

# Minnesota Voter Registration

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about registering to vote?

### Definitions:

- Eligible – having what is required to be or do something
- Precinct – a voting district containing one polling place
- Election – the act of choosing someone by voting
- Vouch – to promise to be true, real, or correct

## Reading

You must be on the official list of voters before you can vote. This is called being “registered”. You need to register to vote if you just became eligible to vote, moved, changed your name, or have not voted in the last four years. To register to vote in the state of Minnesota, you must be all three of the following:

1. A citizen of the United States of America, and
2. A resident of Minnesota at least 20 days before Election Day, and
3. At least 18 years old by Election Day.

### How much does it cost to register?

Registering to vote is free! The easiest way to register is to fill out a voter registration card and mail it in. You need to provide postage. The stamp to mail your card will cost \$.37. Once your card is processed, you will receive a postcard in the mail that tells you that you are registered.

### When should I register?

Register to vote at least 20 days before an election. You do not need to register again unless you move, change your name, or do not vote for four or more years.

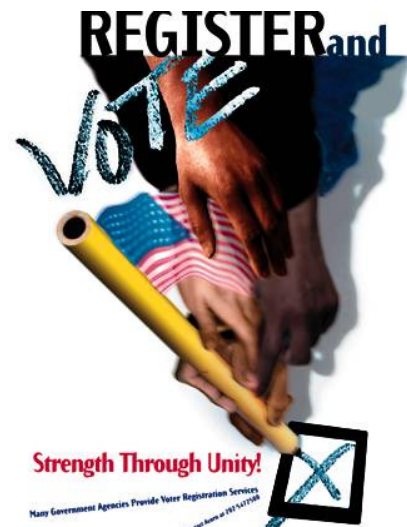
### Where can I get a voter registration card?

- At state, county, or city offices
- At public libraries
- At courthouses
- Where you apply for, renew, or change you Minnesota driver’s license or ID card
- Secretary of State Website at [www.sos.state.mn.us.com](http://www.sos.state.mn.us.com)

### Can I register on Election Day?

If you miss registering before the election, you can register on Election Day at your polling place. You will need proof of your identity and the address where you are living on Election Day. To prove your identity bring one of the following with you to the polling place:

- A current Minnesota Driver’s License or Minnesota Learner’s Permit, or a receipt for either.
- A Minnesota Identification Card or a receipt for the ID Card.
- Minnesota Student Fee Statement with address in precinct and a photo ID.
- A photo ID without current address together with a utility bill. The utility bill must have your name, current address, and be due within 30 days of the election. Acceptable photo ID’s are: MN Driver’s License, MN Identification Card, U.S. Passport, U.S. Military ID or Minnesota Student Photo ID. Acceptable utility bills are: cable TV, electric, gas, water, sewer, garbage, or telephone.
- “Notice of Late Registration” postcard sent by city clerk or county auditor.
- Someone who is registered in the precinct where you live who will vouch for your residence.



## Understanding

1. How often do you need to register to vote? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. How soon before Election Day should you register? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Kim moved to Marshall, MN two weeks ago. She lived in St. Cloud, MN for three years before that. Kim has not had time to register early; can she register on Election Day? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If yes, what would Kim need to bring with to the polling place? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. List three places you could get a voter registration card. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Carols moved to Minneapolis, MN two weeks ago from Chicago, Illinois. He has not had time to register early; can he register on Election Day? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If yes, what would Carlos need to bring with to the polling place? \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. What three criteria do you need to meet in order to register to vote in Minnesota? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Why do you think the government says every eligible person must register before he or she can vote?

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