

**CHAPTER 8250**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**WHITE BALLOTS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS**

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**PREPARING WHITE BALLOT**

**8250.0100 WHITE BALLOT DEFINED.**

The "white ballot" is the ballot used at general elections and is the paper ballot on which are printed the names of the candidates nominated for the offices of senator and representative in congress, senator and representative in the legislature, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, attorney general, and chief justice and associate justice of the Supreme Court.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

**8250.0200 AUDITOR'S DUTIES.**

The white ballot shall be prepared under the direction of the county auditors in a sufficient number to enable the clerks to comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.29. It shall be the duty of the county auditors to prepare and print the white ballot as soon as practicable, but in no event less than 15 days before the election. Two weeks before the general election the auditor shall file sample copies of the white ballot in his office for public inspection.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

**8250.0300 FORM OF BALLOTS.**

The white ballot shall be printed with black ink on white paper as close as practicable to 30 pound. The ballot shall be 5-1/4 inches wide and printed so as to be easily legible, with suitable lines for divisions between candidates, offices, instructions, and other matter proper to be printed on the ballot. The auditor shall prepare the ballots in such a manner as to enable the voter to understand what candidates have been nominated and how many are to be elected to each office and to designate his choice easily and accurately.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

**8250.0400 TOP OF BALLOT.**

At the top of the white ballot shall be printed in upper and lowercase letters the words "Put an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for." On the left side of the words and directly above the squares in which a voter marks his choices shall be printed a small arrow pointing downward.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

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## 8250.0500 BALLOT HEADING.

Below the marking instructions on the white ballot shall be printed the words "STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT" in uppercase letters.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.0600 OFFICES.

The offices shall appear on the white ballot in the following order and shall be identified as follows in uppercase letters:

- "UNITED STATES SENATOR IN CONGRESS"
- "UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS"
- "SENATOR IN THE LEGISLATURE"
- "REPRESENTATIVE IN THE LEGISLATURE"
- "GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR"
- "SECRETARY OF STATE"
- "STATE AUDITOR"
- "STATE TREASURER"
- "ATTORNEY GENERAL"
- "CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT"
- "ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT"

Any nonpartisan office for which there is no opposition shall appear after any nonpartisan office for which there is opposition. If an office is not to be filled at a general election, the office shall not appear on the ballot. Directly underneath the titles of the offices of representative in congress and senator and representative in the legislature shall be printed in uppercase letters and/or numbers the district (e.g. "SIXTH DISTRICT," "DISTRICT SIX," or "DISTRICT 6") that the person elected will represent. A single vote shall be cast for governor and lieutenant governor. Each justice of the Supreme Court is deemed to hold a separate office. Directly beneath the titles of the offices of justice of the Supreme Court, each office shall be identified in uppercase letters as follows:

"FOR THE OFFICE OF ASSOCIATE JUSTICE (or CHIEF JUSTICE) OF THE SUPREME COURT TO WHICH (name of justice) WAS ELECTED FOR THE REGULAR TERM (or WAS APPOINTED)"

The appropriate designation shall be printed on the ballot with the name of the justice whose successor is to be elected printed in the appropriate place. At least 32 days before the general election, the secretary of state shall certify to the county auditors the order in which the offices of associate justice shall appear.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.0700 NUMBER OF CANDIDATES.

Directly underneath the title and identification of each office shall be printed in uppercase letters the words "VOTE FOR ONE" or more, according to the number to be elected.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.0800 NAMES OF CANDIDATES.

The full name of each candidate shall be printed in uppercase letters and at right angles to the length of the white ballot. At least 32 days before a general election, the secretary of state shall certify to each county auditor the nominations that are required by law to be certified by the secretary and that are required by law to appear on the ballot in the county. Below the name of the last candidate for each office shall be placed as many blank lines as there are offices of that kind to be filled, and on the blank lines the voter may write the names of persons not printed on the ballot for whom he desires to vote. When no person has filed for an office to be filled, the title and identification of the

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office shall be printed on the ballot with as many blank lines below as there are offices to be filled; the voter's choice may be written in the blanks. On the left side of the ballot and on a line with the names of the candidates and the blank lines, there shall be placed squares, each square to be of the same size, in which the voter may designate his choice by a mark (X). The name of a candidate may not appear on a ballot in any way which gives the candidate an advantage over an opponent except as provided by law.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.0900 DESIGNATION OF CANDIDATES.

Above or below the name of each candidate for a partisan office shall appear in upper and lowercase letters the designation in not more than three words of the party or principle the candidate represents. Words used in the name of a political party as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 6, may not be used to identify the party of a candidate of any other party. The word "nonpartisan" may not be used in the designation of any candidate. The words "Nominated Without Party Designation" in upper and lowercase letters shall appear above or below the name of each candidate for a nonpartisan office. If a justice of the Supreme Court is a candidate to succeed himself, the word "Incumbent" shall be printed in upper and lowercase letters on the same line and following the candidate's name. The words "Nominated by Petition" shall be printed in upper and lowercase letters on the same line and to the right of the name of the candidate.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.1000 ORDER OF CANDIDATES.

Before a general election, the secretary of state shall certify to the county auditors the order in which the names of the candidates representing the political parties as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 6, shall appear for every partisan office on the white ballot. Candidates nominated by petition shall appear on the ballot beneath the names of the candidates of the political parties as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 6, and in the order in which the petitions were filed with the filing officer. The names of the candidates for nonpartisan offices shall be rotated on the white ballot so that each name appears substantially an equal number of times at the top, at the bottom, and at each intermediate place in the group of candidates for an office.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.1100 BACK OF BALLOT.

On the back of the white ballot shall be printed the words "OFFICIAL BALLOT," the date of the election, and lines for the initials of two judges. The printing shall be so placed as to be visible when the ballot is properly folded for deposit.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

## 8250.1200 TYPE STYLES AND SIZES.

The words "Put an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for" shall be printed in upper and lowercase in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The words "STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT," shall be printed in uppercase in as close to 18-point Franklin Gothic type as practicable.

The office and its identification shall be printed in uppercase in as close to 10-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The words "VOTE FOR ONE" shall be printed in uppercase in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

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The names of the candidates shall be printed in uppercase in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The party designation or political principle and the words "Nominated Without Party Designation," "Incumbent," and "Nominated by Petition" shall be printed in upper and lowercase in as close to 8-point Century Bold type as practicable.

The words "OFFICIAL BALLOT" on the back of the ballot shall be printed in uppercase in as close to 18-point Cheltenham Bold as practicable, the date in uppercase in as close to 8-point Antique as practicable, and the word "Judge" in upper and lowercase in as close to 10-point Caslon Old Face Italic as practicable.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

### 8250.1300 BINDING AND DISTRIBUTION OF BALLOTS.

The white ballots shall be bound in blocks of 50.

Before the voting begins, or as soon thereafter as possible, two judges shall place their initials on the backs of all the ballots they have, and shall not otherwise mark the same.

No official ballot shall be distributed except to voters in the voting room about to vote, or to disabled voters in their vehicles pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.15, subdivision 2, and no ballot which is not officially endorsed in the handwriting of such judges shall be placed in the box.

Having withdrawn from the voting booth with his ballots, the voter shall hand them to the judge in charge of the ballot boxes. The judge immediately shall deposit each ballot in the proper box.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

### 8250.1400 EXAMPLE BALLOTS.

At least 32 days before a general election, the secretary of state shall supply each auditor with a copy of an example ballot. The secretary of state shall have printed on the ballot the names of all candidates for statewide office. The state white ballot shall conform in all respects to the example ballot.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*

### 8250.1500 REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.

The secretary of state shall reimburse counties for the cost of printing the white ballot, the white sample ballot, and the summary statement for white ballot offices and constitutional amendments. On or before December 31 of every general election year and within 45 days of a special election, the county auditor shall submit to the secretary of state a statement of the costs of preparation of these supplies. The statement shall contain the name and address of the printer, the number of white ballots printed, a statement that the white ballot and the summary statement prepared by the county conformed to the form prescribed by the secretary of state, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.26, subdivision 3, the cost to the county of printing, and an itemization of costs.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 204D.11*