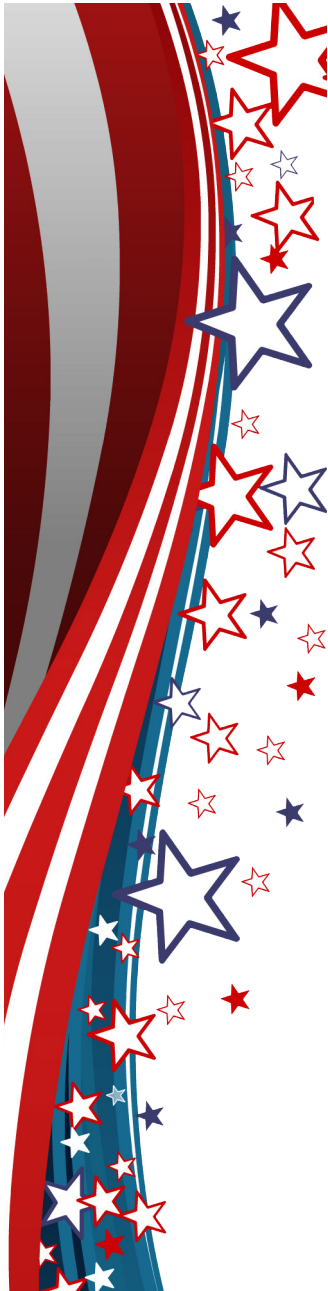




LeadingAge[™]
Minnesota

2018
Election
Guide





2018 ELECTION GUIDE

This election year, LeadingAge Minnesota is committed to three goals: (1) that senior care issues are a critical issue in the debate; (2) that all Minnesotans remain actively engaged citizens in our communities regardless of the setting in which they reside and; (3) that we leverage the opportunities that election season presents to highlight the importance of a strong continuum of care, services and support for our seniors.

To help reach these goals, we have prepared this **2018 Election Guide** for our members to help their residents, staff and volunteers exercise this right and get involved.

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*We are here to help!
Please feel free
to contact our
Advocacy Team with
any questions you have
about the
Election Season.*



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*Election Day
is Tuesday,
Nov. 6, 2018*

Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

IMPORTANT DATES:

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 14, 2018

- Absentee ballots are available starting Friday, June 29, 2018
- Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, July 24, 2018
- Voters can also register on [Election Day](#)

Election Day: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

- Absentee ballots are available starting Friday, September 21, 2018
- Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, October 16, 2018
- Voters can also register on [Election Day](#)

Learn more at learn more at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>

Offices on the Ballot in 2018

- United States Senators (2)
 - * 1 Special Election
 - * Regular Election
- United States Representatives (8)
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota
- Minnesota Constitutional Officers
 - * Attorney General
 - * State Auditor
 - * Secretary of State
- State Senator (1 – MN Senate District 13 Special Election)
- State Representatives (134)

Local offices may also be on general election ballots:

- County Commissioner
- City Officers
- School Board
- Township Officers





Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Before you can vote, you must register. In Minnesota, you may register at least 21 days before Election Day or you may register on Election Day at your polling place.

Voter Eligibility Requirements

- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day
- Have any felony conviction record discharged, expired or completed
- Not be under court-ordered guardianship where a court has revoked your voting rights
- Not have been ruled legally incompetent by a court of law

You can see your **Vote Registration Status** [HERE](#)

Your registration remains current until you move, change your name, or do not vote for four consecutive years. You may update your registration information by completing another Voter Registration Application. You may register to vote by completing a Voter Registration Application and submitting it online or by mail or you may register on Election Day.

Registration Deadlines

- [Register online](#) — deadline is 11:59 p.m., 21 days before Election Day.
- [Register by mail](#) — applications must be received by your election office by 5 p.m., 21 days before Election Day.
- [Register on Election Day](#)

WAYS TO VOTE

Early Voting

In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day. You can vote either in person before Election Day at a location designated by your county elections official or by mail. For more information on early voting go to <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>

Election Day Voting - Polling Place Information

Most polling places open at 7 a.m.; a few polling places in small townships located outside the eleven-county metropolitan area may open as late as 10 a.m. All polling places close at 8 p.m. got to <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> to find your polling place.

Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

Did you know?

[Minnesota Law](#) allows employees to take time off from work for the time necessary to vote without a reduction in pay. Employees cannot be required to use personal leave or vacation time for the time off necessary to vote. Since the law specifically states that an employer may not directly or indirectly refuse or interfere with an employee's right to vote, employers cannot instruct employees of when during work hours employees are excused to go and vote. However, employers may request that employees provide notification as to when they will be gone and request that employees coordinate their absences so as to minimize adverse impact on the workplace. Any complaints should be filed with the county attorney. A violation of this statute is a misdemeanor.

VOTING: FOR THOSE WE SERVE

Residents of residential facilities who wish to vote, may pre-register within 21, vote by absentee ballot, or register to vote on Election Day. Residents of certain residential facilities may have a ballot brought to them.

Residential facilities are defined as:

- Assisted-living facilities
- Battered women's shelters
- Group residential housing
- Homeless shelters
- Nursing homes
- Residential alcohol and chemical treatment programs
- Residential facilities for persons with developmental disabilities
- Supervised-living facilities
- Transitional housing
- Veterans' homes



Vote Absentee

With absentee voting, residents can vote either in person before Election Day at a location designated by a county elections official or by mail. Go to <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/> for more information on absentee voting.

Absentee Voter Outreach

Teams of election judges will go to nursing homes, hospitals, and other health care facilities (but not housing-with-services establishments) during the 20 days preceding the election to provide outreach to voters who may need absentee ballots.



Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

Have an Absentee Ballot Delivered

A resident of a nursing home, assisted living facility, residential treatment center, group home or battered women's shelter may have someone pick up and return an absentee ballot for them, this is called agent delivery. Agents must be at least 18 years old, have a pre-existing relationship with the resident and cannot be a candidate. No individual may be an agent of more than three voters in an election.

To have an agent pick up an absentee ballot, the voter must complete the absentee ballot application found at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/1910/2014-regular-absentee-ballot-application.pdf> and a request for agent delivery of absentee ballot at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/1915/request-for-agent-delivery-of-absentee-ballot.pdf> form. The agent should take both forms to the local election office, which you can find by clicking <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/find-county-election-office/>, to receive the ballot. The agent can pick up the ballot anytime starting seven days before the election through 2 p.m. on Election Day. Completed ballots must be returned by 3 p.m. on Election Day. Absentee ballots also may be returned by mail or special delivery service, the ballot must be received by election officials on or before Election Day.

Absentee Ballots for Newly Admitted Health Care Facility Patients/Residents

An eligible voter who on the day before an election becomes a resident or patient in a health care facility (e.g., hospital or nursing home) located in the municipality in which the eligible voter maintains residence may apply for an absentee ballot in two ways:

- The voter must request an application form by telephone from the municipal clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day before Election Day. In this case, election judges will deliver an absentee ballot to the voter on Election Day. The voter must be in a health care facility located in the municipality in which the voter maintains a residence, but the health care facility does not need to be in the same precinct as the voter's residence.
- The voter may also give an Absentee Ballot Application to the election judges who are in the facility to deliver absentee ballots. Again, this only is possible if the health care facility is located in the municipality in which the eligible voter maintains residence.

In addition to these two methods outlined in Chapter 203B.04, subd. 2, a newly admitted patient or resident of a hospital or nursing home may authorize an agent to pick up and deliver an absentee ballot as described above.



Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

Residential Facility Staff Can Help Register a Resident on Election Day

Registering on Election Day can be difficult for many residents due to the proof-of-residence needed, therefore facility staff may go with a resident to vouch for their residence. Any staff member can vouch for all eligible voters who are residents of the facility. Staff members must prove their employment with election officials. Methods of proof include:

- Sending a staff list of staff who may vouch for residents to election official in advance to the county election office. This list must be submitted 20 days before the election. If there are buildings in different precincts, send a separate form for each.
- Send a list of staff on company letterhead to the polling place. The letter must be signed and dated and include facility name, address, your name and title. Include in the letter, ““I certify that the following is a list of employees of this facility who may vouch on Election Day for eligible voters who are residents of this facility, and that this facility meets the definition of “residential facility” contained in M.S. 201.061, subd. 3, para.(c).”
- Have staff bring an employee identification badge to the polling place.

Voting Assistance

If a voter needs assistance because of a disability, inability to read or write, difficulty with English, or other reasons, the voter has several options.

- Get assistance from a person of the voter’s choice, except the voter’s employer, an officer or agent of the voter’s union, or a candidate for election.
- Get the assistance of two Election Judges from different parties
- Use the AutoMARK: Each polling place must have at least one voting machine accessible to disabled individuals, called the AutoMARK. It allows blind voters and those who have trouble marking the ballot themselves to vote independently by allowing voters to indicate their choices using a touch screen or headphones in combination with a keypad marked in Braille. The voter enters their choices and the AutoMARK prints the ballot for them. It does not count the votes or retain their choices. The voter then deposits their ballot into the optical scan ballot counter along with everyone else’s.
- Get the assistance of two individuals from different parties selected by the Election Judges
- Use curbside voting: An individual who is unable to enter a polling place may register and vote without leaving their vehicle. Two election judges who are members of different major political parties will come outside to assist the voter.

The election judges or other individuals who assist the voter may not request, persuade, induce, or attempt to persuade or induce the voter to vote for any particular political party or candidate. An individual assisting a voter may not reveal to anyone the name of any candidate for who the voter has voted or anything that took place while assisting the voter.

Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

Limits on assistance

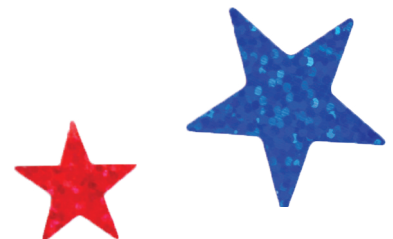
- An individual (other than an Election Judge) may not assist more than 3 voters in marking their ballots.
- However, **there is no limit on the number of voters that an individual may help**, as long as they do not accompany the voter into the voting booth.
- These limits **apply in all cases** - translation, disability, or literacy issues.

Persons assisting voters must not mark the ballot if the voter cannot communicate his or her intent. It is not enough to “know” how the voter wants or might want to vote. The voter must be able to express their preference and direct the person providing assistance to mark their ballot. If the voter cannot communicate his or her intent in a way in which the assistant can understand, the assistant must not mark the ballot - doing otherwise is a gross misdemeanor. (Minnesota Statutes, section 204 C.16)

ENGAGING CANDIDATES

Election season provides the unique opportunity to educate candidates about the importance of strengthening the continuum of care for our seniors. During elections, candidates are seeking ways to connect with voters, gather input from their communities about what issues are important and solidify their positions on key issues. As leaders in your communities, you can leverage election season to educate candidates about the unique and often complicated services we provide while also elevating the challenges we face. Our goal is to increase awareness and support for a strong continuum of care for seniors to make this a priority for Minnesota’s elected officials.

However, as many of our members are non-profits, there are some general rules you should understand. [NonProfit Vote](#) and the [Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#) are both excellent resources. LeadingAge has also prepared a resource entitled [Lobbying and Election Activity: Guiding Principles for Nonprofit Providers](#). Please refer to [LeadingAge.org](#) for more information.



Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

Why Get Involved in Elections?

- Get our issues in front of the candidates/future office holders
- Provide an opportunity for voters to learn about and meet the candidates
- Build relationships with the candidates who will impact public policy
- Influence public policy decisions through education and information

As providers of older adult services, you are uniquely positioned to get the attention of candidates. They may ask to door-knock your facility, invite your residents to a public event or attend an event at one of your settings. Use this opportunity to educate the candidate about services you provide and the seniors you serve.

Election Activity and Non-Profit Providers

Tax-exempt organizations may not advocate either for or against any political candidate's campaign for public office. Your organization may not endorse a candidate, contribute to a campaign financially, issue statements on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate, distribute statements others have written for or against a candidate, or allow its facilities or other assets to be used by a candidate unless all candidates are given similar opportunities.

People who work for tax-exempt organizations do not lose all their rights of citizenship, but any campaign activity you personally may want to undertake has to be done completely apart from your organization.

If, for example, you speak or write on behalf of a candidate, you must do it under your own name and on your own time and expense, not representing your organization, involving your staff, or using your organization's computer system, telephones, donor lists, or other assets. Since your staff's activities within the facility and during working hours are attributable to your organization, they need to be familiar and comply with these restrictions as well.





Voting in Minnesota: The Basics

Similarly, your organization's website, newsletter and other communications media must be free of any items endorsing or opposing a candidate.

Tax-exempt organizations may help people register to vote, get to a polling place, and educate themselves on those who are running for office. Especially because many of the people we serve may have mobility or other issues that prevent them from getting out on their own to vote or hear from the candidates, senior housing and long-term care facilities frequently assist their residents in these ways. However, all of these activities must be completely nonpartisan, not favoring any one candidate over others.

For example, nonprofit facilities may hold candidate forums for their residents to hear from those who are running for office as long as all candidates are invited and given equal time to speak, the organization makes it clear that it does not favor or oppose any of the candidates, and no fundraising occurs. Not every candidate has to attend in order for the function to proceed, but it must be explained at the function that all candidates were invited and any absences must be noted in a neutral manner. Invitations should be in writing to offer as proof should any questions arise.

Also, facilities may provide transportation to polling places as long as the service is provided on an equal basis to all residents and no distinction is made according to which candidate a resident may support.

If a facility distributes materials such as voter guides to residents, the material must be unbiased and nonpartisan, even if it has been prepared by outside groups.





Leveraging Elections to Highlight the Continuum of Care for our Seniors

WAYS TO ENGAGE POLICY MAKERS

During the election season, candidates may appear at your organization or settings in one of three ways: as a candidate, as a public figure or on their own at a public event. Following a few guidelines, you can use these opportunities to educate candidates about the services you provide to seniors and the importance of a strong continuum of care.

1. Inviting Candidates to Your Facility or Campus

There are many reasons you may want to invite candidates to visit your organization. This is an excellent way to educate candidates about the services you provide to seniors in your community. You can invite all of the candidates to the same event or each to different (but similar) events.

This only applies if you invite the candidates to your facility. All candidates must be allowed access to your residents for the purpose of campaigning. However, you may put reasonable limits or requirements on their access.

Just remember a few key points:

- No fundraising
- Make sure they each get the similar chance to speak for the same amount of time
- Let your residents know your event is non-partisan

2. Candidates Appearing as Public Figures

Most candidates already hold public office—as a mayor, state representative, governor or as a member of Congress. You may want them to attend your gala, holiday party or other event in their role as sitting elected official.

Just remember a few key points:

- The public figures' candidacy can play no part in your decision to invite them
- Their candidacy may not be mentioned
- Campaign activity of any type is prohibited

3. Candidates Appearing on their own at Public Events

As a leader in your community, many public officials may attend your public events, such as an open house or holiday party. Candidates may show up at these types of events. If you choose to recognize them, point out to the audience that this is not an endorsement. The candidate may not address the audience, distribute campaign literature or solicit contributions. But you can still use the opportunity to educate the candidate about the services you provide to seniors in your community and the importance of a strong continuum of care.

You can also review [this information](#) on candidate education from Nonprofit Votes for more details.



Leveraging Elections to Highlight the Continuum of Care for our Seniors

Host a Candidate Forum

A candidate event is a great way to engage your community around an upcoming election, to build support for our issues and to learn more about the candidates. It is also a wonderful opportunity to educate the community, candidates, important stakeholders and media about why a strong continuum of care for our seniors should be of top concern. Further, because your organization is considered a neutral broker with the best interest of the community in mind, your forum is a vital opportunity to increase public understanding the issues impacting seniors and their caregivers.

Hosting a candidate forum also takes much planning and coordination. LeadingAge Minnesota will also help you plan and execute your candidate forum, and you may receive a request from our Public Affairs team to host a forum in your community.

Important things to consider before hosting a candidate forum:

- Start planning early
- The forum must be non-partisan
- You may want to include other organizations, such as your local Chamber of Commerce, other senior living facilities in the area, local League of Women Voters, etc.
- If you want the public to attend, you will need to market your forum
- Remember to invite the media
- Inform LeadingAge Minnesota about the event

Attend Candidate Events

Another opportunity to educate candidates about our issues is to attend their events. Candidates hold many listening sessions, community forums and other opportunities to hear from community members. You can take advantage of these public opportunities to talk to the candidates, educate them about your organization, share with them the role of your organization in the community and the importance of a strong continuum of care for our seniors.



Leveraging Elections to Highlight the Continuum of Care for our Seniors

Getting Involved in Campaigns

You or your staff may also want to get involved in the campaign of a certain candidate. You may personally know a candidate or perhaps one candidate has been a champion of our issues and we need to ensure they stay in office to continue advocating for seniors. Whatever the reason, you can support a candidate—on your personal time and not representing your organization. Use a personal email address to communicate with campaign staffers and use personal time to door-knock, phone bank or literature drop. Be clear with the candidate and their campaign staff that you are not representing your organization, but you support him/her personally. Here are other resources from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

MESSAGES THAT MATTER

Being able to share your story in a meaningful way is key when talking with candidates. Further, many candidates are unfamiliar with older adult services and you can help educate them about our field and ways in which you serve seniors. As the election season approaches, LeadingAge Minnesota will provide its members with key messages and fact sheets on our priorities and the work we must do together to ensure we have a strong continuum of care for seniors across the state.

In addition, it is important to share key information about your organization and the residents you serve when talking with candidates. Be ready to share the following information when you encounter a candidate.





Leveraging Elections to Highlight the Continuum of Care for our Seniors

Key Messages

- No person should spend their retirement years alone and lacking adequate care. Most Minnesotans agree that care, services and housing for seniors needs to be one of the highest priorities of state government. While Minnesota has taken some steps to prepare for the wide-ranging implications of its fast-growing aging population, it is far from ready for the senior boom.
- Taking care of the elderly requires skills and compassion, but most of all it requires more people. There are more than 100,000 skilled, compassionate caregivers working in Minnesota to provide quality care and services for seniors; but they can't keep up with the demand. With nearly 3,000 open direct care positions, there is a workforce crisis in our state that could result in seniors not receiving the care and services they need.
- We need to ensure a continuum of care that lasts throughout our lifetimes to help people age in place. From in-home support and adult day services to assisted living, independent living and nursing homes, these integral services and supports help seniors preserve their quality of life.
- Elder abuse is unacceptable. We must work together to ensure that seniors live free of abuse, maltreatment and exploitation in their homes and communities.

Key information to share

- The number of seniors you serve
- Approximately how many seniors are from the community
- The types of settings and services you provide
- The number of employees you have
- Unique programs or services you provide to your residents
- Programs you provide that are open to the community
- Your important role in the community

Key questions to ask candidates

- Do you have personal connection to aging services?
- Are you familiar with the payment system for aging services?
- Are you familiar with the workforce challenges in aging services?
- What are your thoughts on how Minnesota can provide sustainable funding to help older adults age in their homes and communities?
- What information do you need to learn more about this field?



Leveraging Elections to Highlight the Continuum of Care for our Seniors

OTHER RULES THAT MAY APPLY

Candidate Access to Residential Dwellings

Minnesota Statutes Chapter §211B.20 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=211B.20>) prohibits anyone from denying access to a multiple-unit residential dwelling, including an apartment house, nursing home, or an area in which two or more single-family dwellings are located on private roadways to a candidate who has filed for election or to campaign workers accompanied by the candidate as long as the candidate and workers seeking admittance to the building do so solely for the purpose of campaigning. A violation of this law is a petty misdemeanor.

Individual residents may always refuse to let a candidate or campaign workers enter the resident's own room or apartment.

The law does allow providers to impose some limits or requirements on candidates and the campaign workers who accompany them. The law permits a provider to:

- Require reasonable and proper identification from the candidate as a necessary prerequisite to admission to a multiple unit dwelling;
- In the case of a nursing home, the provider may direct that campaign materials be left at a central location within the facility;
- In the case of a nursing home or a registered housing with services establishment providing assisted living services, the provider may deny permission to visit certain persons for valid health reasons;
- Limit visits by candidates or workers accompanied by the candidate to a reasonable number of persons or reasonable hours;
- Require a prior appointment to gain access to the facility (e.g., designate a time and date when the candidate can meet residents in a designated area); or
- Deny admittance to or expulsion from a multiple unit dwelling for good cause.

Candidate Signs in Residential Dwellings

The question is often raised about whether residents or tenants of multiple unit dwellings can place candidate elections signs in their windows. The law is silent on this issue. Minnesota Statute 211B.045 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=211B.045>) states that municipalities must allow campaign signs from 46 days prior to the state primary election to 10 days following the state general election, but there is nothing specifically about multi-unit dwellings. Building owners should exercise caution if considering a prohibition on campaign signs—especially if this is not covered in any lease agreements—and consult legal advice.

Leveraging Elections to Highlight the Continuum of Care for our Seniors

Fundraisers in tax-exempt organizations

Often residents or candidates will approach a provider and inquire about hosting a fundraiser for a candidate for political office. These requests often involve hosting the fundraiser in either the resident's apartment or a public area or room of the community.

Fundraisers in the resident's apartment may be allowed provided it is clear that the organization is not involved and it is clear as a tax-exempt organization it is nonpartisan and committed to not intervening in political campaigns. If the organization allows fundraisers in resident apartments the organization should have a policy that these gatherings must follow all current community policies and rules regarding use of the apartments, including number of guests, fire policies, no-solicitation policies, etc.

Fundraising requests in the common areas provide similar issues in that providers may rent out rooms in the organizations provided that they are equally available to all candidates and the room is rented out for similar terms (cost and conditions). Providers, however, are not mandated to rent out public areas or rooms for fundraisers as organizations may want to have a policy in place to avoid any appearance of partisanship or political campaign intervention.

If they choose to allow such events, the organization must make clear (in their policies and any marketing materials used to promote the event, whether drafted by the organization or residents) that the organization is a nonpartisan tax-exempt entity and is not participating, endorsing or taking a side in any such activity. Each community may decide on what types of activity it will allow based on their unique circumstances, but if they allow such activities they should develop policies that are nonpartisan and help protect the organization from any appearance of political campaign intervention.



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Or visit our website, www.LeadngAgeMN.org

