

Building Connections: Expanding Voter Access

PARTNERING WITH
ELECTION OFFICES TO
STRENGTHEN CAMPUS
ELECTION
PARTICIPATION



Introductions



Nicole Asche, Voter Registration Division Manager
Hennepin County Elections



Katie Smith, Director of Elections & Voter Services
Aaron Grossman, Manager of Election Administration
Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services

Today's Goals

Election Office Roles

- Voter Outreach

Student Voting Challenges

Relationship Building to Overcome Obstacles

Student Voter Registration & Postsecondary Institution Requirements

Early Voting

- Pop-Up Voting

Other Voting Options

Election Office Roles

Hennepin County

- Voter Registration
- Ballot Design & Preparation
- Candidate Filing & Campaign Finance of Certain Offices
- Early Voting in County/State/Federal Election Cycles for All County Residents
- Vote-by-mail for County Residents (Outside of Minneapolis)
- Post Election Reviews/Audits
- Voter Outreach
- UOCAVA and Overseas Voting
- Results Reporting

Minneapolis Elections

- Candidate Filing & Campaign Finance of Certain Offices
- Early Voting for City Residents
- Vote-by-mail for City Residents
- Polling Place Management
- Equipment Testing & Material Deployment
- Election Judge Training & Staffing
- Voter Outreach

*Responsibilities vary depending on State & County



Voter Outreach



Voter Outreach from Elections teams is non-partisan and focused on how/when/where to vote, registering to vote, and application for vote-by-mail

Seek to overcome challenges and barriers, and create long-lasting connections with community



This includes activities like:

Registration drives

Tabling at local events

Speeches & training sessions

Providing materials and information to community partners and organizations

Sharing accurate information through media and socials

Frequent Moves
Complicate
Registration

Confusion About
Residency Rules

Time Constraints

Transportation
Barriers

Early Voting
Knowledge/Access

Language or
Accessibility
Barriers

First-Time Voter
Confusion (Process
Confusion)

Voting Abroad

Student Voting Challenges

The Campus Turnover Challenge



Campus
organization
leaders change

Student
leaders
graduate

Institutional
knowledge is
lost

Building Your Election Office Relationship



Communication & Relationship Building

- Identify a contact at your local office
- Introduce yourself early
- Share plans
- Stay connected year-round
- Encourage overlap, information sharing, and continuation of established relationships



Sharing Resources

- Host nonpartisan voter information sessions & invite speakers
- Invite elections officials to table at nonpartisan events
- Share nonpartisan materials, voter registration applications, and absentee ballot request forms
- Elevate online and social media resources

Student Voter Registration

16- and 17-Year-Old Pre-Registration

Registration Process

- Early Registration
 - Online
 - By Mail
 - In-person
 - In-office
 - At a registration event or drive
 - Hosting your own registration event

Election Day Registration (EDR)

- Early, By Mail, or on Election Day
- Proofs of Residency
 - Student Housing Lists

 Register to vote:
mnvotes.gov/register



POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER REGISTRATION

MN Statute [201.1611](#)



The Requirements:

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.
- Designate a staff person as the campus vote coordinator to develop a voter engagement plan.
- Must maintain a webpage to share resources to help students determine where and how they are eligible to vote.

PROVISIONS TO FACILITATE VOTING.

MN Statute [135A.17](#)



Residential Housing List Requirements

All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting:

- **federal financial** aid **may** prepare a current list of students enrolled in the institution AND
 - residing in the institution's housing OR
 - within ten miles of the institution's campus.
- **state financial** aid **must**, prepare a current list of students enrolled in the institution AND
 - residing in the institution's housing OR
 - in the city or cities in which the campus is situated, if available.



The list shall include each student's current address



The list shall be certified and sent to the appropriate county auditor or auditors for use in election day registration as provided under section [201.061, subdivision 3](#).



Student housing list must now be certified to the county auditor no later than 35 days before each election (previously 20 days)



A residential housing list provided under this subdivision may not be used or disseminated by a county auditor or the secretary of state for any other purpose.

Residential Housing List Cont'd



This additional proof of residence for students can only be used if the institution has submitted a written agreement to the county



A written agreement is effective for the election and all subsequent elections held in that calendar year, including the November general election.



Must be allowed during the 18 days before an election and on election day.



Students on list can register by showing one of the acceptable photo IDs (does not need to be a student ID).

REGISTRATION ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY.

MN STATUTE [201.061](#)

Considerations

Non-citizens, PSEO or under 18 years of age should not be on the list

“Currently enrolled” is not defined in statute. Every institution will have to define that for themselves.

Be aware of duplicate entries of students, especially if you have a dorm address and permanent address for a student within your campus' city.

Special elections may require lists to be generated outside of the deadlines in the agreement

Send data in the format of the template, especially mindful of apartment numbers being separated into its own column.

Only send enrolled students that reside in the city in which your campus is located.

Updated lists can be sent prior to the deadline

List Accuracy

Students don't always find themselves on the list due to removal by the County:

Address
inconsistency

PO Box,
Commercial,
Incomplete,
duplicate

Addresses
not current

Permanent
addresses vs.
residential

Duplicate
addresses/st
udent names



Student housing list registration should not be
the only registration plan.

Bringing Voting to Campus

Polling places

- Traditional voting sites that are open on Election Day
- Voters must vote in the precinct where they live

Absentee & Early voting

- Begins 46-days before the election
- Includes multiple methods
 - In-person absentee
 - Early voting
 - **Pop-up voting**
 - Curbside voting
 - Vote-by-mail
 - Mail Return
 - Ballot Drop-Off
 - Agent delivery

Pop-Up Voting

A 2023 law change allowed for voting sites to be open for differing hours/days than the main elections office. Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services has since been offering these “pop-up” voting events during the early voting portion of the election in our City.



Minneapolis Pop-Up voting

Choosing pop-up voting locations

1. Geographic diversity
2. Historic Turnout
3. Underserved Communities
4. Expressed Needs
5. Access and Facilities

Minneapolis plans to have 12 one-day pop-up voting events in October ahead of the 2026 General Election



The first pilot pop-up voting event in Minneapolis was at the Weisman Art Museum on the UMN campus in 2023



Establishing a pop-up on campus

State law allows for a college or university that provides on-campus housing to 100 or more students to request a temporary voting location on or near campus.

Early voting on campus

Preparing for challenges

- Make sure to include student representatives in planning process
- Same-day voter registration takes longer and requires additional documentation
- Students may live in different cities/counties, but the office running pop-up voting can only serve residents
- Keep non-voting activities clear of the 100-foot buffer zone



Making voting an event



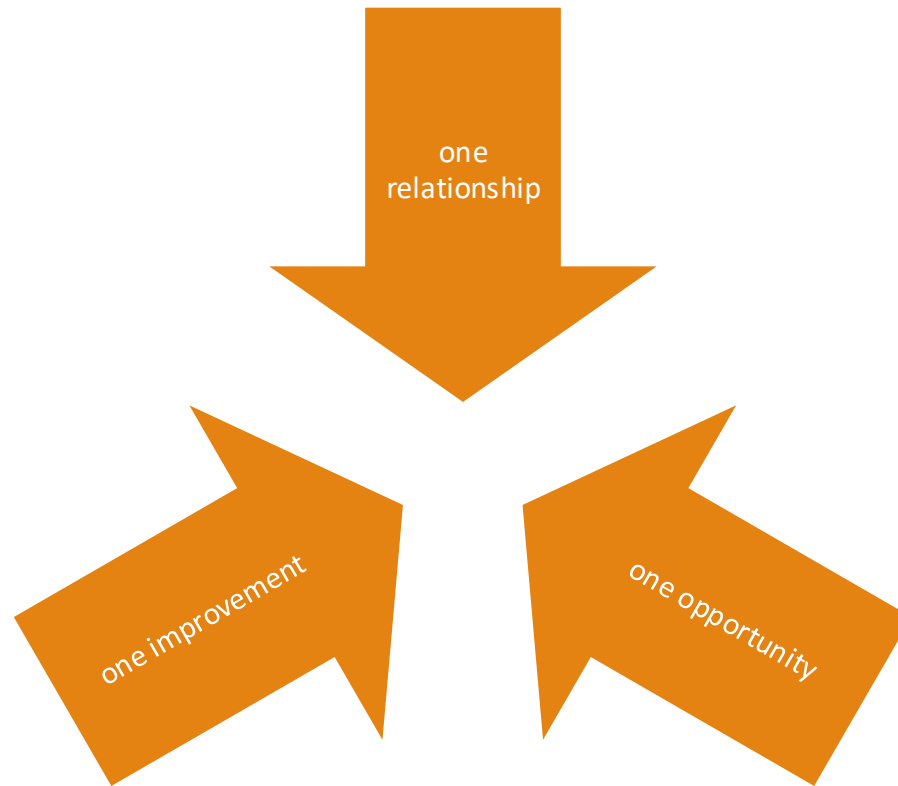
- Coordinate with student groups to be ready for voting-related activities
- Use student volunteers if able
- Emphasize registering in advance of deadline
- Promote in campus newspaper, social media, email blasts, etc.
- Make announcements in classes
- Share accurate information – Elections office is happy to review your materials

Have fun!

Campus Community

- Share accurate election information
- Serve as an Election Judge
- Work during Early Voting
- Offer a ride to the polls
- Encourage people to make a voting plan
- Help a neighbor register to vote or request an absentee ballot
- Help a neighbor return their absentee ballot
- Help others explore their voting options
- Support voter outreach efforts
- Share information across languages

Develop Your Campus Action Plan



Resources & Contacts

Hennepin County Elections

- 300 S 6th Street, Minneapolis
- 612-348-5151
- hennepincounty.gov/services/elections
- voteroutreach@hennepin.us
- Voter Outreach Manager:
Karl.Landskroener@hennepin.us

Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services

- 980 E Hennepin, Minneapolis
- 612-673-2350
- elections@minneapolismn.gov
- vote.minneapolismn.gov
- @votempls

[Secretary of State Resources](#)

Questions & Discussion

What support would help your campus most?

What's the biggest challenge students face when trying to find election information on your campus?

What resources or tools do you wish existed for connecting students to voting?

