink~~ sample ballot to each county auditor. Each auditor shall post the sample ballot in a
9.31 conspicuous place in the auditor's office.

10.1 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.16, is amended to read:

10.2 **204D.16 SAMPLE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS; POSTING;**
10.3 **PUBLICATION.**

10.4 ~~Two weeks before the state general election the county auditor shall prepare sample~~
10.5 ~~copies of the white and canary ballots and~~ At least 46 days before the state general
10.6 election, the county auditor shall post copies of these sample ballots and a sample of the
10.7 ~~pink ballot~~ for each precinct in the auditor's office for public inspection and transmit an
10.8 electronic copy of these sample ballots to the secretary of state. No earlier than 15 days
10.9 and no later than two days before the state general election the county auditor shall cause
10.10 the sample ~~white and canary ballots~~ state general election ballots to be published in at
10.11 least one newspaper of general circulation in the county.

10.12 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 204D.165, is amended to read:

10.13 **204D.165 SAMPLE BALLOTS TO SCHOOLS.**

10.14 ~~Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in section 204D.09 or 204D.16,~~ The county
10.15 auditor, two weeks before the applicable primary or general election, shall provide one
10.16 copy of ~~the~~ an appropriate sample ~~partisan primary, nonpartisan primary, canary, white,~~
10.17 ~~or pink~~ ballot to a school district upon request. The school district may have the sample
10.18 ballots reproduced at its expense for classroom educational purposes and for educational
10.19 activities authorized under section 204B.27, subdivision 7.

10.20 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 205.17, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

10.21 Subdivision 1. ~~Second, third, and fourth class cities; towns~~ Municipal offices;
10.22 questions; general election ballot. In all statutory and home rule charter cities ~~of the~~
10.23 ~~second, third, and fourth class,~~ and in all towns, ~~for the municipal general election,~~ the
10.24 municipal clerk shall have printed ~~on light green paper~~ the official ballot containing the
10.25 names of all candidates for municipal offices and municipal ballot questions. The ballot
10.26 shall be printed in quantities of 25, 50, or 100, shall be headed "City or Town Election
10.27 Ballot," shall state the name of the city or town and the date of the election, and shall
10.28 conform in other respects to the ~~white ballot used at the state general election~~ ballot. The
10.29 names shall be arranged on city ballots in the manner provided for the state elections. On
10.30 town ballots names of the candidates for each office shall be arranged either:

10.31 (1) alphabetically according to the candidates' surnames; or

10.32 (2) in the manner provided for state elections if the town electors chose at the town's
10.33 annual meeting to arrange the names in that way for at least two consecutive years.

11.1 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 205.17, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

11.2 Subd. 3. **Primary ballots.** The municipal primary ballot ~~in cities of the second,~~
11.3 ~~third, and fourth class and towns and the nonpartisan primary ballot in cities of the first~~
11.4 class shall conform as far as practicable with the municipal general election ballot ~~except~~
11.5 ~~that it shall be printed on light green paper.~~ No blank spaces shall be provided for writing
11.6 in the names of candidates. ~~The partisan primary ballot in cities of the first class shall~~
11.7 ~~conform as far as practicable with the state partisan primary ballot.~~

11.8 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 205A.08, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

11.9 Subdivision 1. **Buff General election ballot.** The names of all candidates for offices
11.10 and all ballot questions to be voted on at a school district general election must be placed
11.11 on a single ballot ~~printed on buff paper and known as the "buff ballot."~~;

11.12 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 206.61, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

11.13 Subd. 4. **Order of candidates.** On the "State Partisan Primary Ballot" prepared for
11.14 primary elections, and on the ~~white~~ state general election ballot prepared for the general
11.15 election, the order of the names of nominees or names of candidates for election shall be
11.16 the same as required for paper ballots. More than one column or row may be used for the
11.17 same office or party. Electronic ballot display and audio ballot readers must conform to
11.18 the candidate order on the optical scan ballot used in the precinct.

11.19 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 208.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

11.20 Subdivision 1. **Form of presidential ballots.** When presidential electors and
11.21 alternates are to be voted for, a vote cast for the party candidates for president and vice
11.22 president shall be deemed a vote for that party's electors and alternates as filed with the
11.23 secretary of state. The secretary of state shall certify the names of all duly nominated
11.24 presidential and vice presidential candidates to the county auditors of the counties of
11.25 the state. Each county auditor, subject to the rules of the secretary of state, shall cause
11.26 the names of the candidates of each major political party and the candidates nominated
11.27 by petition to be printed in capital letters, set in type of the same size and style as for
11.28 candidates on the state ~~white~~ general election ballot, before the party designation. To the
11.29 left of, and on the same line with the names of the candidates for president and vice
11.30 president, near the margin, shall be placed a square or box, in which the voters may
11.31 indicate their choice by marking an "X."

11.32 The form for the presidential ballot and the relative position of the several candidates
11.33 shall be determined by the rules applicable to other state officers. The state ballot, with

12.1 the required heading, shall be printed on the same piece of paper and shall be below the
12.2 presidential ballot with a blank space between one inch in width.

12.3 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 208.04, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

12.4 Subd. 2. **Applicable rules.** The rules for preparation, state contribution to the cost
12.5 of printing, and delivery of presidential ballots are the same as the rules for ~~white state~~
12.6 general election ballots under section 204D.11, subdivision 1.

12.7 Sec. 27. **REPEALER.**

12.8 Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 204B.42; 204D.11, subdivisions 2 and 3; 205.17,
12.9 subdivisions 2 and 4; and 205A.08, subdivision 4, are repealed.