

News from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State — attached, below and online: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?recordid=904&page=10>

Watch and share: New animated video provides overview of voting early with an absentee ballot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5k4xay2Yvc>

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2014

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Vote Early with Absentee Ballot Starting September 19

New Animated Video Provides Overview for Voting Absentee

SAINT PAUL, Minnesota — Eligible Minnesota voters can vote early for the November 4 General election with an absentee ballot starting Friday, September 19 — and a new animated video from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State is helping voters understand the process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5k4xay2Yvc>.

Voters may vote early in person at their [county elections office](#) or [local elections office](#) from September 19 through November 3. Or, voters may [submit a request online at mnvotes.org for a ballot](#) to be mailed to them. Voters may also download an [absentee ballot application](#), and submit it by mail, email, fax or personal delivery.

In Minnesota, voters do not need an excuse to vote absentee, such as being ill or out of their precinct on Election Day.

“We all have busy schedules that can make it a challenge to get to the polling place on Election Day,” says Secretary of State Mark Ritchie. “Now there is a clear path for eligible voters to use an absentee ballot to cast their ballot early and on their own schedule.”

The one-minute 30-second video provides an overview of the early voting process and reinforces key tips for voters to ensure their absentee ballot is accepted. One important tip is that voters and witnesses must both sign the absentee ballot envelope.

Military and overseas voters have different absentee balloting procedures and can learn more at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=889>.

Online Tools for Absentee Voters at mnvotes.org

Minnesota voters can request an absentee ballot online at mnvotes.org, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State's online hub for voter tools. This service allows voters to apply for an absentee ballot quickly and easily without the need to print, scan forms, and return by mail, fax or email.

Upon requesting an absentee ballot, voters may use "[Absentee Ballot Lookup](#)" to find the status of their ballot, such as when it was mailed, and if their ballot was received and accepted by their local elections office. Mail ballot voters may also use this tool.

Voters can use "[My Ballot](#)" to view their sample ballot and find links to candidates' websites.

2014 Is a Significant Election Year

This election year, Minnesota voters will head to the polls to decide a U.S. Senate seat, all of Minnesota's eight U.S. House seats, as well as governor, attorney general, secretary of state and state auditor, and all Minnesota State House seats. The 2014 election will also include many county commissioners, county sheriffs, county attorneys, auditors, treasurers and recorders.

Key 2014 election dates:

- October 14 — Pre-registration deadline for the General Election. Eligible voters are encouraged to pre-register to vote online at mnvotes.org to avoid long lines and waits at the polling place. Voters who miss this deadline may still register at their polling place on Election Day, November 4.
- November 4 — General Election Day.

View all [2014 election dates](#) and [sign up to receive election-related email updates](#).

About the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the chief election official in Minnesota and is responsible for the administration of the state's election law. In this capacity, the office operates the Statewide Voter Registration System and prepares the official roster of voters for every election. The office also accepts filings by candidates, trains local election officials, and conducts voter education and outreach programs.

The Secretary of State is the keeper of the Great Seal of Minnesota and has the role of certifying the authenticity of a wide variety of official documents, including proclamations and executive orders.

A main function of the office is the review, approval and filing of articles of incorporation and amendments for all businesses and nonprofit organizations conducting business in Minnesota. The Secretary of State also processes all notary public applications; serves as the state's central filing system for lien information related to the Uniform Commercial

Code; and administers Safe at Home, an address confidentiality program designed to assist Minnesotans who fear for their safety.