



RULES FOR POLLING PLACE CONDUCT

Persons Allowed In or Near the Polling Place

During voting hours, law allows only election judges, people directly engaged in voting & authorized persons to be present. Election judges should ask unauthorized people to leave immediately. Authorized persons are:

- Persons helping a voter.
- Children accompanying voters.
- Vouchers.
- Representatives from the office of the secretary of state, county auditor or clerk.
- Peace officers, if judges request their presence to keep order.
- Challengers appointed in writing by a political party or nonpartisan candidate. Only one challenger may be appointed by each party/candidate per precinct.
- Teachers & elementary & high school students, if participating in a mock election that has been authorized by the secretary of state.
- Persons making a written complaint.
- Media may enter the polling place to observe the voting process so long as they:
 - Show photo identification to the Head Judge upon arrival along with either a recognized media credential or written statement from a local election official attesting to their credentials.
 - Stay at least six feet from voters.
 - Do not converse with voters or interfere with the voting process.
 - Do not make a list of those voting or not voting.
- People conducting exit polls can be on the premises, but not in the room where voting occurs. Depending on the building layout, this may mean the pollster must remain outdoors. The pollster must check in with the head judge and present a photo ID along with credentials or a letter from the news media. An individual conducting an exit poll may only approach voters after they have voted & may only speak with a voter to the extent necessary to ask the voter to take an anonymous written questionnaire.
- No one in the polling place should be discussing candidates or issues. This includes voters waiting in line & election judges.

Related statutes & rules: M.S. 204C.06; 204C.13, subd. 2; M.S. 211B.11;

Prohibited Conduct

People may not gather or linger in the polling place or within 100 feet of the building. Intoxicated persons and/or liquor are not allowed. Ask individuals to leave if they will not or cannot cease the following:

- Disorderly Conduct
- Smoking
- Linger

Note: voters are allowed to carry firearms if they're in lawful possession of them and if the polling place itself does not ban firearms.

Related statutes & rules: M.S. 204C.06

Prohibition on Campaigning

- Campaigning is not allowed in the polling place or within 100 feet of the building. If the polling place is on public property, campaigning is not allowed anywhere on the property, even beyond 100 feet.
 - Note: the prohibition of signs & campaign materials within 100 feet does not apply to adjacent private property.
- The prohibition includes displaying political or campaign materials for candidates/parties/issues. If the item contains the name, likeness, logo or slogan for a candidate or party, or the number, title, subject, logo or slogan of an issue that appears ON the ballot in your precinct, then it is PROHIBITED. Election judges should ask the individual to either cover up or remove the political material while in the polling place.
- If they refuse, eligible voters will be allowed to vote, but any refusal will be recorded & referred to appropriate authorities. Election judges will record in the Incident Log the names of those who refuse to cover or remove political material.
- Voters may take sample ballots or campaign flyers into the voting booth but they should not display these materials outside the booth.

Assistance from Law Enforcement When Requested

- A sergeant-at-arms or a peace officer may be requested to arrest or remove from the polling place any individual who, despite a warning to desist, engages in disorderly conduct, to include attempting to tamper with voting equipment.
- A sergeant-at-arms or a peace officer shall not otherwise interfere in any manner with voters. The sergeant at-arms or peace officer cannot remain in or within 50 feet of the entrance of the polling place once peace has been restored.
- Election judges should note the details of all security concerns & how they were addressed on incident log.