

**Subject:** Your Voice Matters: Be Election-Ready This Fall Dear Bethel Students,

At Bethel, we believe that following Jesus means engaging the world with purpose. That includes showing up for our communities—locally and nationally—by participating in elections when we are able. This year, in Arden Hills where Bethel is located, there are school board elections you can be involved in. In cities and towns across Minnesota there are many local and school board elections, and ballot questions.  So, now is a perfect time to get equipped and take ownership of your civic responsibility.

Here are four ways you can get ready:

**Know when to register (or re-register):**You need to register or update your registration if you’ve moved, changed your name, or haven’t voted in over 4 years. If any of those apply to you, or if you aren’t sure, register to vote (And while you CAN [register when you vote](https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/register-to-vote/common-registration-questions/#date), it saves you time, hassle, and the need to bring documents if you register at least 21 days before an election.):

* [In Minnesota](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/)
* [Other states](https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote)

**Know where you’re registered:**In Minnesota, each student decides where they register to vote based on what they consider their residence.  It isn't based on where you might store things or what your driver's license says.  Wherever you’re registered, know that **local elections matter**—school board, city council, and local referendums affect your community just as much as national elections. [Check if you have an election](https://myballotmn.sos.mn.gov) coming up this fall!

**If you are registered in MN, you can find your polling place and ballot info:**Visit [pollfinder.sos.mn.gov](https://pollfinder.sos.mn.gov)Just enter your address to see your next election, what’s on your ballot, where you vote on Election Day, and more!. Even if you’re not voting this fall, it’s a great tool to bookmark and return to later.

**If you are an Out-of-state voter, we’ve got you covered:** Visit [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) to find registration deadlines and voting resources for your home state.

And as a bonus 5th way, you can vote early-in person or by mail-with no reason other than you want to!  [Find out how here](https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote).

At Bethel, we are committed to becoming who God created us to be—and that includes being informed, engaged citizens who seek the good of others. Whether it’s this fall or next year, **your vote is your voice**. Let’s be salt and light—on campus and in our communities

With you,

Nate Gustafson