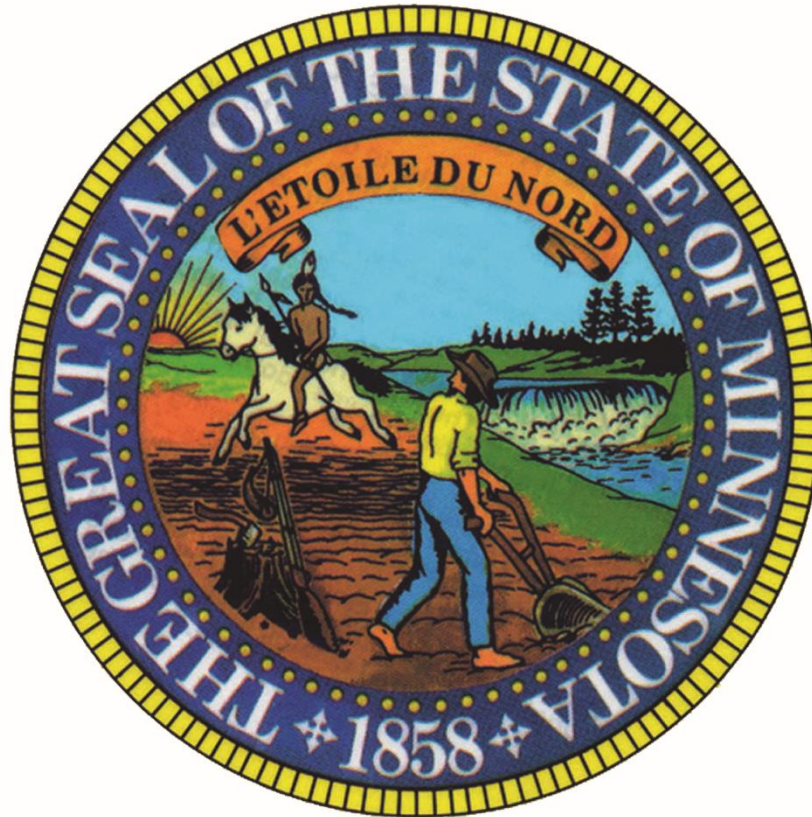


Emergency Planning Task Force: Current Election Laws



Office of Secretary of State

Minnesota Statutes Governing Election Emergencies

Three relevant statutory provisions:

- Election Judge Vacancies
- Polling Place Locations
- Postponement of Local Elections

Election Judge Vacancies

Minn. Stat. 204B.23 allows polling place election judges to “elect an individual to fill [a] vacancy.”

Minn. Stat. 204B.25, subd. 1, requires counties to provide a procedure for the emergency training of election judges to fill a vacancy.

Polling Place Location

Minn. Stat. 204B.16, subd. 7, allows a polling place to be moved if an emergency makes the approved space “unusable.”

The local election official must approve any relocation of polling places.

Local Elections Postponement

Counties, Cities, Towns and Schools may postpone an election if it is not held in conjunction with a state election and:

“[T]he National Weather Service or a law enforcement agency has issued storm warnings or travel advisories such that the clerk determines travel to a polling place would be difficult or hazardous for voters and election judges[.]”

Emergencies in Minnesota

- Snowstorms (e.g., 1991 Blizzard)
- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Windstorms
- Wildfires
- Epidemics
- Man Made Disasters

Scope of Work on Election Day

- In 2014 (non-presidential election)
 - ~3,000 physical polling places
 - Over 28,600 election judges
 - Over 1.7 million in-person voters
- In 2012 (presidential election)
 - Over 2.6 million in-person voters

Questions?

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