

# STEARNS COUNTY MINNESOTA

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#### **ELECTIONS**

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# **VOTING WHILE IN JAIL**

Your criminal record does NOT affect your right to vote in Minnesota UNLESS you are currently serving a felony conviction in a correctional facility.

You are eligible to vote if you are on parole, probation, home monitoring, or work release.

#### Am I eligible?

To be able to vote, you need to be:

- 1. A U.S. citizen;
- 2. At least 18 years old on Election Day;
- 3. A resident of Minnesota for 20 days;
- 4. Not currently serving a felony sentence in a correctional facility;
- 5. Not ruled by court as legally incompetent.

#### Note:

If you are going to be in jail on Election Day, not yet convicted, and cleared from former felony sentences (if any), your status satisfies requirement 4.

## Already registered?

If you are registered, and your name and address have not changed, communicate with your corrections officer and ask for an absentee ballot application. You may include the jail or correctional facility address as the mailing address on the application.

Once your application is received, absentee materials will be mailed to you at the jail or correctional facility.

## Not yet registered?

Communicate with your corrections officer and ask for an absentee ballot application. You may include the jail or correctional facility address as the mailing address on the application.

Once your application is received, absentee and voter registration materials will be mailed to you at the jail or correctional facility.

To successfully register, you must list your permanent address (the facility's address does not qualify). You will also need to know your MN Driver's License number, MN State ID number, or social security number.

## This means you can vote if:

- You were charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.
- You are in jail, but are not currently serving a felony sentence.
- You have been charged with a felony, but you haven't been convicted.
- You have been given a stay of adjudication.
- You have been convicted of a felony, but are not incarcerated.
- You are on work release, even if you return to a jail facility at night.

#### Not sure about your legal status?

Sometimes the difference between a felony charge and a felony conviction is confusing. Talk to an attorney to find out more about your legal status.

### Return your voted absentee ballot.

Use the postage paid return envelope provided to return your absentee ballot and materials to Stearns County Elections. Ballots must be received before 8 pm on Election Day.