

Voting 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.

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.

Already registered?

If you are registered, and your name and address have not changed, you can communicate with your corrections officer and ask for an absentee ballot application. You may include the jail address as the mailing address on the absentee ballot application. Once the Elections Office receives your application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you in jail.

Not yet registered?

You should also communicate with your corrections officer and ask for an absentee ballot application. Once the Elections Office receives your application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you together with voter registration materials.

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



Ask your corrections officer for an absentee ballot application. The Hennepin County Elections Office will then mail an absentee ballot to you. The ballot should be mailed back to the Elections Office once completed.

612-348-5151 | voteroutreach@hennepin.us

Office hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

hennepin.us/elections

