

June 27, 2018

To: Minneapolis Election Officials and Election Judges
From: Jeff Narabrook, Election Administrator
Subject: Guidance on what voters can display in the polling place

The United States Supreme Court recently addressed what Minnesota voters can display in a polling place or within 100 feet of the building.

Summary of the ruling

Voters can display political materials. Voters cannot display campaign materials specific to the current election.

Voters can display political materials

Political materials are shirts, buttons, literature, or other items that express a political viewpoint. Examples of political items that voters can wear include:

- A shirt with a pro-life or pro-choice message.
- A button that says 'Repeal Obamacare' or 'I Support Obamacare.'
- A shirt with the logo of the Heritage Foundation or MoveOn.org.

Voters cannot display campaign materials specific to the current election

Campaign materials include:

- Items with the name or logo of a political party or party principle that has candidates on the ballot at the current election;
- Items with the name or logo of a candidate on the ballot at the current election; or
- Items in support of or in opposition to a ballot question on the ballot at the current election.

Voters can display campaign materials specific to a past or future election

Current election means the specific election in which the voter is participating (primary election, general election, etc.).

For example, Candidate 'X' appears on the general election ballot, but not on the primary election ballot. Therefore, voters could wear Candidate 'X' buttons during the primary election since the candidate's name is not on the ballot. Voters could not wear Candidate 'X' buttons during the general election since the candidate's name is on the ballot.

For the August 14, 2018 and November 6, 2018 elections, the following items can be worn, because the candidates referenced will not appear on the ballot at either election in 2018:

- Items referring to President Trump, including Make America Great Again materials, as long as those items do not also contain the name or logo of the Republican Party.
- Items referring to Hilary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, or President Obama, as long as those items do not also contain the name or logo of the Democratic/DFL party.

Cc: Grace Wachlarowicz, Election Director
Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk