



Elections Readiness Update

Michelle Blue
Elections Director

We Are Ready!



- We have strong safeguards and clear procedures
- Our office remains in close communication with legal counsel & Secretary of State's Office
- We administer elections in accordance with state/federal laws
- Ensure voting locations remain safe, welcoming, and free from intimidation, for both voters and election judges alike
- Ensure voters have accurate information and every eligible voter can participate in elections that are secure, fair, and transparent
- Close coordination with all of our partners: State, municipal clerks, local law enforcement, federal law enforcement

Extra Training & Support This Year



- Election judges will receive extra training and support
- How to get assistance if any issues arise
- Addressing these questions well ahead of time helps ensure Election Day runs smoothly



Who is Allowed in a Polling Place?



- Voters, Election Judges, and authorized persons:
 - Persons helping a voter/ voter's child(ren)
 - Observers authorized by State/ County
 - Peace officers if election judge requests their presence to restore order
 - Appointed challengers
- State law (M.S. § 204C.06)



Other Polling Place Considerations



- Presence of federal agents at polling places is prohibited by state and federal law
- Polling places are established by each city/town
- There are provisions to relocate if emergency arose
- Law enforcement is trained to respond if requested by election judges



Election Administration



- Elections are run by local clerks (cities, townships, school districts)
- All voting on paper ballots
- Publicly test every machine, ballot, and oval
- Post-election review after every general election

Vote for One

Candidate 1

Candidate 2

OR Write-in on line above

Voting Equipment Replacement



- All cities, towns, school districts contribute to the costs
- Vendor selected is used in 78 MN counties, preferred by municipal clerks and accessible voters
- Most up-to-date encryption & security
- Equitable access for voters with disabilities
- Decreased wait times and minimized machine downtimes



Equipment Certification Process



- State law (M.S. § 206.57) requires an electronic voting system to be certified by the Secretary of State and tested by accredited testing authority or by a federal agency
- State Certification is public process

**CERTIFICATION OF
Election Systems and Software (ES&S)
EVS 6.5.1.1**

I, Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota, hereby certify that:
ES&S has requested the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State (OSS) to examine and certify the ES&S EVS 6.5.1.1 voting system for use in Minnesota elections as certified to the 2005 Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines, version 1.0 (2005 VVSG). The system addressed in this certification includes the following components:

Component	Software Version	Description
ElectionWare	6.5.1.1	Election Management Software
Event Log Services	3.0.0.0	Event Log Service
Removable Media Service (RMS)	3.0.0.0	Background Utility

Component	Firmware Version	Hardware Version	Description
DS200	3.2.3.0	1.2, 1.3	Precinct Ballot Counter and Central Count Ballot Counter
DS200 Plastic Ballot Box		1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5	Ballot Box
DS300	3.2.3.0	1.0	Precinct Ballot Counter and Central Count Ballot Counter
DS300 Plastic Ballot Box		1.0	Ballot Box
DS450	4.4.0.0	1.0	Central Count Ballot Counter
DS850	4.4.0.0	1.0	Central Count Ballot Counter
DS950	4.4.0.0	1.1	Central Count Ballot Counter
ExpressVote	4.4.4.0	1.0	Assistive Voting Device
ExpressVote	4.4.4.0	2.1	Assistive Voting Device
ExpressVote	4.4.4.0	3.0	Assistive Voting Device

*A list of custom and commercial off-the-shelf parts can be found in the test report from the independent testing authority.

Review of the application submitted for ES&S's EVS 6.5.1.1 indicates satisfaction of the requirements of Minnesota Rule 8220.0350.

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Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State, Steve Simon

ES&S EVS 6.5.1.1, Certification | 1

The demonstration and assessment of ES&S EVS 6.5.1.1 conducted according to the acceptance demonstration of computer programs criteria, indicates satisfaction of the requirements of Minnesota Rules 8220.0450, 8220.0750, and 8220.0650, subpart 1.

Based upon the results of the certification testing of the components listed above and in reliance upon the results of the test report from the independent testing authority, Pro V&V, it has been determined the ES&S EVS 6.5.1.1 voting system, as measured to the 2005 VVSG, complies with the requirements of the Minnesota Statutes sections 206.55 to 206.90 and is certified for use in elections in Minnesota.

Certification is subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes and Rules and the conditions outlined in the Certification Report and Recommendation. ES&S stipulates that it will employ methods and procedures to safeguard system software and firmware from access by unauthorized parties during all phases of election preparation, including preparation and delivery of election programming and related materials to county and local governments.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Minnesota on this 23rd day of
February 2026.


Steve Simon
Secretary of State



ES&S EVS 6.5.1.1, Certification | 2



Dakota
COUNTY
Elections
Elecciones



THIS FACILITY
IS TOBACCO-FREE

Sample Units in Admin Center

- For educational use only
- All voters may experience in advance of election day
- Test election/ units are in demo mode unrelated to actual election
- Available now through November election



Privacy booth and table so

Absentee Voting Begins Friday



- New law allows cities to be open for early voting either 18 days or 46 days
- County Absentee Voting locations:
 - Administration Center (ADC)
 - Western Service Center (WSC)
 - Northern Service Center (NSC)
- Required during regular business hours
- Over 11,500 permanent absentee voters are automatically mailed ballots



2026 Election Calendar



- Primary August 11
 - Absentee Voting starts June 26
 - Early Voting starts July 24
- General November 3
 - Absentee Voting starts Sept 18
 - Early Voting starts October 16



Find your polling place, look up your sample ballot
and much more at [MNVotes.gov](https://mnvotes.gov)

Any questions?