

## CHAPTER 201

## REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF VOTERS

201.016 Residence requirements for voting; violations; penalty.

201.022 Statewide registration system.

**201.016 RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING; VIOLATIONS; PENALTY.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]*

Subd. 1a. **Violations; penalty.** (a) The county auditor shall mail a violation notice to any voter who the county auditor can determine has voted in a precinct other than the precinct in which the voter maintains residence. The notice must be in the form provided by the secretary of state. The county auditor shall also change the status of the voter in the statewide registration system to "challenged" and the voter shall be required to provide proof of residence to either the county auditor or to the election judges in the voter's precinct before voting in the next election. Any of the forms authorized by section 201.061 for registration at the polling place may be used for this purpose.

(b) A voter who votes in a precinct other than the precinct in which the voter maintains residence after receiving an initial violation notice as provided in this subdivision is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

(c) A voter who votes in a precinct other than the precinct in which the voter maintains residence after having been found to have committed a petty misdemeanor under paragraph (b) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(d) Reliance by the voter on inaccurate information regarding the location of the voter's polling place provided by the state, county, or municipality is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this subdivision.

*[For text of subd 2, see M.S.2000]*

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 10 art 18 s 7

**201.022 STATEWIDE REGISTRATION SYSTEM.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The secretary of state shall maintain a statewide voter registration system to facilitate voter registration and to provide a central database containing voter registration information from around the state. The system must be accessible to the county auditor of each county in the state.

Subd. 2. **Rules.** The secretary of state shall make permanent rules necessary to administer the system required in subdivision 1. The rules must at least:

(1) provide for voters to submit their registration to any county auditor, the secretary of state, or the department of public safety;

(2) provide for the establishment and maintenance of a central database for all voter registration information;

(3) provide procedures for entering data into the statewide registration system;

(4) provide for interaction with the computerized driver's license records of the department of public safety;

(5) allow the offices of all county auditors and the secretary of state to add, modify, and delete information from the system to provide for accurate and up-to-date records;

(6) allow the offices of all county auditors and the secretary of state's office to have access to the statewide registration system for review and search capabilities;

(7) provide security and protection of all information in the statewide registration system and to ensure that unauthorized entry is not allowed;

(8) provide a system for each county to identify the precinct to which a voter should be assigned for voting purposes; and

(9) prescribe a procedure for the return of completed voter registration forms from the department of public safety to the secretary of state or the county auditor.

**History:** *1Sp2001 c 10 art 18 s 8*