

Question 1

Q1: Will two ballots still be used to test the AutoMARK when opening the polling place in the morning?

A1: Yes, Minneapolis election judges will still use two ballots when setting up the AutoMARK before the polls open on Election Day. **The first ballot** will be inserted into the AutoMARK by an election judge, and that judge, while using **another ballot** to compare, will listen to the audio for the entire ballot and check for accuracy. These ballots will **not be marked**, and will be **placed back into the blank ballot stock** after being used for testing. If a ballot gets marked by accident, spoil that ballot and make a note on the Incident Log.

Question 2

Q2: A **residential lease** or **rental agreement** that is valid through Election Day and contains the voter's current name and current address can be used along with an approved photo ID to register to vote on Election Day. What if a lease has gone into an automatic renewal period and it is impossible to discern the validity of the lease or rental agreement through Election Day from the document itself?

A2: If the validity through Election Day of a residential lease or rental agreement cannot be ascertained from the document itself, then it cannot be used for Election Day registration. Remember, there are many other options voters have to register on Election Day.¹

Question 3

Q3: Can someone use a driver's license, state ID card, or learner's permit, issued by Puerto Rico along with an approved document to register on Election Day?

A3: Yes. A driver's license, state ID card, or learner's permit issued by a U.S. territory can be used along with an approved document to register on Election Day.²

The same applies to a passport issued by a U.S. territory.

¹ 2016 Minneapolis Election Judge Manual, page 85

² [M.R. 8200.5100, subp. 2](#); [M.S. 645.44, subd. 11](#)

Question 4

Q4: Is there an ID number on the **yellow receipt** for a MN driver's license, MN state ID, or MN learner's permit? Note: this question has arisen as a result of election judges wanting to know what gets written into the space for an "ID Number" under the "Election Judge Official Use Only" section of the Voter Registration Application in the section "ID with Current Name & Address" when a voter uses a yellow receipt for Election Day registration.

A4: Yes, in the case of a receipt for **renewal** of one of the three types of MN ID cards, the individual's ID number is near the top left of the yellow receipt. However, a yellow receipt for a **new** one of these three types of MN ID cards will not have this number. Election judges can use a receipt number (a clerical tracking number) found on the yellow receipt instead to put on the Election Day Registration Application. In addition, within box number 7 on the Voter Registration Application, the voter must check the 2nd or 3rd option, as they will not have a "MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card number" yet.

Question 5

Q5: Can a portable **electronic device** such as a cell phone or tablet be used to show an electronic copy of one of the approved documents to an election judge while registering to vote on Election Day?

A5: Yes, but only for bills, account statements, or start-of-service notifications.³

Question 6

Q6: If using a start of service notification as an approved document along with an approved photo ID to register on Election Day and there is more than one date listed on the document (for instance, a date received and a different start-of-service date), which date do I use to understand if it is due or dated within 30 days of the election?

A6: Use the date that the service actually starts to verify whether it is dated within 30 days of the election.

³ [M.R. 8200.5100 Subp. 2.](#)

Question 7

Q7: Can one of the approved photo IDs, when used in conjunction with an approved document to register on Election Day, be expired?

A7: Yes.⁴

Question 8

Q8: When a voter is voting curbside, **what if that voter leaves** after voting their ballot and handing that ballot to the election judges, and then it is discovered by the election judges after depositing the ballot into the ballot tabulator that the ballot contains an error?

A8: Before this situation even occurs, be sure to **mention to the voter that they need to wait until the two election judges return** and confirm to the voter that their ballot has been successfully cast.

If a situation like this does occur, the judges should cast the ballot as marked by the voter.

Question 9

Q9: If a voter has been convicted of a felony, is that person still allowed to vote in MN?

A9. If an individual has been convicted of a felony, that individual loses their right to vote *while completing their felony sentence*, including jail time, probation, parole, or supervised release. However, once the individual has completed their entire sentence, that individual's voting rights are *automatically* restored.⁵

⁴ <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day/>

⁵ <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/i-have-a-criminal-record/>

Question 10

Q10: Is a voter allowed to take a picture of their own ballot?

A10: “There is no law that strictly prohibits taking photos or videos in the polling place to record your own voting experience. However, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State discourages this activity for the following reasons:

- Voters have a right to privacy, both as to how an individual has voted as well as whether or not an individual has voted. Either or both of these could be compromised by pictures or video. In addition, other voters' objections to being photographed could lead to disruptions within the polling place.
- When voter turnout is high there may be lines and polling places may be crowded. Voters have a right to take the time they need to vote, but should not take extra time to take pictures.
- In addition, Minnesota Statutes 204C.17⁶ and Minnesota Statutes 204C.18⁷ prohibit voters from showing their marked ballot to others. Taking photographs or video of your own marked ballot could violate this prohibition.”⁸

Question 11

Q11: If a voter appears not to have the mental competence to cast a vote, can I prevent that person from voting?

A11: No. You cannot prevent a person from voting, or challenge a person’s eligibility to vote, based on a perceived cognitive disability.

If a voter is under guardianship, that person does not lose their right to vote unless a court order has been issued that specifically revokes that person’s voting rights.⁹

⁶ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=204C.17>

⁷ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=204C.18>

⁸ <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-day-voting/polling-place-rules/>

⁹ <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/im-under-guardianship-or-have-an-impairment/>

Question 12

Q12: Are service animals allowed in polling places?

A12: Yes, service animals aiding persons with accessibility needs are allowed in polling places.

Question 13

Q13: Can an election judge vouch for a voter?

A13: Yes, an election judge can vouch for a voter, as long as that judge is registered to vote in the same precinct as the person they are vouching for. This is because *the judge is not vouching as an election judge, but as a registered voter*, and a registered voter can only vouch for someone that they know lives in the same precinct as them.

Also, another election judge should oversee the vouching process and sign off on the Voucher Form. An election judge vouching for someone else should not act as both the person vouching and the election judge that is certifying the Voter Registration Application.

Question 14

Q17: Is cell phone use allowed in the polling place?

A17: It depends. **In the case of election judges**, the general rule is no. We want to maintain a professional polling place, and part of that is ensuring that election judges aren't distracting themselves or voters with their cell phone usage. If an election judge needs to use their phone, they should do so on their break time. Election judges *may* use their cell phone to assist a voter, or in case of emergency.

In the case of voters, cell phone use is generally allowed as long as it does not become disruptive. Voters are allowed to use their cell phone to show an approved document to an election judge for the purposes of Election Day registration. Voters may also use their cell phone to call Minneapolis 311 for its interpretation services. If a voter is simply making a phone call to a friend, an election judge should ask them to hang up, as the conversation could be disruptive to voters.

Question 15

Q15: Is photography allowed in the polling places?

A15: As it concerns voters taking photographs, see the answer to Question 10.

Media personnel, in addition to meeting other requirements that apply to them, may take photos or video in the polling place; however, 1) it is *strongly recommended* that they receive permission of any voters or election judges being photographed or recorded, and 2) they may not take photos or video of a completed ballot.¹⁰

Question 16

Q16: Can election judges get time off of work without penalty for supply pickup and polling place setup the day before election day?

A16: No. Currently, election judges can only get time off work without penalty for their service on Election Day. Remember, written notice must be given to an employer at least 20 days before Election Day in order to do this.¹¹

Question 17

Q17: Will the DMV be open extended hours on Election Days?

A17: No, all DMV locations (Hennepin County Service Centers) will be open regular business hours for Election Days. Visit their website, <http://www.hennepin.us/your-government/facilities/service-center-info>, for information about locations and hours of operation.

Question 18:

Q18: If a voter is using a tribal ID as their proof of residence, does the tribe's territory need to be located in Minnesota?

A18: No, but it must meet other legal requirements.¹²

¹⁰ 2016 Minneapolis Election Judge Manual, page 128.

¹¹ [M.S. 204B.195](#)

¹² 2016 Minneapolis Election Judge Manual, page 85

Question 19:

Q19: If an election judge *knows* that a voter is ineligible to vote, is the judge obligated to issue a challenge?

A19: Yes. See, [M.S. 204C.12 Subd. 1](#). More information about in-person challenges is available in the 2016 Minneapolis Election Judge Manual, beginning on page 125.