



# Anoka County

## PROPERTY RECORDS & TAXATION DIVISION

### Elections & Voter Registration

#### Presidential Primary Factsheet

The Presidential Nomination Primary includes requirements & procedures that are different than previous state primaries. Most notably:

#### 1. Voters must indicate their major party preference

- The purpose of the presidential primary is for voters in the State of Minnesota who identify with a major political party to vote for a presidential candidate who they wish for their party to nominate as the candidate on the November state general election ballot.
- This nominating primary replaces the “preferential polls” (also known as “straw polls”) that were conducted at party caucus meetings in the past.
- A voter must request the ballot of the party for whose candidate the individual wishes to vote. If a voter refuses to select a party or sign the voter oath, they are not eligible to vote in the presidential primary.
- The presidential primary is the **ONLY** election where voters must declare their party preference in order to vote.

#### 2. The choice of major party ballot is private, except that it will be shared with the chair of the major party whose ballot was chosen by the voter after voting history has been entered for the election.

- Party selection will be made by the voter on the electronic poll book.
- A voter’s political party choice is considered to be private data under state law and must be treated as such.
- This information cannot be communicated to anyone other than for the express purpose of ensuring the correct ballot is given to the voter.
- Election officials must not share a voter’s party choice with anyone else within or outside of the polling place, before, during, or after Election Day.
- Criminal and civil penalties may apply if there is a “data breach” of a person’s major party ballot choice.
- The legislation authorizing the presidential primary includes a provision that certain information be provided to the each of the major political party chairs.

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- That information includes the voter's name, address, voting districts, year of birth, of each voter who chose their party's ballot. Parties that receive this information are only allowed to use it for political and election purposes (purposes allowed by current laws).
- As in every election, who you vote for will remain secret.

3. **A voter will be given a ballot with only those party's candidates on the ballot;**
4. **There will only be the one office (president) on the ballot and it will be one name only;**
5. **A party may choose to have "uncommitted" and "write-in" items on their ballot; candidates that have dropped out may appear on the ballot**

#### *Uncommitted Option*

The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party decided to include an "uncommitted" option on their ballot. If a voter chooses "uncommitted" on their major party's presidential nomination ballot, they are telling the party that they wish for the delegates to be sent to their national nominating convention without being "bound" to cast their vote for any one of their party's candidates.

#### *Write-in Option*

The Republican Party and the Legal Marijuana Now Party decided to include a write-in option on their ballots. For names of write-in votes to be counted, the party chair must submit the names of write-in candidates to be counted on their ballot no later than 7 days before the date of the primary - February 27, 2024.

#### *Candidates Dropping Out*

Major political parties participating in the Presidential Nomination Primary submitted their lists of candidate names to appear on the ballot by the January 2, 2024 deadline. Any candidate that drops out between January 2, 2024 and the Presidential Nomination Primary date, March 5, 2024, will remain on the ballot.

If voters have any questions about why certain items are on the ballot or why some items are on one party's ballot and not another's, please contact your party's representatives.

#### **Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party**

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Saint Paul, MN 55107  
(651) 293-1200

#### **Republican Party of Minnesota**

2200 E Franklin Ave, Suite 201,  
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#### **Legal Marijuana Now Party**

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