SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 4729

(SENATE AUTHORS: CARLSON)

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DATE 03/07/2024 **OFFICIAL STATUS** D-PG

12053 Introduction and first reading Referred to Elections

03/25/2024 Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety

A bill for an act 1.1

> relating to elections; modifying various provisions related to election administration; modifying various provisions relating to campaign finance and lobbying; amending definitions; amending requirements related to voter registration; amending absentee voting laws; modifying the authority of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to impose a civil penalty and late fees; amending electioneering communications laws; requiring the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to oversee campaign finance reporting requirements for political committees, political funds, and party units engaged in campaign activity for certain local elected offices and ballot questions for local governments; providing a separate process for presidential election contests; requiring the allocation and exclusion of certain incarcerated persons based on their last known address in Minnesota for purposes of redistricting; modifying requirements for filling vacancies; requiring local governments to use a .gov domain; modifying the deep fake election crime; expanding scope of doxing crimes; classifying data; making technical and conforming changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 10A.01, subdivisions 7, 10d, 33, by adding a subdivision; 10A.27, subdivision 17; 123B.09, subdivision 5b; 201.071, subdivision 3; 204C.06, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 204C.19, subdivision 3; 204C.20, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 204C.33, subdivision 1; 204C.35, subdivisions 1, 2, by adding a subdivision; 204C.36, subdivisions 2, 3; 205.16, subdivisions 4, 5; 205A.05, subdivision 3; 205A.07, subdivisions 3, 3b; 205A.11, subdivision 2; 206.89, subdivisions 2, 3, 5, 6; 208.06; 208.44; 208.47; 209.01, subdivision 2; 211A.01, subdivisions 3, 7, 8, by adding a subdivision; 211A.02, subdivision 2; 211A.05, subdivision 1; 211A.06; 211A.07; 211A.12; 211A.14; 211B.17, subdivision 1; 211B.18; 375.08; 447.32, subdivision 3; 609.5151, subdivisions 1, 2; Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, sections 2.92, subdivision 4; 5.305, subdivision 5; 10A.01, subdivision 21; 10A.04, subdivision 6; 10A.20, subdivisions 2a, 12; 10A.201, subdivisions 3, 4, 6, 9; 10A.202, subdivision 1; 200.02, subdivision 7; 201.061, subdivisions 3, 3a; 201.071, subdivision 1; 201.091, subdivision 4; 201.1611, subdivision 1; 203B.04, subdivision 1; 203B.07, subdivision 3; 204B.09, subdivision 3; 204B.16, subdivision 1; 204B.295, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, by adding a subdivision; 204C.24, subdivision 1; 204C.33, subdivision 3; 205.16, subdivision 2; 206.61, subdivision 1; 211A.02, subdivision 1; 211B.076, subdivision 4; 243.205, by adding a subdivision; 609.771, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 2; 241; 375; 471; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 209A; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 211A.01, subdivisions 2, 4; 211A.02, subdivision

2.1 2.2	4; 383B.031; Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, sections 10A.201, subdivision 11; 243.205, subdivision 3.
2.3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
2.4	Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 2.92, subdivision 4, is amended
2.5	to read:
2.6	Subd. 4. Applicability. This section applies from January 1 to July 1 in any year during
2.7	which a to all decennial census is activities conducted under the authority of the United
2.8	States Constitution, article 1, section 2.
2.9	Sec. 2. [2.93] INCARCERATED PERSONS IN DISTRICT PLANS.
2.10	Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the definitions have the
2.11	meanings given.
2.12	(b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of corrections.
2.13	(c) "Director" means the director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission.
2.14	(d) "Legislative Coordinating Commission" means the Legislative Coordinating
2.15	Commission established in section 3.303.
2.16	Subd. 2. Reallocation and exclusion of incarcerated persons. (a) For purposes of
2.17	drawing congressional, legislative, and all other election districts, the legislature and local
2.18	governments must use the population from the federal decennial census as modified by
2.19	reallocating and excluding persons who are incarcerated.
2.20	(b) A person who was incarcerated in a state or federal correctional facility, as determined
2.21	by the decennial census, and who has a last known address in Minnesota must be reallocated
2.22	to the census block of the last known address.
2.23	(c) A person who was incarcerated in a state or federal correctional facility, as determined
2.24	by the decennial census, and who has a last known address outside of Minnesota or does
2.25	not have a last known address must:
2.26	(1) be excluded from the population count for purposes of drawing congressional,
2.27	legislative, or political subdivision districts; and
2.28	(2) be counted as part of the statewide population total.
2.29	Subd. 3. Department of Corrections duties. (a) On or before June 1 in a year ending
2.30	in zero, the commissioner must provide to the director of the Legislative Coordinating

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Sec. 2. 2

and exclude people who are incarcerated in state or federal correctional facilities as provided

in this subdivision and subdivision 2. Within 30 calendar days of receiving the Public Law

94-171 data from the United States Census Bureau, the director must post the population

counts that reflect all required reallocations and exclusions on the Legislative Coordinating

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Commission's website.

4.1	(b) The director must, in consultation with the commissioner, develop a standardized
4.2	format and technical guidelines to be used in collecting addresses from incarcerated persons.
4.3	The commissioner must use this format and follow the guidelines in collecting addresses.
4.4	The commissioner and the director may enter a memorandum of understanding detailing
4.5	the additional details regarding the methodology to be used and the format and manner in
4.6	which the data will be provided. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the commissioner
4.7	must provide the director with access to the best available data necessary to conduct the
4.8	reallocations and exclusions required by this section.
4.9	(c) Prior to reallocating and excluding incarcerated persons, the director must geocode
4.10	addresses received from the commissioner. When geocoding addresses, the director must
4.11	accept an address that has an exact match or is approximated to the street level and reject
4.12	any address that is approximated to the center of a zip code, city, county, or state. The
4.13	director must only reallocate those addresses that are accepted pursuant to this paragraph.
4.14	The director must not reallocate any person at an address that was rejected but must instead
4.15	count that person as part of the statewide population total.
4.16	(d) The director must not disseminate data received pursuant to this section in any
4.17	manner, except as explicitly required by state or federal law.
4.18	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2030, and applies to population
4.19	counts used for redistricting conducted on or after that date.
4.20	Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 5.305, subdivision 5, is amended to
4.21	read:
4.22	Subd. 5. Use of funds. A local unit of government may use the funds allocated pursuant
4.23	to this section for the following purposes, provided the expenditures are directly related to
4.24	election administration:
4.25	(1) equipment;
4.26	(2) hardware or software;
4.27	(3) cybersecurity;
4.28	(4) security-related infrastructure;
4.29	(5) capital improvements to government-owned property to improve access to polling
4.30	places for individuals with disabilities;
4.31	(6) staff costs for election administrators, election judges, and other election officials;
4.32	(7) printing and publication;

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5.1	(8) postage;
5.2	(9) programming;
5.3	(10) transitioning to a .gov domain;
5.4	(11) local match for state or federal funds; and
5.5	(11) (12) any other purpose directly related to election administration.
5.6	Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.01, subdivision 7, is amended to read:
3.0	Sec. 4. Willinesota Statutes 2022, Section 10A.01, Subdivision 7, is amended to read.
5.7	Subd. 7. Ballot question. "Ballot question" means a question or proposition that is placed
5.8	on the ballot and that may be voted on by:
5.9	(1) all voters of the state; <u>or</u>
5.10	(2) all voters of Hennepin County;
5.11	(3) all voters of any home rule charter city or statutory city located wholly within
5.12	Hennepin County and having a population of 75,000 or more; or
5.13	(4) all voters of Special School District No. 1 a county, city, school district, township,
5.14	or special district.
5.15	"Promoting or defeating a ballot question" includes activities, other than lobbying
5.16	activities, related to qualifying the question for placement on the ballot.
5.17	Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.01, subdivision 10d, is amended to read:
5.18	Subd. 10d. Local candidate. "Local candidate" means an individual who seeks
5.19	nomination or election to:
5.20	(1) any county office in Hennepin County;
5.21	(2) any city office in any home rule charter city or statutory city located wholly within
5.22	Hennepin County and having a population of 75,000 or more; or
5.23	(3) the school board in Special School District No. 1 a county, city, school district,
5.24	township, or special district office.
5.25	Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to
5.26	read:
5.27	Subd. 16b. Employee of a political subdivision. "Employee of a political subdivision"
5.28	includes an individual hired or appointed by the political subdivision. An individual is also
5.29	an employee of a political subdivision if the individual is:

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(1) hired to provide the political subdivision services as a consultant or independent
contractor; or
(2) employed by a business that has contracted with the political subdivision to provide
legal counsel, professional services, or policy recommendations to the political subdivision.
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment and
applies to activities occurring on or after that date.
Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.01, subdivision 21, is amended
to read:
Subd. 21. Lobbyist. (a) "Lobbyist" means an individual:
(1) engaged for pay or other consideration of more than \$3,000 from all sources in any
year:
(i) for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action, or the
official action of a political subdivision, by communicating or urging others to communicate
with public or local officials; or
(ii) from a business whose primary source of revenue is derived from facilitating
government relations or government affairs services if the individual's job duties include
offering direct or indirect consulting or advice that helps the business provide those services
to clients; or
(2) who spends more than \$3,000 of the individual's personal funds, not including the
individual's own traveling expenses and membership dues, in any year for the purpose of
attempting to influence legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political
subdivision, by communicating or urging others to communicate with public or local officials.
(b) "Lobbyist" does not include:
(1) a public official;
(2) an employee of the state, including an employee of any of the public higher education
systems;
(3) an elected local official;
(4) a nonelected local official or an employee of a political subdivision acting in an
official capacity, unless the nonelected official or employee of a political subdivision spends
more than 50 hours in any month attempting to influence legislative or administrative action,
or the official action of a political subdivision other than the political subdivision employing

Sec. 7. 6

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the official or employee, by communicating or urging others to communicate with public or local officials, including time spent monitoring legislative or administrative action, or the official action of a political subdivision, and related research, analysis, and compilation and dissemination of information relating to legislative or administrative policy in this state, or to the policies of political subdivisions;

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- (5) a party or the party's representative appearing in a proceeding before a state board, commission, or agency of the executive branch unless the board, commission, or agency is taking administrative action;
- (6) an individual while engaged in selling goods or services to be paid for by public funds;
- (7) a news medium or its employees or agents while engaged in the publishing or broadcasting of news items, editorial comments, or paid advertisements which directly or indirectly urge official action;
- (8) a paid expert witness whose testimony is requested by the body before which the witness is appearing, but only to the extent of preparing or delivering testimony; or
- (9) a party or the party's representative appearing to present a claim to the legislature and communicating to legislators only by the filing of a claim form and supporting documents and by appearing at public hearings on the claim-;
- (10) an individual providing information, data, advice, professional opinions, variables, options, or direction on a topic on which the individual has particular expertise through education or professional or occupational training to a local official at a lobbyist's request; or
- (11) an individual providing information or advice to members of a collective bargaining unit when the unit is actively engaged in the collective bargaining process with a state agency or a political subdivision.
- (c) An individual who volunteers personal time to work without pay or other consideration on a lobbying campaign, and who does not spend more than the limit in paragraph (a), clause (2), need not register as a lobbyist.
- (d) An individual who provides administrative support to a lobbyist and whose salary and administrative expenses attributable to lobbying activities are reported as lobbying expenses by the lobbyist, but who does not communicate or urge others to communicate with public or local officials, need not register as a lobbyist.

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8.1	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment and
8.2	applies to activities occurring on or after that date.
8.3	Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.01, subdivision 33, is amended to read:
8.4	Subd. 33. Principal. "Principal" means an individual or association that:
8.5	(1) spends more than \$500 \$3,000 in the aggregate in any calendar year to engage a
8.6	lobbyist, compensate a lobbyist, or authorize the expenditure of money by a lobbyist; or
8.7	(2) is not included in clause (1) and spends a total of at least \$50,000 in any calendar
8.8	year on efforts to influence legislative action, administrative action, or the official action
8.9	of metropolitan governmental units political subdivisions, as described in section 10A.04,
8.10	subdivision 6.
8.11	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment and
8.12	applies to activities occurring on or after that date.
8.13	Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.04, subdivision 6, is amended
8.14	to read:
8.15	Subd. 6. Principal reports. (a) A principal must report to the board as required in this
8.16	subdivision by March 15 for the preceding calendar year.
8.17	(b) The principal must report the total amount, rounded to the nearest \$9,000 \$5,000,
8.18	spent by the principal during the preceding calendar year on each type of lobbying listed
8.19	below:
8.20	(1) lobbying to influence legislative action;
8.21	(2) lobbying to influence administrative action, other than lobbying described in clause
8.22	(3);
8.23	(3) lobbying to influence administrative action in cases of rate setting, power plant and
8.24	powerline siting, and granting of certificates of need under section 216B.243; and
8.25	(4) lobbying to influence official action of a political subdivision.
8.26	(c) For each type of lobbying listed in paragraph (b), the principal must report a total
8.27	amount that includes:
8.28	(1) the portion of all direct payments for compensation and benefits paid by the principal
8.29	to lobbyists in this state for that type of lobbying;

Sec. 9. 8

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(2) the portion of all expenditures for advertising, mailing, research, consulting, surveys, expert testimony, studies, reports, analysis, compilation and dissemination of information, communications and staff costs used for the purpose of urging members of the public to contact public or local officials to influence official actions, social media and public relations campaigns, and legal counsel used to support that type of lobbying in this state; and

- (3) a reasonable good faith estimate of the portion of all salaries and administrative overhead expenses attributable to activities of the principal for that type of lobbying in this state.
- (d) The principal must report disbursements made and obligations incurred that exceed \$2,000 for paid advertising used for the purpose of urging members of the public to contact public or local officials to influence official actions during the reporting period. Paid advertising includes the cost to boost the distribution of an advertisement on social media. The report must provide the date that the advertising was purchased, the name and address of the vendor, a description of the advertising purchased, and any specific subjects of interest addressed by the advertisement.
- 9.16 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.20, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:
 - Subd. 2a. **Local election reports.** (a) This subdivision applies to a political committee, political fund, or political party unit that during a non-general election year:
- 9.20 (1) spends in aggregate more than \$200 to influence the nomination or election of local candidates;
- 9.22 (2) spends in aggregate more than \$200 to make independent expenditures on behalf of local candidates; or
- 9.24 (3) spends in aggregate more than \$200 to promote or defeat ballot questions defined 9.25 in section 10A.01, subdivision 7, clause (2), (3), or (4).
- (b) In addition to the reports required by subdivision 2, the entities listed in paragraph(a) must file the following reports in each non-general election year:
- 9.28 (1) a first-quarter report covering the calendar year through March 31, which is due 9.29 April 14;
- 9.30 (2) a report covering the calendar year through May 31, which is due June 14;
- 9.31 (3) a pre-primary-election July report due 15 days before the local primary election date specified in section 205.065;

Sec. 10. 9

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(4) a pre-general-election report due 42 days before the local general election; and

(5) a pre-general-election report due ten days before a local general election.

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The reporting obligations in this paragraph begin with the first report due after the reporting period in which the entity reaches the spending threshold specified in paragraph (a). The pre-primary July report required under clause (3) is required for all entities required to report under paragraph (a), regardless of whether the candidate or issue is on the primary ballot or a primary is not conducted.

- Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.20, subdivision 12, is amended to read:
- Subd. 12. Failure to file; late fees; penalty. (a) If an individual or association fails to 10.10 file a report required by this section or section 10A.202, the board may impose a late filing 10.11 fee and a civil penalty as provided in this subdivision. 10.12
 - (b) If an individual or association a candidate, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit fails to file a report required by this section that is due January 31, the board may impose a late filing fee of \$25 per day, not to exceed \$1,000, commencing the day after the report was due.
 - (c) Except for reports governed by paragraph (b), if an individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, party unit, or association fails to file a report required by subdivision 2, 2a, or 5, or by section 10A.202, the board may impose a late filing fee of \$50 per day, not to exceed \$1,000, commencing on the day after the date the statement was due, provided that. If the total receipts received expenditures or disbursements that occurred during the reporting period or total expenditure reportable under section 10A.202 exceeds \$25,000, then the board may also impose a late filing fee of up to two percent of the amount expenditures or disbursements that should have been reported, per day, commencing on the day after the report was due, not to exceed 100 percent of the amount that should have been reported.
 - (d) If an individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, party unit, or association has been assessed a late filing fee or civil penalty under this subdivision during the prior four years, the board may impose a late filing fee, a civil penalty, or both of up to twice the amount otherwise authorized by this subdivision. If an individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, party unit, or association has been assessed a late filing fee under this subdivision more than two times during the

Sec. 11. 10

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prior four years, the board may impose a late filing fee of up to three times the amount otherwise authorized by this subdivision.

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- (e) Within ten business days after the report was due or receipt by the board of information disclosing the potential failure to file a report required by this section, the board must send notice by certified mail that the individual or association may be subject to a civil penalty for failure to file the report. An individual who fails to file the report within seven days after the certified mail notice was sent by the board is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000 \$2,000 in addition to the late filing fees imposed by this subdivision.
- 11.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to penalties assessed on or after that date. 11.11
- Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.201, subdivision 3, is amended 11.12 to read: 11.13
 - Subd. 3. Can be received by 10,000 or more individuals Targeted to the relevant electorate. (a) "Can be received by 10,000 or more individuals" "Targeted to the relevant electorate" means that a communication can be received in the district the candidate seeks to represent, in the case of a candidate for representative, senator, or other office represented by district; or in the entire state, if the candidate seeks a statewide office, as follows:
 - (1) in the case of a communication transmitted by an FM radio broadcast station or network, where the district lies entirely within the station's or network's protected or primary service contour, that the population of the district is 10,000 or more;
 - (2) in the case of a communication transmitted by an FM radio broadcast station or network, where a portion of the district lies outside of the protected or primary service contour, that the population of the part of the district lying within the station's or network's protected or primary service contour is 10,000 or more;
 - (3) in the case of a communication transmitted by an AM radio broadcast station or network, where the district lies entirely within the station's or network's most outward service area, that the population of the district is 10,000 or more;
 - (4) in the case of a communication transmitted by an AM radio broadcast station or network, where a portion of the district lies outside of the station's or network's most outward service area, that the population of the part of the district lying within the station's or network's most outward service area is 10,000 or more;

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(5) in the case of a communication appearing on a television broadcast station or network, where the district lies entirely within the station's or network's Grade B broadcast contour, that the population of the district is 10,000 or more;

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- (6) in the case of a communication appearing on a television broadcast station or network, where a portion of the district lies outside of the Grade B broadcast contour:
- (i) that the population of the part of the district lying within the station's or network's Grade B broadcast contour is 10,000 or more; or
- (ii) that the population of the part of the district lying within the station's or network's broadcast contour, when combined with the viewership of that television station or network by cable and satellite subscribers within the district lying outside the broadcast contour, is 10,000 or more;
- (7) in the case of a communication appearing exclusively on a cable or satellite television system, but not on a broadcast station or network, that the viewership of the cable system or satellite system lying within a district is 10,000 or more; or
- (8) in the case of a communication appearing on a cable television network, that the total cable and satellite viewership within a district is 10,000 or more-; or
- (9) in the case of an email blast, a text message blast, a telephone bank, or a qualifying paid digital advertisement or communication, that the communication is capable of being received by 2,500 or more individuals in a district.
 - (b) Cable or satellite television viewership is determined by multiplying the number of subscribers within a district, or a part thereof, as appropriate, by the current average household size for Minnesota, as determined by the Bureau of the Census.
 - (c) A determination that a communication can be received by 10,000 or more individuals based on the application of the formula in this section shall create a rebuttable presumption that may be overcome by demonstrating that:
 - (1) one or more cable or satellite systems did not carry the network on which the communication was publicly distributed at the time the communication was publicly distributed; and
- (2) applying the formula to the remaining cable and satellite systems results in a determination that the cable network or systems upon which the communication was publicly distributed could not be received by 10,000 individuals or more.

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13.1	EFFECT	TVE DATE. This se	ection is effect	ive January 1, 2025, and	d applies to	
13.2	communications disseminated on or after that date.					
13.3	Sec. 13. Mi	nnesota Statutes 2023	3 Supplement,	section 10A.201, subdiv	vision 4, is amended	
13.4	to read:					
13.5	Subd. 4. l	Direct costs of produ	ıcing or airin	g electioneering comm	unications. "Direct	
13.6	costs of prod	ucing or airing electi	oneering com	munications" means:		
13.7	(1) costs	charged by a vendor,	including stud	dio rental time, staff sala	aries, costs of video	
13.8	or audio reco	ording media, and tal	ent; and			
13.9	(2) the co	st of airtime on broad	cast, cable, or	satellite radio and televi	sion stations, studio	
13.10	time, materia	al costs, and the charg	ges for a broke	er to purchase the airtim	ie- <u>; and</u>	
13.11	(3) the co	est to access any plati	form used to d	isseminate messages di	gitally online or by	
13.12	electronic me	eans to a recipient's t	elephone or of	ther electronic device.		
13.13	EFFECT	TIVE DATE. This se	ection is effect	ive January 1, 2025, and	d applies to	
13.14	communicati	ons disseminated on	or after that d	ate.		
13.15	Sec. 14. Mi	nnesota Statutes 2023	3 Supplement,	section 10A.201, subdiv	vision 6, is amended	
13.16	to read:					
13.17	Subd. 6. 1	Electioneering com	munication. (a) "Electioneering comr	nunication" means	
13.18	any broadcas	st, cable, or satellite,	or digital com	munication that:		
13.19	(1) refers	to a clearly identifie	d candidate fo	r state office;		
13.20	(2) is pub	licly distributed with	nin 60 days be	fore a general election for	or the office sought	
13.21	by the candid	date ; or , within 30 da	ys before a pr	imary election for the o	ffice sought by the	
13.22	candidate, or	within 30 days before	re a conventio	n or caucus of a politica	al party unit that has	
13.23	authority to #	nominate endorse a c	andidate , for t	he office sought by the	candidate , and the	
13.24	candidate ref	erenced is seeking th	ne nomination	of that political party; a	ınd	
13.25	(3) is targ	geted to the relevant of	electorate.			
13.26	(b) A con	nmunication is not ar	n electioneerin	g communication if it:		
13.27	(1) is pub	licly disseminated th	rough a mean	s of communication oth	er than a broadcast,	
13.28	cable, or sate	ellite television, or ra	dio station <u>, or</u>	by digital means throug	gh an electronic	

Sec. 14. 13

device;

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14.1	(2) appears in a news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities
14.2	of any broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station, unless such facilities are
14.3	owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate, provided that
14.4	a news story distributed through a broadcast, cable, or satellite television or radio station
14.5	owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate is not an
14.6	electioneering communication if the news story meets the requirements described in Code
14.7	of Federal Regulations, title 11, section 100.132 (a) and (b);
14.8	(3) constitutes an expenditure or independent expenditure, provided that the expenditure
14.9	or independent expenditure is required to be reported under this chapter;
14.10	(4) constitutes a candidate debate or forum, or that solely promotes such a debate or
14.11	forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum; or
14.12	(5) is paid for by a candidate.
14.13	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2025, and applies to
14.14	communications disseminated on or after that date.
14.15	Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.201, subdivision 9, is amended
14.16	to read:
14.17	Subd. 9. Publicly distributed. "Publicly distributed" means aired, broadcast, cablecast
14.18	or otherwise disseminated through the facilities of a television station, radio station, cable
14.19	television system, or satellite system, or disseminated in a digital format online or by other
14.20	electronic means to a recipient's telephone or other electronic device.
14.21	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2025, and applies to
14.22	communications disseminated on or after that date.
14.23	Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.202, subdivision 1, is amended
14.24	to read:
14.25	Subdivision 1. Reports required. Any person who has made an electioneering
14.26	communication, as defined in section 10A.201, aggregating in excess of \$10,000 during
14.27	any calendar year shall file a statement with the board no later than 11:59 p.m. on the day
14.28	following the disclosure date. The statement shall be filed under penalty of perjury, and

must contain the information set forth in subdivision 2. Political committees, political funds,

report the communication as a campaign expenditure or independent expenditure as otherwise

and political party units that make a communication described in section 10A.201 must

provided by this chapter and are not required to file a report under this section.

Sec. 16. 14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to penalties assessed on or after that date.

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- Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.27, subdivision 17, is amended to read:
- Subd. 17. **Penalty.** (a) An association that makes a contribution under subdivision 15 and fails to provide the required statement within the time specified is subject to a <u>late filing</u> fee of \$100 a day not to exceed \$1,000, commencing the day after the statement was due.

 The board must send notice by certified mail that the individual or association may be subject to a civil penalty for failure to file the statement. An association that fails to provide the required statement within seven days after the certified mail notice was sent by the board is subject to a civil penalty of up to four times the amount of the contribution, but not to exceed \$25,000, except when the violation was intentional.
- (b) An independent expenditure political committee or an independent expenditure political fund that files a report without including the statement required under subdivision 15 is subject to a late filing fee of \$100 a day not to exceed \$1,000, commencing the day after the report was due. The board must send notice by certified mail that the independent expenditure political committee or independent expenditure fund may be subject to a civil penalty for failure to file the statement. An association that fails to provide the required statement within seven days after the certified mail notice was sent by the board is subject to a civil penalty of up to four times the amount of the contribution for which disclosure was not filed, but not to exceed \$25,000, except when the violation was intentional.
- (c) If an independent expenditure political committee or an independent expenditure political fund has been assessed a late filing fee under this subdivision during the prior four years, the board may impose a late filing fee of up to twice the amount otherwise authorized by this subdivision. If an independent expenditure political committee or an independent expenditure political fund has been assessed a late filing fee under this subdivision more than two times during the prior four years, the board may impose a late filing fee of up to three times the amount otherwise authorized by this subdivision.
- (e) (d) No other penalty provided in law may be imposed for conduct that is subject to a civil penalty under this section.
- 15.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to penalties assessed on or after that date.

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Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 123B.09, subdivision 5b, is amended to read:

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Subd. 5b. Appointments to fill vacancies; special elections. (a) Any vacancy on the board, other than a vacancy described in subdivision 4, must be filled by board appointment at a regular or special meeting. The appointment shall be evidenced by a resolution entered in the minutes and shall be effective 30 days following adoption of the resolution, subject to paragraph (b) (d). If the appointment becomes effective, it shall continue for the remainder of the unexpired term or until an election is held under this subdivision, as applicable. All elections to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term. A special election to fill the vacancy must be held no later than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November following the vacancy. If the vacancy occurs less than 90 days prior to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the year in which the vacancy occurs, the special election must be held no later than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the following calendar year. If the vacancy occurs less than 90 days prior to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the third year of the term, no special election is required. If the vacancy is filled by a special election, the person elected at that election for the ensuing term shall take office immediately after receiving the certificate of election, filing the bond, and taking the oath of office.

- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the vacancy occurs less than two years prior to the expiration of the term, no special election is required and the appointee of the board shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, subject to paragraph (d).
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), if the vacancy occurs because a school board member was removed pursuant to section 123B.09, subdivision 9, a special election must be held to fill the vacancy as soon as possible on a uniform election date.
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the vacancy occurs less than 90 days prior to the expiration of the term, the board may, but is not required to, fill the vacancy by board appointment at a regular or special meeting.
- (b) (e) An appointment made under paragraph (a) shall not be effective if a petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk. To be valid, a petition to reject an appointee must be signed by a number of eligible voters residing in the district equal to at least five percent of the total number of voters voting in the district at the most recent state general election, and must be filed within 30 days of the board's adoption of the resolution making the appointment. If a valid petition is filed according to the requirements of this paragraph, the appointment by the school board is ineffective and the board must name a new appointee as provided in paragraph (a).

Sec. 18.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to vacancies 17.1 17.2 occurring on or after that date. Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 200.02, subdivision 7, is amended 17.3 to read: 17.4 Subd. 7. Major political party. (a) "Major political party" means a political party that 17.5 maintains a party organization in the state; has complied with the party's constitution and 17.6 rules; is in compliance with the requirements of sections 202A.12 and 202A.13; files with 17.7 the secretary of state no later than December 1 of each odd-numbered year a certification 17.8 that the party has met the foregoing requirements, including a list of the dates and locations 17.9 of each convention held; and meets all other qualification requirements of this subdivision. 17.10 17.11 (b) A political party qualifies as a major political party by: (1) presenting at least one candidate for election to the office of: 17.12 17.13 (i) governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, or attorney general at the last preceding state general election for those offices; or 17.14 17.15 (ii) presidential elector or U.S. senator at the last preceding state general election for presidential electors; and 17.16 whose candidate received votes in each county in that election and received votes from not 17.17 less than five percent of the total number of individuals who voted in that election, if the 17.18 state general election was held on or before November 8, 2022, or not less than eight percent 17.19 of the total number of individuals who voted in that election, at a state general election held 17.20 on or after November 7, 2024; 17.21 (2) presenting at least 45 candidates for election to the office of state representative, 23 17.22 candidates for election to the office of state senator, four candidates for election to the office 17.23 of representative in Congress, and one candidate for election to each of the following offices: 17.24 governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state auditor, at 17.25 the last preceding state general election for those offices; or 17.26 (3) presenting to the secretary of state at any time before the close of filing for the state 17.27 partisan primary ballot a petition for a place on the state partisan primary ballot, which 17.28 17.29 petition contains valid signatures of a number of the party members equal to at least five percent of the total number of individuals who voted in the preceding state general election. 17.30

A signature is valid only if signed no more than one year prior to the date the petition was

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(c) A political party whose candidate receives a sufficient number of votes at a state
general election described in paragraph (b), clause (1), or a political party that presents
candidates at an election as required by paragraph (b), clause (2), becomes a major political
party as of January 1 following that election. A political party that complies with paragraph
(a) retains its major party status for at least two state general elections even if the party fails
to present a candidate who receives the number and percentage of votes required under
paragraph (b), clause (1), or fails to present candidates as required by paragraph (b), clause
(2), at subsequent state general elections.

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- (d) A major political party whose candidates fail to receive the number and percentage of votes required under paragraph (b), clause (1), and that fails to present candidates as required by paragraph (b), clause (2), at each of two consecutive state general elections described by paragraph (b), clause (1) or (2), respectively, loses major party status as of December 31 following the later of the two consecutive state general elections.
- (e) A major political party that does not submit the certification required by this subdivision loses major party status on December 31 of the year in which the party did not file the certification.
- (f) The secretary of state must notify the chair of the major political party, the commissioner of revenue, and the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board if the political party's status is changed pursuant to this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2024.

- 18.21 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 201.061, subdivision 3, is amended to read: 18.22
 - Subd. 3. Election day registration. (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register on election day by appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual maintains residence, by completing a registration application, making an oath in the form prescribed by the secretary of state and providing proof of residence. An individual may prove residence for purposes of registering by:
- (1) presenting a driver's license or Minnesota identification card issued pursuant to 18.28 section 171.07; 18.29
- (2) presenting any document approved by the secretary of state as proper identification; 18.30
- (3) presenting one of the following: 18.31

Sec. 20. 18

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(i) a current valid student identification card from a postsecondary educational institution in Minnesota, if a list of students from that institution has been prepared under section 135A.17 and certified to the county auditor in the manner provided in rules of the secretary of state; or

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- (ii) a current student fee statement that contains the student's valid address in the precinct together with a picture identification card; or
- (4) having a voter who is registered to vote in the precinct, or an employee employed by and working in a residential facility in the precinct and vouching for a resident in the facility, sign an oath in the presence of the election judge vouching that the voter or employee personally knows that the individual is a resident of the precinct. A voter who has been vouched for on election day may not sign a proof of residence oath vouching for any other individual on that election day. A voter who is registered to vote in the precinct may sign up to eight proof-of-residence oaths on any election day. This limitation does not apply to an employee of a residential facility described in this clause. The secretary of state shall provide a form for election judges to use in recording the number of individuals for whom a voter signs proof-of-residence oaths on election day. The form must include space for the maximum number of individuals for whom a voter may sign proof-of-residence oaths. For each proof-of-residence oath, the form must include a statement that the individual: (i) is registered to vote in the precinct or is an employee of a residential facility in the precinct, (ii) personally knows that the voter is a resident of the precinct, and (iii) is making the statement on oath. The form must include a space for the voter's printed name, signature, telephone number, and address.
- The oath required by this subdivision and Minnesota Rules, part 8200.9939, must be attached to the voter registration application.
- (b) The operator of a residential facility shall prepare a list of the names of its employees currently working in the residential facility and the address of the residential facility. The operator shall certify the list and provide it to the appropriate county auditor no less than 20 days before each election for use in election day registration.
- (c) "Residential facility" means transitional housing as defined in section 256E.33, subdivision 1; a supervised living facility licensed by the commissioner of health under section 144.50, subdivision 6; a nursing home as defined in section 144A.01, subdivision 5; an assisted living facility licensed by the commissioner of health under chapter 144G; a veterans home operated by the board of directors of the Minnesota Veterans Homes under chapter 198; a residence licensed by the commissioner of human services to provide a

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20.1	residential j	program as defined in	section 245A.0	2, subdivision 14; a re	esidential facility for
20.2	persons wit	h a developmental dis	ability licensed	by the commissioner	of human services
20.3	under section	on 252.28; setting auth	orized to provi	de housing support as	defined in section
20.4	256I.03, su	bdivision 10a; a shelte	r for battered v	vomen as defined in so	ection 611A.37,
20.5	subdivision	4; a supervised public	cly or privately	operated shelter or dv	welling designed to
20.6	provide ten	nporary living accomm	nodations for th	ne homeless; a facility	where a provider
20.7	operates a r	residential treatment pr	ogram as defir	ned in section 245.462	, subdivision 23; or
20.8	a facility w	here a provider operate	es an adult fost	er care program as de	fined in section
20.9	245A.02, sı	abdivision 6c.			
20.10	(d) For	tribal band members, a	an individual m	av prove residence fo	or purposes of
20.11	registering			, F	- FF
		•			
20.12		enting an identification	•	•	
20.13	•	au of Indian Affairs, U		•	ior, that contains the
20.14	name, addr	ess, signature, and pict	ture of the indi	vidual; or	
20.15	(2) prese	enting an identification	card issued by	the tribal government	of a tribe recognized
20.16	by the Bure	au of Indian Affairs, U	Inited States D	epartment of the Inter	ior, that contains the
20.17	name, signa	ature, and picture of th	e individual an	d also presenting one	of the documents
20.18	listed in Mi	nnesota Rules, part 82	00.5100, subpa	art 2, item B.	
20.19	(e) A co	ounty, school district, o	or municipality	may require that an el	lection judge
20.20	responsible	for election day regist	tration initial ea	ach completed registra	ation application.
20.21	FFFF	TIVE DATE. This se	ction is effectiv	ve June 1 2024	
20.21	EFFEC	THE DATE.	ction is effective	ve June 1, 2024.	
20.22	Sec. 21. N	Iinnesota Statutes 2023	Supplement, s	ection 201.061, subdiv	vision 3a, is amended
20.23	to read:				
20.24	Subd. 3	a. Additional proofs o	of residence pe	rmitted for students.	(a) An eligible If an
20.25		er's name; student ider	_		
20.26		pear on a current resid			
20.27		itor by the postseconda			
20.28		-		issued by a postseco	

institution in Minnesota if the voter's name; student identification number, if available; and

address within the precinct appear on a current residential housing list under section 135A.17,

certified to the county auditor by the postsecondary educational institution; identification

authorized in subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2); or identification authorized in

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Sec. 21. 20

subdivision 3, paragraph (d), clause (1) or (2).

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(b) This additional proof of residence for students must not be allowed unless the postsecondary educational institution submits to the county auditor no later than 60 days prior to the election a written agreement that the postsecondary educational institution will certify for use at the election accurate updated residential housing lists under section 135A.17. A written agreement is effective for the election and all subsequent elections held in that calendar year, including the November general election.

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- (c) The additional proof of residence for students must be allowed on an equal basis for voters who reside in housing meeting the requirements of section 135A.17, if the residential housing lists certified by the postsecondary educational institution meet the requirements of this subdivision.
- (d) An updated residential housing list must be certified to the county auditor no earlier later than 20 days prior to each election. The certification must be dated and signed by the chief officer or designee of the postsecondary educational institution and must state that the list is current and accurate and includes only the names of persons residing in the institution's housing and, for students who do not live in the institution's housing, that it reflects the institution's records as of the date of the certification.
- (e) The county auditor shall instruct the election judges of the precinct in procedures for use of the list in conjunction with photo identification. The auditor shall supply a list to the election judges with the election supplies for the precinct.
- (f) The county auditor shall notify all postsecondary educational institutions in the county of the provisions of this subdivision.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

- Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 201.071, subdivision 1, is amended 21.23 to read: 21.24
 - Subdivision 1. Form. Both paper and electronic voter registration applications must contain the same information unless otherwise provided by law. A voter registration application must contain spaces for the following required information: voter's first name, middle name, and last name; voter's previous name, if any; voter's current address; voter's previous address, if any; voter's date of birth; voter's municipality and county of residence; voter's telephone number, if provided by the voter; date of registration; current and valid Minnesota driver's license number or Minnesota state identification number, or if the voter has no current and valid Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota state identification, the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number; a box to indicate a voter's preference

Sec. 22. 21 application must provide a space for a voter to provide a physical description of the location of their residence, if the voter resides in an area lacking a specific physical address. The paper registration application may include the voter's email address, if provided by the voter. The electronic voter registration application must include the voter's email address. The registration application may include the voter's interest in serving as an election judge, if indicated by the voter. The application must also contain the following certification of voter eligibility:

22.9 "I certify that I:

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- 22.10 (1) am at least 16 years old and understand that I must be at least 18 years old to be eligible to vote;
- 22.12 (2) am a citizen of the United States;
- 22.13 (3) will have maintained residence in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day;
- 22.15 (4) maintain residence at the address <u>or location</u> given on the registration form;
- 22.16 (5) am not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my right to vote;
- (6) have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;
- (7) am not currently incarcerated for a conviction of a felony offense; and
- (8) have read and understand the following statement: that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both."
- 22.23 The certification must include boxes for the voter to respond to the following questions:
- "(1) Are you a citizen of the United States?" and
- "(2) Are you at least 16 years old and will you be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the election in which you intend to vote?"
- 22.27 And the instruction:
- "If you checked 'no' to either of these questions, do not complete this form."
- The form of the voter registration application and the certification of voter eligibility must be as provided in this subdivision and approved by the secretary of state. Voter registration forms authorized by the National Voter Registration Act must also be accepted

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as valid. The federal postcard application form must also be accepted as valid if it is not deficient and the voter is eligible to register in Minnesota.

An individual may use a voter registration application to apply to register to vote in Minnesota or to change information on an existing registration.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

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Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.071, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Deficient registration.** No voter registration application is deficient if it contains the voter's name, address <u>or location of residence</u>, date of birth, current and valid Minnesota driver's license number or Minnesota state identification number, or if the voter has no current and valid Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota state identification number, the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, if the voter has been issued a Social Security number, prior registration, if any, and signature. The absence of a zip code number does not cause the registration to be deficient. Failure to check a box on an application form that a voter has certified to be true does not cause the registration to be deficient. The election judges shall request an individual to correct a voter registration application if it is deficient or illegible. No eligible voter may be prevented from voting unless the voter's registration application is deficient or the voter is duly and successfully challenged in accordance with section 201.195 or 204C.12.

A voter registration application accepted prior to August 1, 1983, is not deficient for lack of date of birth. The county or municipality may attempt to obtain the date of birth for a voter registration application accepted prior to August 1, 1983, by a request to the voter at any time except at the polling place. Failure by the voter to comply with this request does not make the registration deficient.

A voter registration application accepted before January 1, 2004, is not deficient for lack of a valid Minnesota driver's license or state identification number or the last four digits of a Social Security number. A voter registration application submitted by a voter who does not have a Minnesota driver's license or state identification number, or a Social Security number, is not deficient for lack of any of these numbers.

A voter registration application submitted electronically through the website of the secretary of state prior to April 30, 2014, is not invalid as a result of its electronic submission.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

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Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 201.091, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

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- Subd. 4. Public information lists. (a) The county auditor shall make available for inspection a public information list which must contain the name, address, year of birth, and voting history of each registered voter in the county. Data on applicants submitted pursuant to section 201.061, subdivision 1b, are not part of the public information list until the voter is registered or has voting history. The list must not include the party choice of any voter who voted in a presidential nomination primary. The telephone number must be included on the list if provided by the voter. The public information list may also include information on voting districts. The county auditor may adopt reasonable rules governing access to the list.
- (b) No individual inspecting the public information list shall tamper with or alter it in any manner. No individual who inspects the public information list or who acquires a list of registered voters prepared from the public information list may use any information contained in the list for purposes unrelated to elections, political activities, or law enforcement. The secretary of state may provide copies of the public information lists and other information from the statewide registration system for uses related to elections, political activities, or in response to a law enforcement inquiry from a public official concerning a failure to comply with any criminal statute or any state or local tax statute.
- (c) Before inspecting the public information list or obtaining a list of voters or other information from the list, the individual shall provide identification to the public official having custody of the public information list and shall state in writing that any information obtained from the list will not be used for purposes unrelated to elections, political activities, or law enforcement. Requests to examine or obtain information from the public information lists or the statewide registration system must be made and processed in the manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state.
- (d) Upon receipt of a statement signed by the voter that withholding the voter's name from the public information list is required for the safety of the voter or the voter's family, the secretary of state and county auditor must withhold from the public information list the name of a registered voter.
- (e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c) and regardless of the purpose of the publication, a recipient of a public information list must not:
- (1) publish any of the information from the list on the Internet on any list, database, or 24.33 other similar searchable format; or 24.34

Sec. 24. 24

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(2) sell, loan, provide access to, or otherwise surrender any information obtained from the list to any person or entity, except that an individual who obtains the public information list on behalf of an organization, entity, or political subdivision may distribute the information to the organization's, entity's, or political subdivision's volunteers or employees for purposes related to elections, political activities, or law enforcement in the case where the information is provided in response to a law enforcement inquiry from a public official concerning a failure to comply with any criminal statute or any state or local tax statute. Nothing in this section prohibits the preparation, use, or transfer, for purposes related to elections or political activities, of a database that includes data obtained from the public information list which is aggregated with data obtained from other sources provided that such database is used exclusively for purposes related to elections or political activities and no information from the list is published on the Internet. The prohibitions of this paragraph do not apply if the subject of the information provides express written permission to use the subject's data in a manner otherwise prohibited by this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, "publish" means information is made available to the general public.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 201.1611, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Forms.** (a) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting state or federal financial aid must provide voter registration forms to each student during the fall and spring of each year. In state election years, it must be provided 15 days in advance of the deadline for registering to vote for the state general election. If the voter registration forms are provided electronically, the electronic message must be devoted exclusively to voter registration.

- (b) All school districts must make available <u>paper or electronic</u> voter registration applications each May and September to all students registered as students of the school district who <u>will be are</u> eligible to <u>register or preregister to vote at the next election after those months</u>. A school district has no obligation to provide voter registration applications to students who participate in a postsecondary education option program or who otherwise maintain residence in the district but do not attend a school operated by the district. A school district fulfills its obligation to a student under this section if it provides a voter registration application to the student one time.
- (c) The voter registration forms must contain spaces for the information required in section 201.071, subdivision 1, and applicable rules of the secretary of state. The institutions

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and school districts may request these forms from the secretary of state. Institutions must consult with their campus student government in determining the most effective means of distributing the forms and in seeking to facilitate election day registration of students under section 201.061, subdivision 3. School districts must advise students that completion of the voter registration application is not a school district requirement.

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- (d) The institutions must report to the secretary of state by November 30 of each year on their implementation of this section. At a minimum, the report must include how and when the forms were distributed and the voter engagement plan under subdivision 3, paragraph (b), clause (2). Institutions may include information about methods that were effective in increasing student registrations.
- (e) By February 1 of each year, the secretary of state must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over elections on the information under paragraph (d). The secretary must highlight best practices and innovative methods that were most effective in registering students to vote.
- Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 203B.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
 - Subdivision 1. **Application procedures.** (a) Except as otherwise allowed by subdivision 2 or by section 203B.11, subdivision 4, an application for absentee ballots for any election may be submitted at any time not less than one day before the day of that election. The county auditor shall prepare absentee ballot application forms in the format provided by the secretary of state and shall furnish them to any person on request. By January 1 of each even-numbered year, the secretary of state shall make the forms to be used available to auditors through electronic means. An application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be in writing. An application may be submitted in person, by electronic facsimile device, by electronic mail, or by mail to:
 - (1) the county auditor of the county where the applicant maintains residence; or
- 26.27 (2) the municipal clerk of the municipality, or school district if applicable, where the applicant maintains residence.

For a federal, state, or county election, (b) An absentee ballot application may alternatively be submitted electronically through a secure website that shall be maintained by the secretary of state for this purpose. Notwithstanding paragraph (b) (d), the secretary of state must require applicants using the website to submit the applicant's email address and verifiable Minnesota driver's license number, Minnesota state identification card number,

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or the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. This paragraph does not apply to a town election held in March.

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- (c) An application submitted electronically under this paragraph may only be transmitted to the county auditor for processing if the secretary of state has verified the application information matches the information in a government database associated with the applicant's driver's license number, state identification card number, or Social Security number. The secretary of state must review all unverifiable applications for evidence of suspicious activity and must forward any such application to an appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.
- (b) (d) An application shall be approved if it is timely received, signed and dated by the applicant, contains the applicant's name and residence and mailing addresses, date of birth, and at least one of the following:
- (1) the applicant's Minnesota driver's license number; 27.13
- (2) Minnesota state identification card number; 27.14
- (3) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number; or 27.15
- (4) a statement that the applicant does not have any of these numbers. 27.16
- (e) To be approved, the application must contain an oath that the information contained 27.17 on the form is accurate, that the applicant is applying on the applicant's own behalf, and 27.18 that the applicant is signing the form under penalty of perjury. 27.19
 - (d) (f) An applicant's full date of birth, Minnesota driver's license or state identification number, and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number must not be made available for public inspection. An application may be submitted to the county auditor or municipal clerk by an electronic facsimile device. An application mailed or returned in person to the county auditor or municipal clerk on behalf of a voter by a person other than the voter must be deposited in the mail or returned in person to the county auditor or municipal clerk within ten days after it has been dated by the voter and no later than six days before the election.
- (e) (g) An application under this subdivision may contain an application under subdivision 27.28 5 to automatically receive an absentee ballot. 27.29
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 1, 2025, and applies to 27.30 elections occurring on or after November 4, 2025. 27.31

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Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 203B.07, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

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- Subd. 3. Eligibility certificate. A certificate of eligibility to vote by absentee ballot shall be printed on the back of the signature envelope. The certificate shall contain space for the voter's Minnesota driver's license number, state identification number, or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number, or to indicate that the voter does not have one of these numbers. The space must be designed to ensure that the voter provides the same type of identification as provided on the voter's absentee ballot application for purposes of comparison. The certificate must also contain a statement to be signed and sworn by the voter indicating that the voter meets all of the requirements established by law for voting by absentee ballot and space for a statement signed by a person who is registered to vote in Minnesota at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the election and a citizen of the United States or by a notary public or other individual authorized to administer oaths stating that:
- (1) the ballots were displayed to that individual unmarked;
- (2) the voter marked the ballots in that individual's presence without showing how they 28.16 were marked, or, if the voter was physically unable to mark them, that the voter directed 28.17 another individual to mark them; and 28.18
 - (3) if the voter was not previously registered, the voter has provided proof of residence as required by section 201.061, subdivision 3.
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for elections for which the absentee 28.21 ballot period begins on or after January 1, 2025. 28.22
- Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204B.09, subdivision 3, is amended 28.23 to read: 28.24
 - Subd. 3. Write-in candidates. (a) A candidate for county, state, or federal office who wants write-in votes for the candidate to be counted must file a written request with the filing office for the office sought not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the seventh day before the general election. The filing officer shall provide copies of the form to make the request. The filing officer shall not accept a written request later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing a written request.
- (b) The governing body of a statutory or home rule charter city may adopt a resolution 28.31 governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. The resolution may: 28.32

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(1) require the candidate to file a written request with the chief election official no late
than the seventh day before the city election if the candidate wants to have the candidate's
write-in votes individually recorded; or

- (2) require that write-in votes for an individual candidate only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate.
- If the governing body of the statutory or home rule charter city adopts a resolution authorized by this paragraph, the resolution must be adopted and the city clerk must notify the county auditor before the first day of filing for office. A resolution adopted under this paragraph remains in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the governing body of the statutory or home rule charter city.
- (c) The governing body of a township, school board, hospital district, park district, soil and water district, or other ancillary elected district may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. The resolution may require that write-in votes for an individual candidate only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate. If a governing body adopts a resolution authorized by this paragraph, the resolution must be adopted and the clerk must notify the county auditor before the first day of filing for office. A resolution adopted under this paragraph remains in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the governing body.
- (d) A candidate for president of the United States who files a request under this subdivision must include the name of a candidate for vice president of the United States. The request must also include the name of at least one candidate for presidential elector. The total number of names of candidates for presidential elector on the request may not exceed the total number of electoral votes to be cast by Minnesota in the presidential election.
- (e) A candidate for governor who files a request under this subdivision must file jointly with another individual seeking nomination as a candidate for lieutenant governor. A candidate for lieutenant governor who files a request under this subdivision must file jointly with another individual seeking nomination as a candidate for governor.
- Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204B.16, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- Subdivision 1. **Authority; location.** (a) By December 31 of each year, the governing body of each municipality and of each county with precincts in unorganized territory must

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designate by ordinance or resolution any changes to a polling place location. A polling place must be maintained for the following calendar year unless changed in accordance with this paragraph, or:

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- (1) by ordinance or resolution by December 31 of the previous year;
- 30.5 (2) pursuant to section 204B.175;
 - (3) (2) because a polling place has become unavailable;
- 30.7 (4) (3) because a township designates one location for all state, county, and federal elections and one location for all township only elections; and 30.8
 - (5) (4) pursuant to section 204B.14, subdivision 3.
 - (b) Polling places must be designated and ballots must be distributed so that no one is required to go to more than one polling place to vote in a school district and municipal election held on the same day. The polling place for a precinct in a city or in a school district located in whole or in part in the metropolitan area defined by section 200.02, subdivision 24, shall be located within the boundaries of the precinct or within one mile of one of those boundaries unless a single polling place is designated for a city pursuant to section 204B.14, subdivision 2, or a school district pursuant to section 205A.11. The polling place for a precinct in unorganized territory may be located outside the precinct at a place which is convenient to the voters of the precinct. If no suitable place is available within a town or within a school district located outside the metropolitan area defined by section 200.02, subdivision 24, then the polling place for a town or school district may be located outside the town or school district within five miles of one of the boundaries of the town or school district.
 - Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204B.295, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
 - Subdivision 1. Duty. The secretary of state or county auditor must contract with a translator certified by the American Translators Association to develop voting instructions and sample ballots in languages other than English, to be made available in polling places during elections as required by this section. At a minimum, the secretary of state must prepare voting instructions and make the instructions available in polling places in the three most commonly spoken non-English languages in the state as determined by the state demographer for the previous calendar year. For state elections, the secretary of state must prepare and provide example ballots to county auditors and post voting instructions in print, electronic, and audio-visual formats, on the secretary of state's website in at least the three

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most commonly spoken non-English languages in the state as determined by the state demographer for the previous calendar year.

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EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204B.295, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Designation of language minority districts.** No later than 90 days before an election By January 1 of each year, the secretary of state or county auditor, in consultation with the state demographer, must determine the percentage of residents in each census tract who are members of a language minority and who lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance. Language minority districts will be designated if three percent or more of the population in a corresponding census tract speak English "less than very well" according to the most recent census data. The secretary of state must maintain the list of designated language minority districts on its website. The state demographer must consider the identified margin of error in the census data when identifying census tracts. Designations made in January apply to elections for which absentee balloting begins on or after January 1 of each year and continue through the end of the calendar year.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

- Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204B.295, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
 - Subd. 3. **Translation required; interpreter required.** (a) If the number of residents determined under subdivision 2 equals three percent or more of a census tract, or if interested citizens or organizations provide information that gives the secretary of state or county auditor sufficient reason to believe a need exists, at least two copies of the translated voting instructions and sample ballots must be provided to each precinct in that district during any regular or special state election conducted in that district. If more than one language is represented in three percent or more of residents as determined in subdivision 2, translated materials must be provided in, at minimum, the highest determined language and any language representing three percent or more of a census tract.
 - (b) If the number of residents determined under subdivision 2 equals 20 percent or more of the population of a census tract, or if interested citizens or organizations provide information that gives the secretary of state or county auditor sufficient reason to believe a need exists, at least four copies of the translated voting instructions and sample ballots must be provided to each precinct in that district during any regular or special state election

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conducted in that district. If more than one language is represented in the 20 or more percent of residents as determined in subdivision 2, translated materials must be provided in, at minimum, the highest determined language and any language representing three percent or more of a census tract. In these precincts, the county auditor or municipal clerk must appoint at least one interpreter to translate in a specified language if ten or more registered voters in the precinct file a request for interpretive services for that language with the secretary of state or county auditor at least 30 days prior to the date of the election. This interpreter must wear a name tag or other badge indicating the interpreter's language certification. For purposes of section 204C.06 and any other applicable law, an interpreter appointed under this section is considered an election official and may be present in a polling place for the purpose of conducting duties assigned by the county auditor or municipal clerk.

(c) The county auditor must maintain a list of the designated language minority districts on its website, including the precinct name, languages that materials will be provided in, and, if applicable, where interpreters will be provided and the language they speak. This list must be posted no later than 90 days after receiving language minority district designations under subdivision 2 and must be updated as it is determined that materials or interpreters will be provided for additional districts.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

- Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204B.295, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:
- Subd. 5. Sample ballot format requirements. For the purposes of this section, sample ballots must accurately reflect the offices, candidates, and rotation sequence on the ballots used in that polling place. Sample ballots may deviate from other ballot formatting requirements to the extent required to accommodate the translated content.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.06, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Persons allowed near polling place.** An individual shall be allowed to go to and from the polling place for the purpose of voting without unlawful interference. No one except an election official or an individual who is waiting to register or to vote or an individual who is conducting exit polling shall stand within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is located. "Exit polling" is defined as approaching voters in a predetermined pattern as they leave the polling place after they have voted and asking voters to fill out an anonymous, written questionnaire.

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Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.06, is amended by adding a subdivision 33.1 to read: 33.2 Subd. 1a. Exit polling. (a) "Exit polling" is defined as approaching voters in a 33.3 predetermined pattern as they leave the polling place after they have voted and asking voters 33.4 33.5 to fill out an anonymous, written questionnaire. (b) An individual conducting exit polling must present photo identification to the head 33.6 judge upon arrival at the polling place, along with a letter or credential from the news media. 33.7 (c) A person must not conduct exit polling in a manner that unlawfully interferes with 33.8 a person going to or from the polling place or allows any person to view another person's 33.9 responses to the poll. 33.10 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.19, subdivision 3, is amended to read: 33.11 Subd. 3. Premature disclosure of count results. No count results from any precinct 33.12

Subd. 3. **Premature disclosure of count results.** No count results from any precinct shall be disclosed by any election judge or other individual until all count results from that precinct are available, nor shall the public media disclose any count results from any precinct before the time when voting is scheduled to end in the state. Count results from absentee ballots received by the county after 3:00 p.m. on election day may be added to the total count results after the initial results reporting of the precinct. If the precinct results do not include all absentee ballots, the county must report to the secretary of state and on the county's website the number of absentee ballots remaining to be processed. After processing the remaining ballots, the county must post on the county's website how many of the remaining ballots were accepted and added to the totals and how many were rejected and therefore not counted.

Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.20, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Determination of proper number.** The election judges shall determine the number of ballots to be counted by adding the number of return envelopes from accepted absentee ballots to tallying the number of signed voter's certificates, or to the number of names entered in the election register. The election judges shall then remove all the ballots from the box. Without considering how the ballots are marked, the election judges shall ascertain that each ballot is separate and shall count them to determine whether the number of ballots in the box corresponds with the number of ballots to be counted.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

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Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.20, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5. Precincts with ballot tabulators. In precincts using ballot tabulators, once the final count of ballots agrees with the number of ballots to be counted, election judges must immediately prepare the summary statement in accordance with section 204C.24 and seal the ballots in accordance with section 204C.25 for return to the county auditor.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.

- Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204C.24, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- Subdivision 1. **Information requirements.** Precinct summary statements shall be submitted by the election judges in every precinct. For all elections, the election judges shall complete three or more copies of the summary statements, and each copy shall contain the following information for each kind of ballot:
- (1) the number of ballots delivered to the precinct as adjusted by the actual count made by the election judges, the number of unofficial ballots made, and the number of absentee ballots delivered to the precinct;
- (2) the number of votes each candidate received or the number of yes and no votes on each question, the number of undervotes, the number of overvotes, and the number of defective ballots with respect to each office or question;
- (3) the number of spoiled ballots, the number of duplicate ballots made, the number of absentee ballots rejected, and the number of unused ballots, presuming that the total count provided on each package of unopened prepackaged ballots is correct;
- (4) the number of voted ballots indicating only a voter's choices as provided by section 206.80, paragraph (b), clause (2), item (ii), in precincts that use an assistive voting device that produces this type of ballot;
- 34.26 (5) the number of individuals who voted at the election in the precinct which must equal the total number of ballots cast in the precinct, as required by sections 204C.20 and 206.86, subdivision 1;
- 34.29 (6) the number of voters registering on election day in that precinct;
- 34.30 (7) the signatures of the election judges who counted the ballots certifying that all of the 34.31 ballots cast were properly piled, checked, and counted; and that the numbers entered by the

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election judges on the summary statements correctly show the number of votes cast for each candidate and for and against each question;

- (8) the number of election judges that worked in that precinct on election day; and
- (9) the number of voting booths used in that precinct on election day.

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- At least two copies of the summary statement must be prepared for elections not held on the same day as the state elections.
- Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.33, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
 - Subdivision 1. **County canvass.** The county canvassing board shall meet at the county auditor's office between the third and tenth eighth days following the state general election. After taking the oath of office, the board shall promptly and publicly canvass the general election returns delivered to the county auditor. Upon completion of the canvass, the board shall promptly prepare and file with the county auditor a report which states:
 - (a) the number of individuals voting at the election in the county and in each precinct;
 - (b) the number of individuals registering to vote on election day and the number of individuals registered before election day in each precinct;
 - (c) the names of the candidates for each office and the number of votes received by each candidate in the county and in each precinct;
 - (d) the number of votes counted for and against a proposed change of county lines or county seat; and
 - (e) the number of votes counted for and against a constitutional amendment or other question in the county and in each precinct.

The result of write-in votes cast on the general election ballots must be compiled by the county auditor before the county canvass, except that write-in votes for a candidate for federal, state, or county office must not be counted unless the candidate has timely filed a request under section 204B.09, subdivision 3. The county auditor shall arrange for each municipality to provide an adequate number of election judges to perform this duty or the county auditor may appoint additional election judges for this purpose. The county auditor may open the envelopes or containers in which the voted ballots have been sealed in order to count and record the write-in votes and must reseal the voted ballots at the conclusion of this process. The county auditor must prepare a separate report of votes received by precinct for write-in candidates for federal, state, and county offices who have requested under section 204B.09 that votes for those candidates be tallied.

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Upon completion of the canvass, the county canvassing board shall declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each county and state office voted for only within the county. The county auditor shall transmit a certified copy of the county canvassing board report for state and federal offices to the secretary of state by messenger, express mail, or similar service immediately upon conclusion of the county canvass.

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- Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 204C.33, subdivision 3, is amended 36.6 to read: 36.7
 - Subd. 3. State canvass. The State Canvassing Board shall meet at a public meeting space located in the Capitol complex area on the third Tuesday 16th day following the state general election to canvass the certified copies of the county canvassing board reports received from the county auditors and shall prepare a report that states:
 - (1) the number of individuals voting in the state and in each county;
 - (2) the number of votes received by each of the candidates, specifying the counties in which they were cast; and
- (3) the number of votes counted for and against each constitutional amendment, specifying 36.15 the counties in which they were cast. 36.16
- If the 16th day falls on a state holiday, the canvassing board shall meet on the next business 36.17 day. 36.18
 - All members of the State Canvassing Board shall sign the report and certify its correctness. Within three days after completing the canvass, the State Canvassing Board shall declare the result and declare the candidates duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each federal office and for each state office voted on in more than one county.
- Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.35, subdivision 1, is amended to read: 36.24
- Subdivision 1. **Publicly funded recounts.** (a) In a state primary when the difference 36.25 between the votes cast for the candidates for nomination to: 36.26
 - (1) a state legislative office is less than one-half of one percent of the total number of votes counted for that nomination or is ten votes or less and the total number of votes cast for the nomination is 400 votes or less; or
- (2) a statewide federal office, state constitutional office, statewide judicial office, 36.30 congressional office, or district judicial office is less than one-quarter of one percent of the 36.31

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total number of votes counted for that nomination or is ten votes or less and the total number of votes cast for the nomination is 400 votes or less;

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and the difference determines the nomination, the canvassing board with responsibility for declaring the results for that office shall manually recount the vote upon receiving a written request from the candidate whose nomination is in question.

Immediately following the meeting of the board that has responsibility for canvassing the results of the nomination, the filing officer must notify the candidate that the candidate has the option to request a recount of the votes at no cost to the candidate. This written request must be received by the filing officer no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second day after the canvass of the primary for which the recount is being sought.

- (b) In a state general election when the difference between the votes of a candidate who would otherwise be declared elected to:
- (1) a state legislative office is less than one-half of one percent of the total number of votes counted for that office or is ten votes or less and the total number of votes cast for the office is 400 votes or less; or
- (2) a statewide federal office, state constitutional office, statewide judicial office, congressional office, or district judicial office and the votes of any other candidate for that office is less than one-quarter of one percent of the total number of votes counted for that office or is ten votes or less if the total number of votes cast for the office is 400 votes or less,
- the canvassing board shall manually recount the votes upon receiving a written request from the candidate whose election is in question.
- Immediately following the meeting of the board that has responsibility for canvassing the results of the general election, the filing officer must notify the candidate that the candidate has the option to request a recount of the votes at no cost to the candidate. This Except as provided in subdivision 2b, the written request must be received by the filing officer no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second day after the canvass of the election for which the recount is being sought.
- (c) A recount must not delay any other part of the canvass. The results of the recount must be certified by the canvassing board as soon as possible.
- 37.31 (d) Time for notice of a contest for an office which is recounted pursuant to this section 37.32 shall begin to run upon certification of the results of the recount by the canvassing board.

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Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.35, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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Subd. 2. Discretionary candidate recounts. (a) A losing candidate whose name was on the ballot for nomination or election to a statewide federal office, state constitutional office, statewide judicial office, congressional office, state legislative office, or district judicial office may request a recount in a manner provided in this section at the candidate's own expense when the vote difference is greater than the difference required by this section. The votes shall be manually recounted as provided in this section if the candidate files a request during the time for filing notice of contest of the primary or election for which a recount is sought.

- (b) The requesting candidate shall file with the filing officer a bond, cash, or surety in an amount set by the filing officer for the payment of the recount expenses. The requesting candidate is responsible for the following expenses: the compensation of the secretary of state, or designees, and any election judge, municipal clerk, county auditor, administrator, or other personnel who participate in the recount; necessary supplies and travel related to the recount; the compensation of the appropriate canvassing board and costs of preparing for the canvass of recount results; and any attorney fees incurred in connection with the recount by the governing body responsible for the recount.
- (c) A discretionary recount of a primary must not delay delivery of the notice of nomination to the winning candidate under section 204C.32.
- (d) The requesting candidate may provide the filing officer with a list of up to three precincts that are to be recounted first and may waive the balance of the recount after these precincts have been counted. If the candidate provides a list, the recount official must determine the expenses for those precincts in the manner provided by paragraph (b).
- (e) The results of the recount must be certified by the canvassing board as soon as possible.
- (f) If the winner of the race is changed by the optional recount, the cost of the recount must be paid by the jurisdiction conducting the recount.
- (g) If a result of the vote counting in the manual recount is different from the result of the vote counting reported on election day by a margin greater than the standard for acceptable performance of voting systems provided in section 206.89, subdivision 4, two votes and greater than one-quarter of one percent of the number of ballots counted, the cost of the recount must be paid by the jurisdiction conducting the recount.

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Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.35, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

- Subd. 2b. Recount for presidential electors. Any request for recount for the election of presidential electors, whether publicly funded or discretionary, must be made by 5 p.m. on the day after the canvass is completed. Any recount of votes under this section for the election of presidential electors must be completed and certified by the canvassing board no later than six days after the recount is requested.
- Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.36, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. Discretionary candidate recounts. (a) A losing candidate for nomination or election to a county, municipal, or school district office may request a recount in the manner provided in this section at the candidate's own expense when the vote difference is greater than the difference required by subdivision 1, paragraphs (a) to (e). The votes shall be manually recounted as provided in this section if the requesting candidate files with the county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk a bond, cash, or surety in an amount set by the governing body of the jurisdiction or the school board of the school district for the payment of the recount expenses.
- (b) The requesting candidate may provide the filing officer with a list of up to three precincts that are to be recounted first and may waive the balance of the recount after these precincts have been counted. If the candidate provides a list, the recount official must determine the expenses for those precincts in the manner provided by paragraph (b).
- (c) A discretionary recount of a primary must not delay delivery of the notice of nomination to the winning candidate under section 204C.32.
- (d) The results of the recount must be certified by the canvassing board as soon as 39.23 possible. 39.24
- (e) If the winner of the race is changed by the optional recount, the cost of the recount 39.25 must be paid by the jurisdiction conducting the recount. 39.26
 - (f) If a result of the vote counting in the manual recount is different from the result of the vote counting reported on election day by a margin greater than the standard for acceptable performance of voting systems provided in section 206.89, subdivision 4 two votes and greater than one-quarter of one percent of the number of ballots recounted, the cost of the recount must be paid by the jurisdiction conducting the recount.

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Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.36, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

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Subd. 3. Discretionary ballot question recounts. A recount may be conducted for a ballot question when the difference between the votes for and the votes against the question is less than or equal to the difference provided in subdivision 1. A recount for a ballot question may be requested by any person eligible to vote on the ballot question. A written request for a recount must be filed with the filing officer of the county, municipality, or school district placing the question on the ballot and must be accompanied by a petition containing the signatures of 25 voters eligible to vote on the question. Upon receipt of a written request when the difference between the votes for and the votes against the question and the number required for passage is less than or equal to the difference provided in subdivision 1, the county auditor shall recount the votes for a county question at the expense of the county, the governing body of the municipality shall recount the votes for a municipal question at the expense of the municipality, and the school board of the school district shall recount the votes for a school district question at the expense of the school district. If the difference between the votes for and the votes against the question and the number required for passage is greater than the difference provided in subdivision 1, the person requesting the recount shall also file with the filing officer of the county, municipality, or school district a bond, cash, or surety in an amount set by the appropriate governing body for the payment of recount expenses. The written request, petition, and any bond, cash, or surety required must be filed during the time for notice of contest for the election for which the recount is requested.

Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 205.16, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Sample ballot, publication. For every municipal election not held in conjunction with a statewide election, the municipal clerk must, at least two weeks before the election, publish a notice to voters pursuant to section 204D.16 in the official newspaper of the municipality, except that the governing body of a fourth class city or a town not located within a metropolitan county as defined in section 473.121 may dispense with publication.

Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205.16, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. Notice to auditor. At least 74 84 days before every municipal election, the municipal clerk shall provide a written notice to the county auditor, including the date of the election, the offices to be voted on at the election, and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at the election. At least 74 84 days before every municipal

Sec. 48. 40 election, the municipal clerk must provide written notice to the county auditor of any special election canceled under section 205.10, subdivision 6.

- Sec. 49. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205.16, subdivision 5, is amended to read:
- Subd. 5. **Notice to secretary of state.** At least 74 84 days before every municipal election for which a notice is provided to the county auditor under subdivision 4, the county auditor shall provide a notice of the election to the secretary of state, in a manner and including information prescribed by the secretary of state.
- Sec. 50. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205A.05, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3. **Cancellation.** A special election ordered by the school board on its own motion under subdivision 1 may be canceled by motion of the school board, but not less than 74 days before an any election held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled election for federal, state, county, city, or school board office or a special election for federal office, or 41.13 days before any other election.
- Sec. 51. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205A.07, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3. Notice to auditor. At least 74 84 days before every school district election, the 41.15 school district clerk shall provide a written notice to the county auditor of each county in 41.16 which the school district is located. The notice must include the date of the election, the 41.17 offices to be voted on at the election, and the title and language for each ballot question to 41.18 be voted on at the election. For the purposes of meeting the timelines of this section, in a 41.19 bond election, a notice, including a proposed question, may be provided to the county auditor 41.20 before receipt of a review and comment from the commissioner of education and before 41.21 actual initiation of the election. At least 74 84 days before every school district election, 41.22 the school district clerk must provide written notice to the county auditor of any special 41.23 election canceled under section 205A.05, subdivision 3. 41.24
- Sec. 52. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205A.07, subdivision 3b, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3b. **Notice to secretary of state.** At least 74 84 days before every school district election for which a notice is provided to the county auditor under subdivision 3, the county auditor shall provide a notice of the election to the secretary of state, in a manner and including information prescribed by the secretary of state.

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Sec. 53. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205A.11, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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- Subd. 2. Combined polling place. (a) When no other election is being held in a school district, the school board may designate combined polling places at which the voters in those precincts may vote in the school district election.
- (b) By December 31 of each year, the school board must designate, by resolution, any changes to combined polling places. The combined polling places designated in the resolution are the polling places for the following calendar year, unless a change is made in accordance with this paragraph or:
- (1) pursuant to section 204B.175; or 42.9
- (2) because a polling place has become unavailable. 42.10
- (c) If the school board designates combined polling places pursuant to this subdivision, 42.11 polling places must be designated throughout the district, taking into account both 42.12 geographical distribution and population distribution. A combined polling place must be at 42.13 a location designated for use as a polling place by a county or municipality. 42.14
- (d) In school districts that have organized into separate board member election districts 42.15 under section 205A.12, a combined polling place for a school general election must be 42.16 arranged so that it does not include more than one board member election district. 42.17
- Sec. 54. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 206.61, subdivision 1, is amended 42.18 to read: 42.19
- Subdivision 1. Official responsible for providing ballots. (a) The official charged with 42.20 providing paper ballots when they are used shall provide all ballot cards, sample ballots, 42.21 precinct summary statements, and other necessary supplies needed for electronic voting 42.22 systems, except as otherwise provided by this section. 42.23
 - (b) At general elections and primaries the county auditor of each county in which an electronic voting system is used shall provide all ballot cards and other necessary printed forms and supplies needed for the electronic voting system, including all forms needed for voting on candidates and questions, the ballots for which are required by the election laws to be provided by the state when paper ballots are used.
- (c) In precincts using a ballot format as provided by section 206.80, paragraph (b), clause 42.29 (2), item (ii), voters must be provided the option of voting with a regularly printed optical 42.30 42.31 scan ballot or paper ballot in precincts that hand count ballots.

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Sec. 55. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 206.89, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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Subd. 2. **Selection for review; notice.** At the canvass of the state primary, the county canvassing board in each county must set the date, time, and place for the postelection review of the state general election to be held under this section. The postelection review must not begin before the 11th ninth day after the state general election and must be complete no later than the 18th 14th day after the state general election.

At the canvass of the state general election, the county canvassing boards must select the precincts to be reviewed by lot. The ballots to be reviewed for a precinct include both the ballots counted at the polling place for that precinct and the absentee ballots counted centrally by a ballot board for that precinct. The county canvassing board of a county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters must conduct a postelection review of a total of at least two precincts. The county canvassing board of a county with between 50,000 and 100,000 registered voters must conduct a review of a total of at least three precincts. The county canvassing board of a county with over 100,000 registered voters must conduct a review of a total of at least four precincts, or three percent of the total number of precincts in the county, whichever is greater. At least one precinct selected in each county must have had more than 150 votes cast at the general election.

The county auditor must notify the secretary of state of the precincts that have been chosen for review and the time and place the postelection review for that county will be conducted, as soon as the decisions are made. If the selection of precincts has not resulted in the selection of at least four precincts in each congressional district, the secretary of state may require counties to select by lot additional precincts to meet the congressional district requirement. The secretary of state must post this information on the office website.

Sec. 56. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 206.89, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Scope and conduct of review.** The county canvassing board shall appoint the postelection review official as defined in subdivision 1. The postelection review must be conducted of the votes cast for president or governor; United States senator; and United States representative. The postelection review official may conduct postelection review of the votes cast for additional offices.

The postelection review must be conducted in public at the location where the voted ballots have been securely stored after the state general election or at another location chosen by the county canvassing board. The postelection review official for each precinct selected must conduct the postelection review and may be assisted by election judges designated by the postelection review official for this purpose. The party balance requirement of section

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204B.19 applies to election judges designated for the review. The postelection review must consist of a manual count of the ballots used in the precincts selected and must be performed in the manner provided by section 204C.21. The postelection review must be conducted in the manner provided for recounts under section 204C.361 to the extent practicable. The review must be completed no later than two days one day before the meeting of the state canvassing board to certify the results of the state general election.

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Sec. 57. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 206.89, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. Additional review. (a) If the postelection review in one of the reviewed precincts reveals a difference greater than the thresholds specified in subdivision 4, the postelection review official must, within two days one day, conduct an additional review of the races indicated in subdivision 3 in at least three precincts in the same jurisdiction where the discrepancy was discovered. If all precincts in that jurisdiction have been reviewed, the county auditor must immediately publicly select by lot at least three additional precincts for review. The postelection review official must complete the additional review within two days one day after the precincts are selected and report the results immediately to the county auditor. If the second review in any of the reviewed precincts also indicates a difference in the vote totals compiled by the voting system that is greater than the thresholds specified in subdivision 4, the county auditor must conduct a review of the ballots from all the remaining precincts in the county for the races indicated in subdivision 3. This review must be completed and the results must be reported to the secretary of state within one week six days after the second review was completed.

(b) If the results from the countywide reviews from one or more counties comprising in the aggregate more than ten percent of the total number of persons voting in the election clearly indicate that an error in vote counting has occurred, the secretary of state must notify the postelection review official of each county in the district that they must conduct manual recounts of all the ballots in the district for the affected office using the procedure outlined in section 204C.35. The recount must be completed and the results reported to the appropriate canvassing board within two weeks one week after the postelection review official received notice from the secretary of state.

Sec. 58. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 206.89, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. Report of results. Upon completion of the postelection review, the postelection review official must immediately report the results to the county auditor. The county auditor must then immediately submit the results of the postelection review electronically or in

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writing to the secretary of state not later than two days one day before the State Canvassing Board meets to canvass the state general election. The secretary of state shall report the results of the postelection review at the meeting of the State Canvassing Board to canvass the state general election.

Sec. 59. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 208.06, is amended to read:

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208.06 ELECTORS AND ALTERNATES TO MEET AT STATE CAPITOL.

The presidential electors and alternate presidential electors, before 12:00 M. on the day before that fixed by Congress for the electors to vote for president and vice president of the United States, shall notify the governor that they are at the State Capitol and ready at the proper time to fulfill their duties as electors. The governor or the governor's designee shall deliver to the electors present a certificate of the names of all the electors. The electors shall meet at 12:00 p.m. in the executive chamber of the State Capitol and. The electors shall perform all the duties imposed upon them as electors by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this state in the manner provided in section 208.46.

Sec. 60. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 208.44, is amended to read:

208.44 CERTIFICATION OF ELECTORS.

- In submitting this state's certificate of ascertainment as required by United States Code, title 3, section 6 5, the governor shall certify this state's electors and state in the certificate that:
- (1) the electors will serve as electors unless a vacancy occurs in the office of elector before the end of the meeting at which elector votes are cast, in which case a substitute elector will fill the vacancy; and
- 45.23 (2) if a substitute elector is appointed to fill a vacancy, the governor will submit an
 45.24 amended certificate of ascertainment stating the names on the final list of this state's electors.
- Sec. 61. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 208.47, is amended to read:

208.47 ELECTOR REPLACEMENT; ASSOCIATED CERTIFICATES.

(a) After the vote of this state's electors is completed, if the final list of electors differs from any list that the governor previously included on a certificate of ascertainment prepared and transmitted under United States Code, title 3, section 65, the secretary of state immediately shall prepare an amended certificate of ascertainment and transmit it to the governor for the governor's signature.

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- (b) The governor immediately shall deliver the signed amended certificate of ascertainment to the secretary of state and a signed duplicate original of the amended certificate of ascertainment to all individuals entitled to receive this state's certificate of ascertainment, indicating that the amended certificate of ascertainment is to be substituted for the certificate of ascertainment previously submitted.
- (c) The secretary of state shall prepare a certificate of vote. The electors on the final list shall sign the certificate. The secretary of state shall process and transmit the signed certificate with the amended certificate of ascertainment under United States Code, title 3, sections 9, 10, and 11.
- Sec. 62. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 209.01, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
 - Subd. 2. **Statewide office.** For purposes of this chapter, "statewide office" means the office of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, secretary of state, chief justice or associate justice of the supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, <u>or</u> United States senator, or presidential elector or alternate.

Sec. 63. [209A.01] DEFINITIONS.

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The definitions in chapter 200 apply to this chapter.

Sec. 64. [209A.02] CONTESTANT; GROUNDS.

Any eligible voter, including a candidate, wishing to contest the election of the presidential elector or alternate in the courts of this state whether over an irregularity in the conduct of an election or canvass of votes, over the question of who received the largest number of votes legally cast, on the grounds of deliberate, serious, and material violations of Minnesota election law, or on any other ground must do so according to this chapter.

Sec. 65. [209A.03] NOTICE OF CONTEST.

Subdivision 1. Manner; time; contents. Service of a notice of contest must be made in the same manner as the service of summons in civil actions. The notice of contest must specify the grounds on which the contest will be made. The contestant shall serve notice of the contest on the parties enumerated in this section. Notice must be served and filed on or before 5:00 p.m. one day after the canvass is completed, except that if the election is being recounted pursuant to section 204C.35, the time for notice of a contest shall begin to run upon certification of the results of the recount by the canvassing board.

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Subd. 2. Notice filed with court. The contestant shall file the notice of contest under 47.1 47.2 this section with the supreme court. 47.3 Subd. 3. **Notice served on parties.** The notice of contest must be served on all candidates for the office and on any other party as required by the court. A copy must also be furnished 47.4 47.5 to the governor and secretary of state. If personal or substituted service on any party cannot be made, an affidavit of the attempt by the person attempting to make service and the 47.6 affidavit of the person who sent a copy of the notice to the contestee by certified mail are 47.7 47.8 sufficient to confer jurisdiction upon the court to decide the contest. Sec. 66. [209A.04] CONTESTEE'S ANSWER. 47.9 Subdivision 1. Contest of vote count. If a notice of contest questions only which of the 47.10 parties to the contest received the highest number of votes legally cast at the election, the 47.11 contestee need not file an answer, unless the contestee desires to raise issues not specified 47.12 in the notice of contest. 47.13 Subd. 2. Other contests. For all other election contests the contestee's answer to the 47.14 47.15 notice of contest must be filed and served on all candidates for the office and on any other 47.16 party as required by the court. A copy must also be furnished to the governor and secretary of state. The answer must so far as practicable conform to the rules for pleading in civil 47.17 actions. Service and filing of the answer must be made two days after service of the notice 47.18 of contest. The contestee's answer must be served in the same manner as the answer in a 47.19 civil action or in the manner the court may order. Any other notices must be served in the 47.20 47.21 manner and within the times the court may order. Sec. 67. [209A.05] VENUE. 47.22 The court for the election contest of presidential electors shall be the supreme court. 47.23 Sec. 68. [209A.06] GUARDING AND INSPECTING THE BALLOTS. 47.24 The provisions of sections 209.05 and 209.06 apply to election contests filed under this 47.25 section. The chief justice of the supreme court shall appoint any inspectors required under 47.26 this section. 47.27 Sec. 69. [209A.07] PLEADINGS; PROCEDURE. 47.28 The notice of contest and any answer are the pleadings in the case and may be amended 47.29 in the discretion of the supreme court. The contest proceedings must be brought as soon as 47.30 practicable. The court shall proceed in the manner provided for the trial of civil actions so 47.31

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far as practicable, but must issue its decision at least one day before the deadline to submit the certificate of ascertainment as required under the laws of the United States.

Sec. 70. [209A.08] RESULTS OF CONTEST.

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Subdivision 1. Generally. When the court decides an election contest under this chapter, the court may invalidate and revoke any election certificate which has been issued to a presidential elector. If the contest involved an error in the counting of ballots, the official authorized to issue the certificate of election shall issue the certificate to the person entitled to it, but if a contestant succeeds in a contest where there is no question as to which of the candidates received the highest number of votes cast at the election, the contestant is not, by reason of the disqualification of the contestee, entitled to the certificate of election.

Subd. 2. **Defective ballots.** In a contested election, if the court decides that a serious and material defect in the ballots used changed the outcome of the election, the election must be declared invalid.

- Subd. 3. Costs of contest. If the contestee succeeds, costs of the contest must be paid by the contestant. If the contestant succeeds, costs of the contest must be paid by the contestee, except that if the contestee loses because of an error in the counting of ballots or canvass of the returns or because of any other irregularity in the election procedure, costs must be paid, in the discretion of the judge, by the election jurisdictions responsible for errors which resulted in the reversal of the prior results of the election.
- Sec. 71. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3. **Candidate.** "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county, municipal, school district, or other political subdivision office. This definition does not include an individual seeking a judicial office. For purposes of sections 211A.01 to 211A.05 and 211A.07, "candidate" also includes a candidate for the United States Senate or House of Representatives.
- Sec. 72. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:
- Subd. 4a. Committee. "Committee" means a group established by a candidate of two
 or more persons working together to support the election of the candidate to a political
 subdivision office. A committee may accept contributions and make disbursements on behalf
 of the candidate.

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law to place a ballot question on the ballot.

Sec. 73. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Filing officer.** "Filing officer" means the officer authorized by law to accept affidavits of candidacy or nominating petitions for an office or the officer authorized by

Sec. 74. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

- Subd. 8. **Political purposes.** An act is done for "political purposes" if it is of a nature, done with the intent, or done in a way to influence or tend to influence, directly or indirectly, voting <u>for a candidate</u> at a primary or an election or if it is done because a person is about to vote, has voted, or has refrained from voting for a candidate at a primary or an election.
- Sec. 75. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 211A.02, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
 - Subdivision 1. When and where filed by committees or candidates. (a) A committee or a candidate who receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than \$750 in a calendar year shall submit an initial report to the filing officer within 14 days after the candidate or committee receives or makes disbursements of more than \$750 and shall must continue to make the reports listed in paragraph (b) required by this subdivision until a final report is filed.
 - (b) The committee or In a year in which a candidate must file a report by January 31 of each year following the year when the initial report was filed and in a year when receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than \$750 or the candidate's name or a ballot question appears on the ballot, the candidate or committee shall must file a report:
 - (1) ten days before the primary or special primary. This report is required if a primary is held in the jurisdiction, regardless of whether the candidate or issue is on the primary ballot or. If a primary is not conducted, the report is due ten days before the primary date specified in section 205.065;
 - (2) ten days before the general election or special election; and
- 49.27 (3) 30 days after a general or special election.
 - The reporting obligations in this paragraph begin with the first report due after the reporting period in which the candidate reaches the spending threshold specified in paragraph (a). A candidate who did not file for office is not required to file reports required by this paragraph that are due after the end of the filing period. A candidate whose name will not be on the general election ballot is not required to file the reports required by clauses (2) and (3).

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(c) Until a final report is filed, a candidate must file a report by January 31 of each year.

Notwithstanding subdivision 2, clause (4), the report required by this subdivision must only include the information from the previous calendar year.

- Sec. 76. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.02, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. **Information required.** The report to be filed by a candidate or committee must include:
 - (1) the name of the candidate or ballot question and office sought;

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- (2) the printed name, address, telephone number, signature, and email address, if available, of the person responsible for filing the report;
 - (3) the total cash on hand designated to be used for political purposes;
- (4) the total amount of contributions <u>received</u> and <u>the total amount of disbursements</u> for the period from the last previous report to five days before the current report is due;
- (5) the amount, date, and purpose for each disbursement if disbursements made to the same vendor exceed \$100 in the aggregate during the period covered by the report, the name and address for the vendor and the amount, date, and purpose for each disbursement; and
- (6) the name, address, and employer, or occupation if self-employed, of any individual or committee entity that during the year period covered by the report has made one or more contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$100, and the amount and date of each contribution. The filing officer must restrict public access to the address of any individual who has made a contribution that exceeds \$100 and who has filed with the filing officer a written statement signed by the individual that withholding the individual's address from the financial report is required for the safety of the individual or the individual's family.
- Sec. 77. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- Subdivision 1. **Penalty.** A candidate who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211A.02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The treasurer of a committee formed to promote or defeat a ballot question who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211A.02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each candidate or treasurer of a committee formed to promote or defeat a ballot question shall must certify to the filing officer that all reports required by section 211A.02 have been submitted to the filing officer or that the candidate or committee has not received contributions or made disbursements exceeding \$750 in the calendar year. The certification shall must be submitted to the filing officer no later than seven days after

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the general or special election. The secretary of state shall must prepare blanks for this certification. An officer who issues a certificate of election to a candidate who has not certified that all reports required by section 211A.02 have been filed is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 78. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.06, is amended to read:

211A.06 FAILURE TO KEEP ACCOUNT; PENALTY.

- A candidate, treasurer, or other individual who receives money for a committee is guilty 51.7 of a misdemeanor if the individual: 51.8
- (1) fails to keep a correct account as required by law; 51.9

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- 51.10 (2) mutilates, defaces, or destroys an account record; or
- (3) in the case of a committee, refuses upon request to provide financial information to 51.11 a candidate; and 51.12
- (4) does any of these things with the intent to conceal receipts or disbursements, the 51.13 purpose of receipts or disbursements, or the existence or amount of an unpaid debt or the 51.14 identity of the person to whom it is owed. 51.15
- Sec. 79. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.07, is amended to read: 51.16

211A.07 BILLS WHEN RENDERED AND PAID. 51.17

- A person who has a bill, charge, or claim against a candidate's candidate or a committee 51.18 51.19 shall must render it in writing to the candidate or committee within 60 days after the material or service is provided. A bill, charge, or claim that is not presented within 60 days after the 51.20 material or service is provided must not be paid.
- Sec. 80. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.12, is amended to read: 51.22

211A.12 CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.

(a) A candidate or a candidate's committee may not accept aggregate contributions made or delivered by an individual or an association, a political committee, political fund, or political party unit in excess of \$600 in an election year for the office sought and \$250 in other years; except that a candidate or a candidate's committee for an office whose territory has a population over 100,000 may not accept aggregate contributions made or delivered by an individual or an association, a political committee, political fund, or political party unit in excess of \$1,000 in an election year for the office sought and \$250 in other years.

Sec. 80. 51

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52.1	<u>(b)</u> The	following deliveries an	re not subject	to the bundling limitation	n in this section:
52.2	(1) deliv	very of contributions co	ollected by a 1	nember of the candidate	's committee, such
52.3	as a block w	vorker or a volunteer w	ho hosts a fun	draising event, to the con	nmittee's treasurer;
52.4	and				
52.5	(2) a de	livery made by an indi	vidual on beh	alf of the individual's spo	ouse.
52.6	(c) Notv	vithstanding sections 2	11A.02, subdiv	vision 3, and 410.21, this	section supersedes
52.7	any home r	ule charter.			
52.8	(d) For	purposes of this section	n, the terms "p	political committee," "po	litical fund," and
52.9	"political pa	arty unit" have the mea	anings given i	n section 10A.01.	
52.10	Sec. 81. N	Minnesota Statutes 202	2, section 211	A.14, is amended to read	d:
52.11	211A.14	4 CONTRIBUTIONS	AND SOLIC	CITATIONS DURING	LEGISLATIVE
52.12	SESSION.				
52.13	A legisl	ator or state constitution	onal officer wl	no is a candidate for a co	unty, city, or town
52.14	office, unde	er this chapter, and the	candidate's pr	incipal campaign commi	ttee, and any other
52.15	political con	mmittee with the candid	date's name or	title may not solicit or ac	cept a contribution
52.16	from a polit	tical committee, politic	<u>al</u> fund, or reg	gistered lobbyist during a	regular session of
52.17	the legislatu	ire. For purposes of this	s section, the to	erms "political committee	e," "political fund,"
52.18	and "lobbyi	ist" have the meanings	given in secti	on 10A.01.	
52.19	Sec. 82. N	Innesota Statutes 2023	Supplement,	section 211B.076, subdiv	ision 4, is amended
52.20	to read:				
52.21	Subd. 4	. Dissemination of per	rsonal inform	nation about an election	official. (a) A
52.22	person may	not knowingly and wi	thout consent	make publicly available	, including but not
52.23	limited to th	nrough the Internet, per	sonal informa	tion about an election off	icial or an election
52.24	official's fa	mily or household mer	mber if:		
52.25	(1) the ϵ	lissemination public av	vailability of i	nformation poses an imm	ninent and serious
52.26	threat to the	e official's safety or the	safety of an o	official's family or house	hold member; and
52.27	(2) the p	person making the info	rmation publi	cly available knows or re	easonably should
52.28	know of an	y imminent and seriou	s threat.		

(b) As used in this subdivision, "personal information" means the a home telephone

number, cell number, personal email address, name of the official's minor child, photographs

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of the official's minor child, home address of the election official or a member of an election official's family, directions to that a home, or photographs of that a home.

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EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 83. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211B.17, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Forfeiture of nomination or office.** Except as provided in subdivision 2, if a candidate is found guilty of violating this chapter <u>or section 609.771</u> or an offense was committed by another individual with the knowledge, consent, or connivance of the candidate, the court, after entering the adjudication of guilty, shall enter a supplemental judgment declaring that the candidate has forfeited the nomination or office. If the court enters the supplemental judgment, it shall transmit to the filing officer a transcript of the supplemental judgment, the nomination or office becomes vacant, and the vacancy must be filled as provided by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 84. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211B.18, is amended to read:

211B.18 DISQUALIFIED CANDIDATE NOT TO HOLD VARIOUS POSITIONS.

A candidate whose election to office has been set aside for a violation of this chapter or section 609.771 may not be appointed, during the period fixed by law as the term of the office, to fill a vacancy in that office. A candidate or other individual who is convicted of a violation of this chapter or section 609.771 may not be appointed, during the period fixed by law as the term of the office with respect to which the election was held and the offense was committed, to fill a vacancy that may occur in the office. An appointment to an office made contrary to the provisions of this section is void.

A candidate or other individual who is convicted of a violation of this chapter <u>or section</u> 609.771 is not qualified, during the period fixed by law as the term of the office with respect to which the election was held and the offense was committed, to fill a vacancy in an office for which the legislature may establish qualifications under article XII, section 3, of the Minnesota Constitution.

53.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Sec. 84. 53

Sec. 85. [241.062] COLLECTION OF INCARCERATED PERSON'S ADDRESS.
(a) As part of an incarcerated person's intake process, the commissioner of corrections
must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information listed in section 2.93,
subdivision 3, clauses (1) to (5), is collected and recorded. The information must be collected
in compliance with the format and guidelines developed pursuant to section 2.93, subdivisio
5. An incarcerated person who was participating in the Safe at Home program established
in chapter 5B, has safety concerns about providing a last residential address, or has safety
concerns for people residing at that address may decline to provide an address.
(b) The incarcerated person's last residential address and the information listed in section
2.93, subdivision 3, clauses (1) to (5), collected on intake and maintained by the
commissioner are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.
(c) Beginning in 2030, the commissioner must provide the information described in this
section electronically to the director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission as require
n section 2.93.
ubdivision to read: Subd. 3a Form of notice. The notice required by subdivision 2 must include all of the
Subd. 3a. Form of notice. The notice required by subdivision 2 must include all of the following information:
(1) the statement "Your right to vote has been restored.";
(2) a statement that says the person is eligible to vote if the person meets the eligibilit
requirements;
(3) a list of the eligibility requirements to vote;
(4) a statement that a voter registration application is attached to the notice and
information on all the ways to register to vote;
(5) information on where to find a list of documents to be used to provide current production
of residence;
(6) the statement "If you violate the conditions of release, the commissioner may revok
your release after due process and reimprison you. If that occurs, your right to vote is los
again while you are in prison.": and

(7) information on where the person may find more information about voting rights.

Sec. 86. 54

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Sec. 87. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 375.08, is amended to read:

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375.08 BOARD TO FILL VACANCIES IN COUNTY OFFICES.

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) or section 375.081, when a vacancy occurs in the office of an elected county auditor, county treasurer, county recorder, sheriff, county attorney, county surveyor, or coroner, the county board shall must fill it by appointment at a regular or special meeting. For that purpose it shall meet at the usual place of meeting, upon one day's notice from the chair or clerk, which shall be served personally upon each member in the same manner as a district court summons. The A person appointed shall to a vacancy pursuant to this paragraph must give the bond and take the oath required by law, and serve the remainder of the term, and until a successor qualifies.
- (b) When a vacancy occurs in the office of sheriff or county attorney less than 84 days before the state primary in the year preceding the end of the term, the county board may fill the vacancy by appointment at a regular or special meeting. A person appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to this paragraph serves only until the successor is elected. The person elected at the general election to the office for the ensuing term must take office immediately after receiving the certificate of election, filing the bond, and taking the oath of office.
- (c) When a vacancy occurs in an office that has a chief deputy or first assistant, the chief deputy or first assistant may perform all the duties and functions of the office until it is filled by appointment by the county board.

Sec. 88. [375.081] VACANCY IN OFFICE OF SHERIFF OR COUNTY ATTORNEY; OPTIONAL SPECIAL ELECTION.

- As an alternative to the appointment procedure provided in section 375.08, a vacancy in the office of sheriff or county attorney may be filled at a special election as provided in this section. The county board may, by resolution, call for a special election to be held on a date authorized by section 205.10, subdivision 3a. The person elected at the special election must take office immediately after receipt of the certificate of election and upon filing the bond and taking the oath of office and must serve the remainder of the unexpired term. This section does not apply to a vacancy that occurs less than 84 days before the state primary in the year preceding the end of the term.
- Sec. 89. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 447.32, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- Subd. 3. **Election notices.** At least two weeks before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy, the clerk of the district shall publish a notice stating the first and last day on

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which affidavits of candidacy may be filed, the places for filing the affidavits and the closing time of the last day for filing. The clerk shall post a similar notice in at least one conspicuous place in each city and town in the district at least ten days before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy.

At least 74 84 days prior to every hospital district election, the hospital district clerk shall provide a written notice to the county auditor of each county in which the hospital district is located. The notice must include the date of the election, the offices to be voted on at the election, and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at the election. The county auditor shall immediately provide a notice to the secretary of state in a manner and including information prescribed by the secretary of state.

The notice of each election must be posted in at least one public and conspicuous place within each city and town included in the district at least two weeks before the election. It must be published in the official newspaper of the district or, if a paper has not been designated, in a legal newspaper having general circulation within the district, at least two weeks before the election. Failure to give notice does not invalidate the election of an officer of the district. A voter may contest a hospital district election in accordance with chapter 209. Chapter 209 applies to hospital district elections.

Sec. 90. [471.3422] WEBSITE DOMAIN REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN COUNTIES, CITIES, AND TOWNS.

- (a) By June 1, 2026, every county and each municipality that administers elections shall use a .gov domain for the website address used by the county or municipality.
- (b) If a municipality has applied for a .gov domain but has not fully transitioned to using
 a .gov domain by June 1, 2026, the municipality is not in violation of this section. Such a
 municipality is in violation of this section if the municipality has not fully transitioned to
 using a .gov domain by June 1, 2028.
- Sec. 91. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.5151, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 56.27 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:
- 56.28 (1) "family or household member" has the meaning given in section 518B.01, subdivision 56.29 2;
- 56.30 (2) "law enforcement official" means both peace officers as defined in section 626.84, 56.31 subdivision 1, and persons employed by a law enforcement agency; and

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(3) "personal information" means a home telephone number, cell number, personal email 57.1 address, name of the official's minor child, photographs of the official's minor child, home 57.2 address, directions to a home, or photographs of a home. 57.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes 57.4 57.5 committed on or after that date. Sec. 92. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.5151, subdivision 2, is amended to read: 57.6 Subd. 2. Crime described. (a) It is a misdemeanor for a person to knowingly and without 57.7 consent make publicly available, including but not limited to through the Internet, personal 57.8 information about a law enforcement official or an official's family or household member, 57.9 if: 57.10 (1) the dissemination public availability of information poses an imminent and serious 57.11 threat to the official's safety or the safety of an official's family or household member; and 57.12 (2) the person making the information publicly available knows or reasonably should 57.13 know of the imminent and serious threat. 57.14 (b) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the person violates paragraph (a) and 57.15 a law enforcement official or an official's family or household member suffers great bodily 57.16 harm or death as a result of the violation. 57.17 (c) A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this section is guilty 57.18 of a gross misdemeanor. 57.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes 57.20 committed on or after that date. 57.21 Sec. 93. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 609.771, subdivision 1, is amended 57.22 to read: 57.23 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the 57.24 meanings given. 57.25 (b) "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to a federal, 57.26 statewide, legislative, judicial, or local office including special districts, school districts, 57.27 towns, home rule charter and statutory cities, and counties. 57.28 (c) "Deep fake" means any video recording, motion-picture film, sound recording, 57.29 57.30 electronic image, or photograph, or any technological representation of speech or conduct

Sec. 93. 57

substantially derivative thereof:

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58.1	(1) that is so realistic that a reasonable person would:
58.2	(i) believe it depicts speech or conduct of an individual who did not in fact engage in
58.3	such speech or conduct; or
58.4	(ii) have a fundamentally and materially different understanding of the substance or
58.5	meaning of the content of the speech or conduct compared to the unaltered, original version;
58.6	and
58.7	(2) the production of which was substantially dependent upon technical means, rather
58.8	than the ability of another individual to physically or verbally impersonate such individual.
58.9	(d) "Depicted individual" means an individual in a deep fake who appears to be engaging
58.10	in speech or conduct in which the individual did not engage.
58.11	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to crimes
58.12	committed on or after that date.
58.13	Sec. 94. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 609.771, subdivision 2, is amended
58.14	to read:
58.15	Subd. 2. Use of deep fake to influence an election; violation. (a) A person who
58.16	disseminates a deep fake or enters into a contract or other agreement to disseminate a deep
58.17	fake is guilty of a crime and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 3 if the person
58.18	knows or reasonably should know that the item being disseminated is a deep fake and
58.19	dissemination:
58.20	(1) takes place within 30 days before a political party nominating convention, presidential
58.21	primary, state primary, local primary, special primary, or special election or 90 days before
58.22	an a general election;
58.23	(2) is made without the consent of the depicted individual; and
58.24	(3) is made with the intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election.
58.25	(b) A website; social media platform; regularly published newspaper, magazine, or other
58.26	periodical, including an Internet or electronic publication; a radio or television broadcasting
58.27	station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer; or a
58.28	streaming service is not in violation of this section if the entity's only role is to distribute
58.29	political advertisements that are prohibited by this section.
58.30	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to crimes
58.31	committed on or after that date.

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Sec. 95. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 609.771, subdivision 3, is amended 59.1 to read: 59.2 Subd. 3. Use of deep fake to influence an election; penalty. (a) A person convicted of 59.3 violating subdivision 2 may be sentenced as follows: 59.4 59.5 (1) if the person commits the violation within five years of one or more prior convictions under this section, to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of 59.6 not more than \$10,000, or both; 59.7 (2) if the person commits the violation with the intent to cause violence or bodily harm, 59.8 to imprisonment for not more than 364 days or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, 59.9 or both; or 59.10 (3) in other cases, to imprisonment for not more than 90 days or to payment of a fine of 59.11 not more than \$1,000, or both. 59.12 (b) In the case of a candidate convicted of violating subdivision 2, the court must enter 59.13 a supplemental judgment declaring that the candidate has forfeited the nomination or office 59.14 in accordance with section 211B.17. 59.15 (c) A candidate or other individual convicted of violating subdivision 2 is disqualified 59.16 from being appointed to that office or any other office for which the legislature may establish 59.17 qualifications under the Minnesota Constitution, article XII, section 3, in accordance with 59.18 section 211B.18. 59.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024, and applies to crimes 59.20 committed on or after that date. 59.21 Sec. 96. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 609.771, subdivision 4, is amended 59.22 to read: 59.23 Subd. 4. Injunctive relief. A cause of action for injunctive or equitable relief may be 59.24 maintained against any person who is reasonably believed to be about to violate or who is 59.25 in the course of violating this section by: 59.26 (1) the attorney general; 59.27 59.28 (2) a county attorney or city attorney; (3) the depicted individual; or 59.29

(4) a candidate for nomination or election to a public office who is injured or likely to

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be injured by dissemination.

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60.1	EFFECT	TIVE DATE. This sec	etion is effective	July 1, 2024, and appli	es to acts committed
60.2	on or after th	nat date.			
	C 07 M		02 G 1 4	. (00.771 :	1 11 11
60.3			23 Supplement,	section 609.771, is an	nended by adding a
60.4	subdivision 1	to read:			
60.5	<u>Subd. 5.</u>	Severability. If any or	ne or more prov	ision, subdivision, sent	ence, clause, phrase,
60.6	or word of the	nis section or the appl	lication of it to	any person or circums	tance is found to be
60.7	unconstitutio	onal, it is declared to	be severable an	d the balance of this s	ection shall remain
60.8	effective not	withstanding that unc	onstitutionality	The legislature intend	ds that it would have
60.9	passed this s	ection, and each prov	vision, subdivis	ion, sentence, clause, j	phrase, or word,
60.10	regardless of	the fact that any one	provision, sub	division, sentence, clar	use, phrase, or word
60.11	is declared u	nconstitutional.			
60.12	EFFECT	TIVE DATE. This se	ction is effective	ve July 1, 2024.	
60.13	Sec. 98. <u>Co</u>	OLLECTION OF C	URRENT INC	CARCERATED PERS	SON'S ADDRESS.
60.14	Prior to A	April 1, 2030, the com	nmissioner of co	orrections must make i	easonable efforts to
60.15	collect from	or confirm with each	incarcerated p	erson the following in	formation:
60.16	(1) the re	sidential address of the	he person imme	ediately prior to incard	ceration or, if the
60.17	person reside	ed in an area lacking	a specific phys	ical address immediate	ely prior to
60.18	incarceration	n, a description of the	physical locati	on where the person r	egularly stayed
60.19	immediately	prior to being incarc	erated; and		
60.20	(2) the fo	ollowing demographic	e information: t	he racial and ethnic in	formation collected
60.21	by the censu	s and whether the per	rson is over the	age of 18.	
60.22	This section	only applies to an inc	carcerated person	on who was incarcerat	ed prior to the date
60.23	the commiss	ioner started routinel	y collecting the	information in clause	es (1) and (2) as part
60.24	of the intake	process.			
60.25	Sec. 99. <u>S</u> 7	TATE AND LOCAL	LOBBYING	ACTIVITY; STUDY	REQUIRED.
60.26	The Cam	paign Finance and Pu	ublic Disclosur	e Board must study an	d, if appropriate,
60.27	make recom	mendations to the leg	islature on the o	definition of "lobbyist"	' for purposes of the
60.28	Minnesota S	tatutes. The study and	d recommendat	ions must focus prima	arily on whether the
60.29	law does or	should distinguish be	tween activities	s that constitute lobby	ing of a state

government official and activities that constitute lobbying of a local official. If the study

determines that a distinction between these activities is appropriate, the board must

Sec. 99. 60

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61.1	recommend options for the legislature to consider in adopting that distinction by law. The
61.2	board must submit a report describing the study, its results, and any associated
61.3	recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees
61.4	with jurisdiction over campaign finance and lobbyist registration policy no later than January
61.5	<u>15, 2025.</u>
61.6	Sec. 100. TRANSITION TO NEW VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.
61.7	Notwithstanding the requirements of this act, a completed voter registration application
61.8	submitted by a voter is not deficient for purposes of registering that voter if the application
61.9	form was printed or provided to the voter prior to the effective date of any modification
61.10	required by this act. Beginning on the effective date of a modification required by this act,
61.11	an election official must not print or copy a blank voter registration application that does
61.12	not include the required modification.
61.13	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2024.
61.14	Sec. 101. REVISOR INSTRUCTION.
61.15	The revisor of statutes must title Minnesota Statutes, chapter 209A, "Election Contests
61.16	- Presidential Elections."
61.17	Sec. 102. REPEALER.
61.18	(a) Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 211A.01, subdivisions 2 and 4; 211A.02,
61.19	subdivision 4; and 383B.031, are repealed.
61.20	(b) Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, sections 10A.201, subdivision 11; and 243.205,
61.21	subdivision 3, are repealed.
01.21	subdivision 3, are repeated.
61.22	EFFECTIVE DATE. The repeal of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.201, subdivision
61.23	11, is effective January 1, 2025, and applies to communications disseminated on or after
61.24	that date.
61.25	Sec. 103. EFFECTIVE DATE.
61.26	Unless otherwise specified, this act is effective July 1, 2024.

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REVISOR

Sec. 103. 61

APPENDIX Repealed Minnesota Statutes: S4729-1

10A.201 ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS; DEFINITIONS.

- Subd. 11. **Targeted to the relevant electorate.** "Targeted to the relevant electorate" means the communication can be received by 10,000 or more individuals:
- (1) in the district the candidate seeks to represent, in the case of a candidate for representative, senator, or other office represented by district; or
 - (2) in the entire state, if the candidate seeks a statewide office.

211A.01 DEFINITIONS.

- Subd. 2. **Ballot question.** "Ballot question" means a proposition placed on the ballot to be voted on by the voters of one or more political subdivisions but not by all the voters of the state.
- Subd. 4. **Committee.** "Committee" means a corporation or association or persons acting together to influence the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate or to promote or defeat a ballot question. Promoting or defeating a ballot question includes efforts to qualify or prevent a proposition from qualifying for placement on the ballot.

211A.02 FINANCIAL REPORT.

Subd. 4. **Congressional candidates.** Candidates for election to the United States House of Representatives or Senate and any political committees raising money and making disbursements exclusively on behalf of any one of those candidates may file copies of their financial disclosures required by federal law in lieu of the financial statement required by this section. A candidate or committee whose report is published on the Federal Election Commission website has complied with the filing requirements of this section.

243.205 NOTICE OF RESTORATION OF RIGHT TO VOTE.

Subd. 3. **Form of notice.** The notice required by subdivision 2 must appear substantially as follows:

"NOTICE OF RESTORATION OF YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE.

Your receipt of this notice today means that your right to vote in Minnesota has been restored. Before you can vote on election day, you still need to register to vote. To register, you may complete a voter registration application online or complete a paper application and return it to the Office of the Secretary of State or to your county auditor. You may also register to vote in your polling place on election day. You will not be permitted to cast a ballot until you register to vote. The first time you appear at your polling place to cast a ballot, you may be required to provide proof of your current residence."

383B.031 BOARD VACANCIES: MORE OR NOT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OUT.

Subdivision 1. **More than six months; special election.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 375.101, if a vacancy occurs in a seat on the Board of County Commissioners of Hennepin County more than six months before the general election in which a commissioner will next be selected to occupy such seat the county auditor shall, within seven days after the vacancy occurs, call a special election within the affected district to fill such vacancy. The auditor shall specify a date for the election to be held on a date authorized by section 205.10, subdivision 3a. Candidates shall file with the county auditor prior to the 35th day before the election. The primary election shall be held 14 days before the election. If no more than two candidates file for the office, the primary election shall be canceled and the date of the general election advanced 14 days.

- Subd. 2. **Minnesota Statutes controls; affidavit of candidacy.** Each person who wishes to file as a candidate in the election for which provision is made in subdivision 1 shall submit to the county auditor an affidavit for candidacy. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the special election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1965, chapter 203. The candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast in the special election shall be certified the winner.
- Subd. 3. **Not more than six months; general election.** A vacancy in a seat on a board of county commissioners which occurs not more than six months before the general election in which a commissioner will next be selected to occupy the seat shall be filled at the general election.
- Subd. 4. **Elected for unexpired term.** A person elected to the office of commissioner pursuant to the provisions of this section shall hold office for the unexpired term of the person's predecessor.