



Voter Information Guide

General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Polls are open 7a.m. – 8 p.m.

City of Rochester Office of the City Clerk

 City Hall

201 4th St SE, Room 135

Rochester, MN 55904

Open Monday—Friday, 8am to 5pm

Get More Information:



Phone/TTY: 507-328-2900



Email: elections@rochestermn.gov



rochestermn.gov/vote

Access complete voter information and links to all the online tools in this guide.

Facebook: [Facebook.com/CityofRochMN](https://www.facebook.com/CityofRochMN)

Twitter: [@CityofRochMN](https://twitter.com/CityofRochMN)

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Your rights as a voter

You have the following rights:

1. **Have time off work to vote.** You have a right to take time off work to vote without losing your pay, personal leave, or vacation time.
2. **Vote if in line by 8 p.m.** You have the right to vote if you are in line to vote any time before 8 p.m.
3. **Register on Election Day.** You have the right to register to vote on Election Day if you can provide one of the required proofs of residence.
4. **Sign in orally.** You have the right to orally confirm who you are and to ask another person to sign for you if you cannot sign your name.
5. **Ask for help.** You have the right to ask anyone for help, except for an agent of your employer or union, or a candidate.
6. **Bring children to the polls.** You have the right to bring your children with you to vote.
7. **Vote after serving felony conviction.** You can vote after you finish all parts of your sentence, including any probation, parole, or other conditions such as restitution.
8. **Vote if under guardianship.** You have the right to vote if you are under a guardianship, unless a judge has revoked your right to vote.
9. **Vote without being influenced.** You have the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence your vote.
10. **Get a replacement ballot.** You have the right to a replacement ballot if you make a mistake on a ballot before you cast it.
11. **Bring a sample ballot.** You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth.
12. **Bring the Voter's Bill of Rights.** You have a right to take a copy of the Voter's Bill of Rights into the voting booth.

3 steps to voting



Register

If you are eligible to vote, you still need to get registered before you vote.

Pre-register before Oct. 13 online or by returning a registration form to an Elections Office.

You can also register when you vote by bringing one of the accepted proofs of residence with you to your voting location.

For more details, see **pages 4 and 5**.



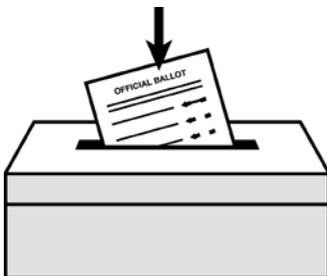
Learn

Before you vote, learn about what you will be voting on.

There are several offices on the ballot in Rochester this year, including a city-wide election for Councilmember-at-large (Council President, and City Council members for wards 2, 4, and 6. In addition to a City ballot question, there are also offices at the county, state, and federal level.

A sample practice ballot is one of the best resources for learning about what you'll be voting on.

For more details, see **pages 6 and 7**.



Vote

Make a plan now and decide how you will vote.

You can choose if you want to vote:

1. At your assigned polling place on November 3.
2. At home with a vote by mail (absentee) ballot.
3. Early using in-person absentee voting at Olmsted County Elections at 2122 Campus Dr SE starting Sept. 18.

For more details, see the section *Ways to vote* starting on **page 8**.



Voting and COVID-19

The City of Rochester is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all voters and election judges. To minimize direct contact with others, the CDC encourages everyone to vote by mail. Every voter who is willing and able is encouraged to consider voting by mail to help protect other voters who need to vote in person, as well as election judges.

Preparations the City of Rochester has taken in advance of Election Day

- **Relocate to appropriate polling places, as needed**

We have moved out of polling places that house a vulnerable population (senior facilities, high-rises, etc.) or those that are too small to implement physical distancing. No school will be in session on Election Day in November this year.

- **Inform voters how to plan their polling place visit**

To limit crowd size, voters should try to arrive at off-peak times. This is typically the mid-morning or the early afternoon. They should bring a face covering and can bring their own pen, if desired. Avoid sharpies, gel pens and other pens that may bleed through paper.

- **Prepare election judges**

All election judges will receive online training on the new protocols, as well as written documentation.

Election Day Protocols for Voters

Voters must wear face coverings

Following best practices as well as [Executive Order 20-81](#) requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering, election judges and voters must wear face coverings. Voters who do not have a face covering will be given a disposable mask prior to entry. Voters who refuse to wear a face covering will be allowed to vote; the incident will be documented.

Voters will be given hand sanitizer when they enter and exit

A sanitizing station will be at the entrance and exit.

Voters must observe physical distancing

6' intervals must be kept as much as possible while inside the polling place. Areas may be marked to indicate the 6' distance. Space for inside queuing while maintaining required distancing has been identified in all polling locations.

Voting booths and check-in tables will be spaced at least 6' apart. Throughout the voting process, election judges have been instructed to make efforts to minimize hand to hand contact with voters.

Voters will be offered a sanitized pen (or can bring their own)

Voters can get a sanitized pen at the polling place entry. They will discard their pen before leaving; election judges will disinfect the pen before being returned to the entrance.

Voters are welcome to bring their own pen, if desired. Avoid sharpies, gel pens and other pens that may bleed through paper.

Voters can choose to vote curbside

If a voter cannot easily leave their vehicle for mobility reasons, or because they need to avoid contact with others as a health precaution, they can ask to have a ballot brought out to them. This is known as 'curbside voting.' Two election judges from different major political parties will be assigned this task.



Registration

Am I eligible to vote?

You can register to vote in Minnesota if you are:

- a U.S. citizen.
- at least 18 years old on Election Day, Nov. 8.
- a resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days before Election Day.
- finished with all parts of any felony sentence.
- not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes your right to vote.
- not found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote.



If you aren't sure if you are registered under your current name and address, you can check your registration status at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx.

When do I have to re-register or update my voter registration?

Even if you have already registered to vote, you need to re-register if you:

- move to a new address.
- change your name.
- have not voted at least once in the last four years (since *before* 2016).

How and when do I register to vote?

The pre-registration deadline for the November 3 General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 13.

If you haven't pre-registered, you can still get registered and cast a ballot on Election Day or when voting by absentee ballot. You'll need an accepted proof of identity and residence to do so when voting in person. The most common option used by voters is a Minnesota Driver's License, Learner's Permit, or State ID card that includes your current address. The receipt for a new license, permit, or ID at your current address is also an accepted proof.

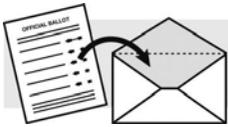
What address should I use to register to vote?

You must be registered to vote at your current address. It is up to you as the voter to determine what you consider your home as your voting residence. Generally this will be where you sleep at night. If you are temporarily away from home but intend to return, you can still register and vote from that address.

If you are a college student, it is up to you to determine whether you consider your campus address or a different permanent address as your voting residence.

What if I don't have a permanent address?

Register and vote based on where you consider your home to be at the time you vote. Your current residence is generally where you sleep at night, so if you do not have a permanent address and you are sleeping at a friend's house, a shelter, or outside, that is your voting residence. If you sleep outside or some place without a street address, write a description of the location on line four of the voter registration application.



Registering when you vote

What do I need to bring with me to the polls to register when I vote?

You need an accepted proof of identity and residence in order to register when you vote. The most common option used by voters is a Minnesota Driver's License, Learner's Permit, or State ID card with your current address. The receipt for a new license, permit, or ID at your current address is also an accepted proof. If you do not have one of these, you must supply one of the other accepted proofs allowed by state law.

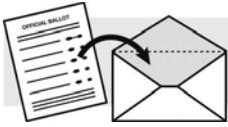
How can I register if I don't have a state ID with my current address?

The other accepted proofs include:

- **Tribal ID** containing your current name and address in the precinct, signature, and photo.
- **Minnesota post-secondary student photo ID** if you live on campus and your school has provided a housing list to election officials.
- **Notice of Late Registration**, a letter mailed to you at your address in the precinct by election officials within the three weeks prior to Election Day if you submitted a voter registration application after the deadline to pre-register.
- **Previous registration in same precinct** can be used if you have a valid registration in the same precinct under a different name or address.
- **Voter vouchers** who have personal knowledge of your address can sign an oath confirming your address, known as 'vouching.' The person vouching for you must be a pre-registered voter in your same precinct or must register on Election Day in the precinct with one of the other accepted proofs of residence. A person may vouch for a limit of eight voters.
- **Employee vouchers** are staff members of residential facilities who can go with you when you vote if you live in that facility to confirm your address. Employee vouchers must provide proof of their employment at the facility.

You can also use a driver's license, learner's permit, or state ID card issued by any state that does not have your current address, or another photo ID including your Minnesota post-secondary student ID, Minnesota high school ID, Tribal ID without current address, U.S. military ID, or U.S. Passport along with an accepted bill, statement or other document from the chart below with your current name and address.

 <p>Xcel Energy™ CenterPoint Energy</p> <p>Electric, Gas, Sewer, Solid waste, Water</p>	 <p>DIRECTV™ CenturyLink Comcast.</p> <p>Internet Service, TV, Cable, Satellite</p>	 <p>Verizon Wireless at&t Sprint Mobile</p> <p>Telephone, Cell phone, Landline</p>
<p>Banking or credit card Rent or mortgage payment Student fee statement Lease/Rental Agreement (Valid through Election Day)</p>   		



Learn what's on the ballot

What offices are up for election in Rochester in 2020?

U.S. President and Vice President

U.S. Senator

U.S. Representative (All Districts - Congressional District 1 in Rochester)

Minnesota State Representative (All Districts – 25A, 25B, 26A, and 26B in Rochester)

Minnesota State Senator (All Districts – 25 and 26 in Rochester)

Minnesota Supreme Court Justice (Associate Justice Seat 4)

Minnesota Court of Appeals Judge (At Large Seats 3, 9, 13, and 15)

Third District Court Judge (At Large Seats 4, 6, 7, 14, 17, 19, 20, and 22)

County Commissioner (Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7)

Soil and Water Conservation Officer (At large seats for Districts 4 and 5)

Council Member-at-large (Council President)

Council Member (Wards 2, 4, and 6)

City Question on Water and Air Quality, Natural Areas, and Park Improvement Levy

Rochester School Board (At-large seats 1, 3, and 7)

How can I learn more about the candidates running for an office?

There are many resources available to learn more about specific candidates who are on your ballot. Some of these sources have nonpartisan information, which means they give you facts and do not take sides about how you should vote. You may also get mail or information from campaigns, and hear advertisements telling you how to vote. These are usually partisan. Talk about issues you care about and candidates with your family and friends and follow the news about the election. Get information from many different places so you can make the choices that are right for you.

Sources of information to consider looking at include:

- News media – newspapers and online websites for news organizations often include information about candidates for various local offices.
- Candidate forums – in many instances, candidates take part in forums where they are able to share information with voters about their views and plans for office.
- Candidate websites – the Secretary of State's website is the only government website allowed to link directly to candidates' campaign websites. Links can be found from the list of candidates you can pull up when searching for your polling place or your sample ballot at mnvotes.org.

What is the City question on the ballot this year?

The text of the question that will appear on every Rochester ballot for voters to select 'Yes' or 'No' is:

Shall the City of Rochester, Minnesota, be authorized to levy property taxes in the amount of \$2,000,000 to provide a dedicated source of funding to protect water quality and natural areas; conserve trees and wooded areas that help to protect air quality; improve access to existing parks and recreational facilities for kids and people with disabilities; improve park safety; and maintain, operate, and improve existing parks?

There will be full public disclosure of how the funds are spent. Funds raised by the City could be matched by funds from the state and federal government and private sources.

It is estimated that the average residential homeowner would pay an additional \$33.00 per year.

The maximum amount of increased levy as a percentage of market value is 0.0168 percent. The maximum amount that would be raised by the new referendum tax rate in the first year if it were to be levied is \$2,000,000.



Practice Sample Ballot

What is a practice or sample ballot?

A practice sample ballot lists everything that will be on your ballot when you go to vote. It is important to get the practice ballot for your voting precinct. There are 52 precincts in Rochester, and each precinct has its own ballot. The ballot used in your precinct will not be the same as one used in another precinct; it may include different contests for you to vote on and will also have the names of candidates in a different order.

How do I get my personalized practice sample ballot?



You can get the practice sample ballot for your precinct by pulling it up after entering your home address at myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us

The screenshot shows the 'Elections & Voting' section of the website. A navigation bar includes links for 'Register to Vote', 'Election Day Voting', 'Other Ways to Vote', 'What's on My Ballot?', 'Get Involved!', 'How Elections Work', 'County Election Offices', and 'Election Results'. Below this, a 'MY BALLOT' section features a location pin icon and instructions: 'Enter your address into My Ballot finder to see the names of candidates and questions that will be on the ballot for your precinct. Find links to additional information about the candidates and ballots questions.' There are two search options: 'Find by ZIP code:' with an input field and a 'GO >' button, and 'Search by County:' with a dropdown menu and a 'GO >' button.

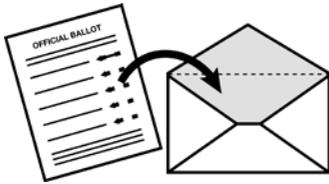
How can I use my practice ballot to prepare to vote?

Review your practice sample ballot to get ready to vote. You can research the candidates and questions that will be on your ballot, and then mark your practice ballot and bring it with you. Your practice sample ballot is not a real ballot, but because it includes all the items you can vote on it can help you complete your ballot when you go to vote.

When you get your sample ballot from myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us, you can also access a list of all the candidates appearing on your ballot along with links to their campaign websites, if that information was provided when the candidate filed for office. Visiting these websites can help you learn more about each candidate, including their positions on issues that may be important to you.

Another excellent source of information about different candidates and their views and positions can be different media sources. Local publications and news sites often publish candidate profiles, in addition to writing stories about different races and aspects of the election and candidates. Social media sites also sometimes provide this sort of information. Look for sites by or about candidates or campaigns you are interested in learning more about, as well as those from political parties, and different organizations that may work on issues and topics that are important to you. Also remember you do not have to vote on everything. Your votes still count if you choose to skip some things on your ballot.

3 ways to vote



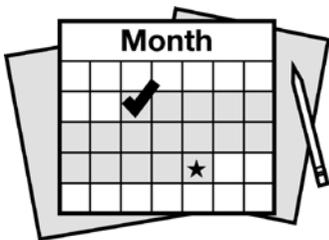
Vote by mail

Request a vote-by-mail ballot to have one mailed to you.

Return it by mail or deliver it to the Olmsted County Elections office.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be dropped off at Olmsted County Elections or postmarked by **November 3**.

For more details, see **pages 9, 10, and 11**.



Vote early in-person

You may vote early in person at Olmsted County Elections between

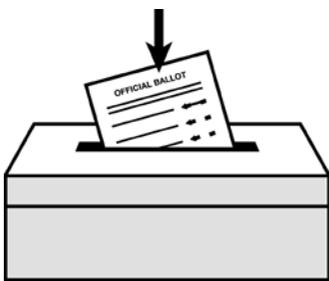
September 18 - November 2.

Olmsted County Elections

2122 Campus Dr SE, Rochester, MN 55904

Olmsted County Elections is open for in-person absentee voting Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, and will also be open on the final Saturday before the general election.

For more details, see **pages 12 and 13**.



Vote at the polls in person

Polls are open on Election Day:

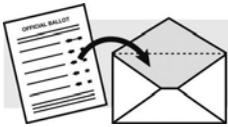
November 3, from 7am to 8pm

You can look up your polling place:

 On the web: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us

 By calling 507-328-2900

For more details, see **page 14**.



How to vote by mail

You can vote by mail before Election Day

To vote by mail, you have to request a ballot. Then you can mark the ballot and send it back by mail or drop it off. You can request to vote by mail for this election only, or for all future elections.

If you are not already registered to vote, you can still vote by mail. When you request an absentee ballot, a voter registration application will be sent with your ballot materials. Complete the application and follow the instructions to return it along with your ballot.



How to get your vote-by-mail ballot



Request a ballot using the online application at:
mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx



Download an application from mnvotes.org and send it:

By mail or personal delivery to:
Olmsted County Elections
2122 Campus Dr SE, Rochester, MN 55904



By email:
elections@co.olmsted.mn.us

By fax:
507-328-7640

After you apply to vote by mail, an absentee ballot will be sent to you. Ballot requests are processed and sent out as quickly as possible, but may take as long as three and five business days to arrive in the mail. There is no deadline by which you must request an absentee ballot, however it is essential you allow enough time both for the ballot to reach you and for you to return it to Olmsted County Elections.



The absentee ballot application is for voters currently in the United States. Overseas voters, military personnel and their dependents can get a vote-by-mail ballot by going to:
mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/UocavaRegistration/UocavaStep1.aspx



How to vote by mail

How to return your vote-by-mail ballot

Mark your ballot. Then follow the included instructions, making sure you first place your ballot inside the tan ballot envelope and seal it. Insert the tan ballot envelope in the white signature envelope, and also include your completed voter registration application if you need to register to vote. Fill out the signature envelope completely, including writing the same ID number you used on your ballot application on the signature envelope.

For this election only, if you are already registered to vote, you do not need a witness on your mail ballot. If you are registering when you vote by mail, you will need to have another registered voter or a notary sign your ballot envelope as a witness. Once the signature envelope is complete, place it in the postage-paid return envelope.

You can:



Mail your ballot so that it is **postmarked** by Election Day, November 3 and **received** by November 10.

-OR-



Hand deliver your ballot any time up until 3 p.m. on Election Day to:

Olmsted County Elections
2122 Campus Dr SE, Rochester, MN 55904

Completed mail ballots or agent delivery ballots can also be brought to the county information desk of the Government Center.

You can also use a commercial delivery service, such as FedEx or UPS, to return your ballot. When using one of these services, your ballot must be received by Olmsted County Elections by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Tracking your mail ballot



Once you request a mail ballot, you can track where your ballot is at in the process from the time it is mailed to you until it is received and processed by the elections office using the online tool at: mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx



Absentee ballots picked up and returned by others

Absentee ballots returned by others (Ballot return)

During the full 46 days of Early Voting, any voter may ask another person to return a voted ballot to Olmsted County Elections.

EXCEPTION: Voters who use the designated agent delivery and return process may ONLY use the designated agent who picked up the ballot for them to then return their voted ballot. See below for more details.

In order to have someone return your ballot to the election office, that person must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Return voted ballots no later than 3 p.m. on Election Day

Where: Ballots may be returned to the early voting location at Olmsted County Elections at 2122 Campus Dr SE or to the County Information Desk located in the Government Center at 151 4th St SE.

Agent Delivery

Starting seven days before an election, the following voters may authorize an agent to pick up and return an absentee ballot for them:

- Patients in hospitals, residential treatment centers, and nursing homes;
- Residents of group homes;
- Residents of battered women's shelters;
- Residents of assisted living facilities;
- Voters who are disabled; and
- Voters who would have difficulty getting to the polls because of incapacitating health reasons.

In order to have an agent pick up and deliver your ballot to you, you must:

- Have a pre-existing relationship with your agent.
- Complete the [Request for Agent Delivery of Absentee Ballot Form \(pdf\)](#) and the [Absentee Ballot Application \(pdf\)](#). Both forms are also available online from the Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.org.

The agent must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Present the voter's completed forms and an ID with the agent's picture and signature to a county election official.
- Not be a candidate at the election.
- Pick up ballots for a maximum of 3 voters.
- Pick up ballots beginning seven days before the election, and no later than 2 p.m. on Election Day.

NOTE: A voter can authorize one agent to pick up the unvoted ballot, and may have a different agent return the voted ballot to the county election office.

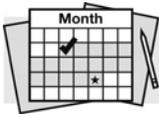
When your designated agent returns your voted ballot to the county election office, they must:

- Present an ID with their picture and signature to county elections officials.
- Return the voted ballot in a sealed signature envelope before 3 p.m. on Election Day.

Where: Ballots returned through Agent Delivery may be brought to Olmsted County Elections at 2122 Campus Dr SE or to the County Information Desk located in the Government Center at 151 4th St SE.

Health-care and hospital facilities

Special absentee balloting procedures are available to voters in hospital or health-care facilities. Call Olmsted County Elections at 507-328-7650 for additional information, TTY/TTD 507-328-6002.



How to vote early in-person

You can vote at Olmsted County Elections before Election Day

You can choose to vote before Election Day at the in-person early voting location.

Olmsted County Elections
2122 Campus Dr SE, Room 300
Rochester, MN 55904

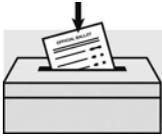
Early voting starts on Friday, Sept. 18, and continues through Monday, Nov. 2. Regular hours are Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

In the final week of early in-person voting, there will be extended weekend voting hours on the final Saturday before the election, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Usually when voting by absentee ballot, you seal your ballot in an envelope for processing in the final seven days before the election. If you vote in the final seven days of early voting, starting Tuesday, October 27, you can insert your ballot directly into a ballot tabulator, just as you would on Election Day. In-person early voting ends on Nov. 2, the day before the general election, at 5 p.m.

Direct Balloting Early Voting hours at 2122 Campus Dr SE and the Government Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26 <i>Absentee In person voting</i> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	27 <i>Direct Balloting</i> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	28 <i>Direct Balloting</i> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	29 <i>Direct Balloting</i> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	30 <i>Direct Balloting</i> 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	31 <i>Direct Balloting</i> 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Nov 1	2 <i>Direct Balloting</i> 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	3 ELECTION DAY				



How to vote at the polls on Election Day

Polls are open on Election Day, November 3, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Find your polling place

There are 52 different precincts in Rochester, each with an assigned polling place. If you vote on Election Day, you must vote where assigned. Your polling place is based on where you live.



You can look up your polling place at: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us

POLLING PLACE FINDER

If your house number is ODD and between: 7 and 821
and your street address is: 4TH ST SE
and your City/Township is: ROCHESTER
and your ZIP code is: 55904

[CLICK HERE TO LOOK UP ANOTHER ADDRESS](#)

Your Next Election is:
11/03/2020 STATE GENERAL ELECTION

You vote at:
U OF M ROCHESTER, UNIVERSITY SQUARE (W
111 Broadway AVE S
Rochester, MN 55904

Precinct:
ROCHESTER W4 P1 0154

[CLICK HERE FOR MAPS TO POLLING PLACE](#)

Districts for this address:

Congressional: 1	Park:
MN Senate: 26	Soil and Water
MN House: 26A	Conservation: Olmsted
County Commissioner: 01	School: ROCHESTER (535)
Judicial: 03	County: Olmsted

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF CANDIDATES](#)

You can also find out which districts you are in for different types of government representatives you can vote on, and get a list of the candidates who will appear on your ballot.

- Use the polling place finder to learn:
- the next election you can vote in based on your address.
 - the address of your assigned polling place.
 - what precinct you are in.
 - links to maps of your polling place.



You can also call the City Clerk’s Office for help finding your assigned polling place. Reach us at 507-328-2900.

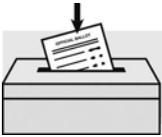
Even if you’ve voted before, it’s a good idea to double check your polling place. Rochester had to change several of its polling places in 2020 due to COVID-19, so make sure you confirm your assigned polling place.

What happens at your polling place

When you arrive at your polling place on Election Day, the entrance you should use as a voter will be clearly marked. An election judge may be outside the building or just outside the voting area greeting voters to make sure you have arrived at the right location based on your address.

When you enter the voting area, you will check in at a poll pad station to either confirm your information in the voter roster or to register to vote before checking in to vote. You do not need ID to vote if you are registered. If you need to register, you will need to provide an accepted proof of residence. (See page 5 for more information about Election Day registration.)

Once you are checked in –including registering to vote if needed - you will sign a voter receipt and get a ballot receipt. At the next station, an election judge will explain how to complete your ballot and exchange your ballot receipt for a ballot.



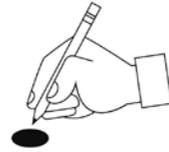
How to vote with a paper ballot

All Rochester voters vote using a paper ballot. Polling places have optical scan voting devices to tabulate the ballots.

Mark your ballot

Completely fill in the oval to left of each of your choices on your ballot.

Use only a blue or black ballpoint ink pen. Do not use red ink pens, Sharpies, markers or any other type of pen. You can also choose to bring your own pen.



Do not sign your name on your ballot, write your initials, or write any other words or marks on your voted ballot.

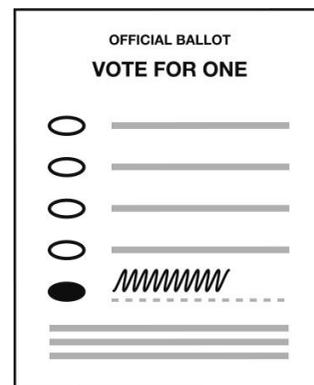
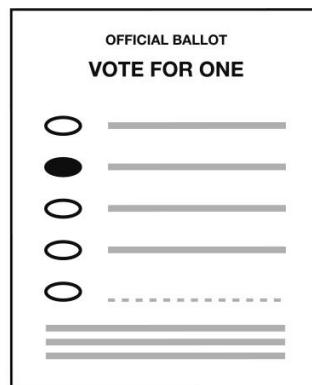
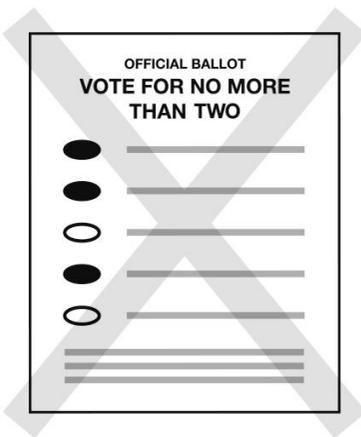
To vote for a write-in candidate, write their name on the blank line at the end of the list of candidates. Then fill in the oval to the left of that name.



There are multiple contests on your ballot. You can vote in as many or as few of the contests as you choose. If you choose to leave some contests blank, your votes in other contests will still count.

Check your ballot carefully

If you make a mistake you can ask an election judge for a new ballot or follow the instructions in your mail ballot packet.



Don't vote for too many.

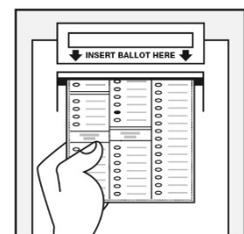
Vote for the number allowed.

Always fill in the oval of your choice completely, even on a write-in vote.

Cast your ballot at the ballot tabulator

If you are voting in a polling place or during direct balloting, after you have marked your ballot you will take it to the tabulator and insert your ballot.

If you made a mistake the tabulator can identify, such as voting for too many candidates, the tabulator will return your ballot so you can correct it. Ask an election judge for a replacement ballot to correct a mistake.





Accessible voting

At the polling place



All polling places meet state and federal accessibility standards. Accessible entrances and routes in buildings are signed.

Resources to improve accessibility are available in polling places, including seating for voters waiting to vote, notepads to communicate in writing, magnifiers for election material and the ballot, and AutoMARK ADA-compliant ballot-marking devices to aid voters with vision impairments or other conditions that make it difficult to traditionally mark a ballot.

Curbside voting

If you are unable to enter your polling place or the early voting location at Olmsted County, you may vote on a paper ballot from a nearby accessible location, including your car. A team of two election judges will qualify you to vote and return your voted ballot to the polling place.

To request curbside voting assistance, you can:

- notify a greeter election judge outside the polling place; - or -
- have an assistant make the request inside the polling place.

Accessible voting system

Each polling place in Rochester, including the early voting location, has an assistive voting technology ballot-marking device called the AutoMARK to allow voters to vote privately and independently. You may choose to use the AutoMARK to record your votes using its touch screen or a touch pad. The AutoMARK includes an audio option that will read the ballot to you, as well as options to adjust the brightness and contrast and increase the font size displayed on the viewing touch screen. This machine only marks your ballot, it does not tabulate it. Completed ballots must then be placed in the ballot tabulator.

Assistance in the voting location

You may bring someone with you into a voting location to help you in getting around the voting location.

You may get assistance in marking your ballot from any person you choose, except an agent of your employer or union, or a candidate in the election.

You may also choose to get assistance from election judges. Two judges from different major political parties can help you mark your ballot.

Voting information and requests for assistance.

If you need materials provided by the City of Rochester in an alternative format, or to request assistance with accessible voting contact us.



Phone & Relay: 507-328-2900



Email: elections@rochestermn.gov



Voter assistance and resources

Assistance with voting

If you need assistance for any reason on Election Day or when voting early in-person, you may:

1. Get assistance from a person you choose, except your employer, or an officer or agent of your union.
2. Get assistance from election judges. In many polling places, judges may be available to provide language and interpretation assistance when you are checking in, getting registered, or receiving your ballot and instructions. Two judges from different major political parties can help you mark your ballot.

Individuals, including election judges, who assist you may not request, persuade, induce, or attempt to persuade or induce you to vote for any particular political party or candidate. They must also not reveal to anyone the name of any candidate for whom you voted or anything that took place while assisting you.

Limits on assistance: There is no longer a limit on the number of voters that an individual may assist in marking their ballot, or in providing any other help (including with interpretation, disability, or literacy issues) as requested by the voter.

A ride to your polling site

If you need a ride to go vote, some options include:

- Use RPT – Rochester Public Transit will be offering free rides to vote on Election Day. Just let your driver know, “I’m going to vote.” Find route information at rptrade.com.
- Ask a friend or neighbor for a ride. Your polling place is near where you live, so someone who lives close to you will likely be going to the same place to vote.
- Contact a political party. Many offer resources to help find rides to the polls.
 - Constitution Party of Minnesota: 507-644-3183
 - Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota: 651-293-1200
 - Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party: 651-280-7922
 - Green Party of Minnesota: 651-288-2820
 - Independence Party of Minnesota: 651-487-9700
 - Legal Marijuana Now Party: 763742-6198
 - Libertarian Party of Minnesota: 763-561-8038
 - Republican Party of Minnesota: 651-222-0022
- Community and non-profit organizations often offer rides to the polls.

Reminder: People who provide rides to the polls cannot try to persuade you to vote a certain way or for any particular candidates. You always have the right to vote as you choose.



Voter and language assistance

Voting information

If you need materials provided by the City of Rochester in an alternative format or in another language, contact the City Clerk's Office.



Phone & Relay: 507-328-2900



Email: elections@rochestermn.gov

Team members in the City Clerk's Office can answer questions you may have about voting, and help with election information including looking up your polling place location. Calls are answered Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Election Day, calls will be answered during the hours polls are open, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Language assistance when voting

You can get assistance when you vote with interpretation from a person you choose and bring with you when you vote, or from election judges or staff at the voting location.

If an election judge or staff person is not available at your voting location who is able to provide assistance in your language, a telephone language line can be used to connect you with someone who will be able to provide interpretation services.

You may find voting early in-person at Olmsted County Elections will give you more time to vote and get assistance with less stress.