

CHAPTER 204B

ELECTIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

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204B.071 PETITIONS; RULES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The secretary of state shall adopt rules governing the manner in which petitions required for any election in this state are circulated, signed, filed, and inspected. The secretary of state shall provide samples of petition forms for use by election officials.

History: 1999 c 132 s 16

204B.08 SIGNING PETITIONS.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 3. **Number of signatures.** The number of signatures required on a nominating petition shall be as follows:

(a) For a state office voted on statewide or for United States senator, one percent of the total number of individuals voting in the state at the last preceding state general election, or 2,000, whichever is less;

(b) For a congressional office, five percent of the total number of individuals voting in the district at the last preceding state general election, or 1,000, whichever is less;

(c) For a county or legislative office, ten percent of the total number of individuals voting in the county or legislative district at the last preceding state or county general election, or 500, whichever is less;

(d) For a municipal office in a city of the first class, the number specified in section 205.121; and

(e) For any other municipal or school district office, ten percent of the total number of individuals voting in the municipality, ward, school district, or other election district at the last preceding municipal, or school district if applicable, general election, or 500, whichever is less.

History: 1999 c 132 s 17

204B.135 REDISTRICTING OF ELECTION DISTRICTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 5. **Redistricting expenses.** The county board may levy a tax not to exceed \$1 per capita in the year ending in "0" to pay costs incurred in the year ending in "1" or "2" that are reasonably related to the redistricting of election districts, establishment of precinct boundaries, designation of polling places, and the updating of voter records in the statewide registration system. The county auditor shall distribute to each municipality in the county on a per capita basis 25 percent of the amount levied as provided in this subdivision, based on the population of the municipality in the most recent census. This levy is not subject to statutory levy limits.

History: 1999 c 243 art 6 s 1

204B.14 ELECTION PRECINCTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 4. **Boundary change procedure.** Any change in the boundary of an election precinct shall be adopted at least 90 days before the date of the next election and, for the state

primary and general election, no later than June 1 in the year of the state general election. The precinct boundary change shall not take effect until notice of the change has been posted in the office of the municipal clerk or county auditor for at least 60 days.

The county auditor must publish a notice illustrating or describing the congressional, legislative, and county commissioner district boundaries in the county in one or more qualified newspapers in the county at least 14 days prior to the first day to file affidavits of candidacy for the state general election in the year ending in two.

Alternate dates for adopting changes in precinct boundaries, posting notices of boundary changes, and notifying voters affected by boundary changes pursuant to this subdivision, and procedures for coordinating precinct boundary changes with reestablishing local government election district boundaries may be established in the manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state.

[For text of subs 5 to 7, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 237 s 1

204B.146 DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Precinct and election district boundaries.** The secretary of state shall maintain a computer database of precinct and election district boundaries. The secretary of state shall revise the information in the database whenever a precinct or election district boundary is changed. The secretary of state shall prepare maps illustrating precinct and election district boundaries in either paper or electronic formats and make them available to the public at the cost of production.

The secretary of state may authorize municipalities and counties to provide updated precinct and election district boundary information in electronic formats.

The secretary of state shall provide periodic updates of precinct and election district boundaries to the legislative coordinating commission, the state demographer, and the land management information center.

At the request of the county auditor, the secretary of state shall provide the county auditor with precinct maps. The county auditor shall forward the maps to the appropriate municipal clerks, who shall post the map in the polling place on the day of the state primary and the state general election.

Subd. 3. **Correction to election district boundaries.** When a municipal boundary that is coterminous with a congressional, legislative, or county commissioner district boundary has changed and the affected territory contains 50 or fewer registered voters, the secretary of state may order corrections to move the affected election district boundaries so they again will be coterminous with the municipal boundary. The election district boundary change is effective 28 days after the date that the order is issued. The secretary of state shall immediately notify the municipal clerk and county auditor affected by the boundary change and the legislative coordinating commission. The municipal clerk shall send a nonforwardable notice stating the location of the polling place to every household containing a registered voter affected by the boundary change at least 25 days before the next election.

History: 1999 c 132 s 18; 1999 c 237 s 2

204B.21 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Appointing authority; powers and duties.** Election judges for precincts in a municipality shall be appointed by the governing body of the municipality. Election judges for precincts in unorganized territory and for performing election-related duties assigned by the county auditor shall be appointed by the county board. Election judges for a precinct composed of two or more municipalities must be appointed by the governing body of the municipality or municipalities responsible for appointing election judges as provided in the

agreement to combine for election purposes. Appointments shall be made from lists furnished pursuant to subdivision 1 subject to the eligibility requirements and other qualifications established or authorized under section 204B.19. If no lists have been furnished or if additional election judges are required after all listed names have been exhausted, the appointing authority may appoint any other individual to serve as an election judge subject to the same requirements and qualifications. The appointments shall be made at least 25 days before the election at which the election judges will serve.

History: 1999 c 132 s 19

204B.25 TRAINING FOR ELECTION JUDGES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Rules of secretary of state.** The secretary of state shall adopt rules establishing programs for the training of county auditors, local election officials, and election judges by county auditors as required by this section.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 4. **Training for local election officials.** At least once every two years, the county auditor shall conduct training sessions for the municipal and school district clerks in the county. The training sessions must be conducted in the manner provided by the secretary of state. No local election official may administer an election without receiving training from the county auditor.

History: 1999 c 250 art 1 s 86,87

204B.27 DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

[For text of subs 1 to 7, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 8. **Voter information telephone line.** The secretary of state shall provide a voter information telephone line. A toll-free number must be provided for use by persons residing outside the metropolitan calling area. The secretary of state shall make available information concerning voter registration, absentee voting, election results, and other election-related information considered by the secretary of state to be useful to the public.

[For text of subd 9, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 10. **Training for county auditors; training materials.** The secretary of state shall develop a training program in election administration for county auditors and shall certify each county auditor who successfully completes the training program. The secretary of state shall provide each county auditor with materials for use in training local election officials and election judges.

History: 1999 c 132 s 20; 1999 c 250 art 1 s 88

204B.28 CLERKS; ELECTION SUPPLIES; DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Meeting with election officials.** At least 12 weeks before each regularly scheduled general election, each county auditor shall conduct a meeting with local election officials to review the procedures for the election. The county auditor may require the chairs of the election boards in the county to attend this meeting.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 250 art 1 s 89