

CHAPTER 203B

ABSENTEE VOTING

<p>203B.02 General eligibility requirements. 203B.04 Application for ballots. 203B.085 County auditor's office to remain open during certain hours preceding election.</p>	<p>203B.12 Election judges to receive and count ballots. 203B.13 Absentee ballot boards. 203B.21 Ballots and envelopes.</p>
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203B.02 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 1a. **Experimental procedures.** A county board may authorize any eligible voter in the county to vote by absentee ballot without qualification by submitting a written request to the county auditor between August 1, 1991 and November 30, 1992, notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1. The county auditor shall notify the secretary of state immediately after the adoption of such a resolution of authorization by the county board.

The application for absentee ballots must include the voter's name, residence address in the county, address to which the ballots are to be mailed, the date of the request, and the voter's signature.

The county auditor shall maintain a record of the number of applications for absentee ballots submitted under this subdivision. No later than January 15, 1993, the secretary of state shall prepare a report to the legislature on the implementation of this subdivision.

Assistance to voters in marking absentee ballots is subject to section 204C.15, subdivision 1.

[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 227 s 9

203B.04 APPLICATION FOR BALLOTS.

Subdivision 1. **Application procedures.** Except as otherwise allowed by subdivision 2, an application for absentee ballots for any election may be submitted at any time not less than one day before the day of that election. An application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be in writing and shall be submitted to:

- (a) the county auditor of the county where the applicant maintains residence; or
- (b) the municipal clerk of the municipality, or school district if applicable, where the applicant maintains residence.

An application shall be accepted if it is signed and dated by the applicant, contains the applicant's residence and mailing addresses, and states that the applicant is eligible to vote by absentee ballot for one of the reasons specified in section 203B.02. An application may be submitted to the county auditor or municipal clerk by an electronic facsimile device, at the discretion of the auditor or clerk.

[For text of subs 2 to 5, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 227 s 10

203B.085 COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE TO REMAIN OPEN DURING CERTAIN HOURS PRECEDING ELECTION.

The county auditor's office in each county must be open for acceptance of absentee ballot applications and casting of absentee ballots between the hours of 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday immediately preceding a primary or general election. The school district clerk, when performing the county auditor's election duties, need not comply with this section.

History: 1991 c 265 art 9 s 61

203B.12 ELECTION JUDGES TO RECEIVE AND COUNT BALLOTS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 2. Examination of return envelopes. Two or more election judges shall examine each return envelope and shall mark it accepted or rejected in the manner provided in this subdivision. If a ballot has been prepared under section 204B.12, subdivision 2a, or 204B.41, the election judges shall not begin removing ballot envelopes from the return envelopes until 8:00 p.m. on election day, either in the polling place or at an absentee ballot board established under section 203B.13.

The election judges shall mark the return envelope "Accepted" and initial or sign the return envelope below the word "Accepted" if the election judges or a majority of them are satisfied that:

- (a) the voter's signature on the return envelope is the genuine signature of the individual who made the application for ballots and the certificate has been completed as prescribed in the directions for casting an absentee ballot;
- (b) the voter is registered and eligible to vote in the precinct or has included a properly completed registration card in the return envelope; and
- (c) the voter has not already voted at that election, either in person or by absentee ballot.

The return envelope from accepted ballots must be preserved and returned to the county auditor.

If all or a majority of the election judges examining return envelopes find that an absent voter has failed to meet one of the requirements prescribed in clauses (a) to (c), they shall mark the return envelope "Rejected," initial or sign it below the word "Rejected," and return it to the county auditor.

[For text of subs 3 to 6, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 320 s 1

203B.13 ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARDS.

[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 3a. Absentee voter list. If the election judges of an absentee ballot board are authorized to receive, examine, validate, and count absentee ballots, the county auditor or municipal clerk shall prepare a list of all persons who have applied for absentee ballots at the election and deliver it to the election judges of the absentee ballot board along with the applications for absentee ballots. The polling place rosters must include an indicator for all persons on the absentee voter list. The county auditor may provide a supplemental list for use by the election judges after the polling place rosters have been prepared. If a person on the absentee voter list appears in the polling place, the election judges shall notify the election judges of the absentee ballot board. When notified by the precinct election judges that the voter has voted in person, the election judges of the absentee ballot board shall make a notation on the absentee voter list that the voter has voted and no absentee ballot may be counted for that voter.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 320 s 2

203B.21 BALLOTS AND ENVELOPES.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 3. Back of return envelope. On the back of the return envelope an affidavit form shall appear with space for:

- (a) The voter's address of present or former residence in Minnesota;

(b) A statement indicating the category described in section 203B.16 to which the voter belongs;

(c) A statement that the voter has not cast and will not cast another absentee ballot in the same election or elections;

(d) A statement that the voter personally marked the ballots without showing them to anyone, or if physically unable to mark them, that the voter directed another individual to mark them; and

(e) The voter's military identification card number, passport number, or, if the voter does not have a valid passport or identification card, the signature and certification of an individual authorized to administer oaths or a commissioned or noncommissioned officer of the military not below the rank of sergeant or its equivalent.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 320 s 3