



WHY WE VOTE

Voting is the tool that we use to ensure our voices are heard and needs are met by our elected officials. People who vote find their needs best met by our local, state, and federal governments.

Here is a factsheet with descriptions of some of the elected offices in our state that are on the ballot in 2022 and an explanation on how they matter to you and your relatives:

FEDERAL RACES ▶

U.S. Representative

This is your Congressperson. Minnesota has eight Representatives and each represents one congressional district (CD). They work at the Capitol in Washington, DC to pass laws and legislation on a range of issues that affect our community like climate action, reproductive health, housing, cannabis, and gun laws.

STATEWIDE RACES ▶

Governor

This is the top executive chief of the state. Many state agencies report to the Governor. The Governor appoints heads for departments, proposes the state budget, approves or vetoes (denies approval of) legislation, and appoints judges to vacancies in the different state courts. The Governor runs for election as part of a team with the Lieutenant Governor.

Lieutenant Governor

This position represents the governor and takes over the governor's responsibilities in their absence, death, or resignation.

Secretary of State

This position acts as the chief election official for the state, and is keeper of the state's official records, including business registrations. The Secretary of State also administers programs like Safe at Home that protects the identities of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Attorney General

This position is the head lawyer for the state. The Attorney General represents the state and its agencies in state and federal courts. They set priorities on how and what kinds of crimes to prosecute, like drugs and civil rights violations, as well as enforcing laws concerning charitable organizations and civil rights.

State Auditor

This position performs financial and legal compliance audits of local governments and investigates allegations of theft or public misuse of funds.

Minnesota Supreme Court

There are seven judges that make up the MN Supreme Court, and two of which are up for re-election in 2022. The MN Supreme Court is the highest court of the state that regulates the practice of law that governs procedures in the state's court. It is also the court of last resort, which is meant to correct any errors of smaller state-based courts.

LOCAL RACES ▶

State Senator

As members of Congress, each state elects two Senators to represent them in the U.S. Senate, which writes and revises laws at the state and federal level.

State Representative

Citizens in Minnesota also elect officials to represent them at the state level. Those elected to the state's law making body, referred to as Legislators, work on state issues, such as funding the elementary and secondary education system, setting state tax policy, and funding state human service programs.

Though state and national politics are the focus of conversation around elections, the impacts that our community feels the most are affected by local offices. Here are additional local office positions on the ballot in 2022 and why they matter:

Mayor

This is the highest-ranking official in your city who can elect citizens to serve on advisory boards, assign council members to serve on committees, and make the annual city budget, which includes funding for things such as the police department and the arts.

Town/City Council

This is a group of elected officials who pass laws that govern your city, which can include setting tax rates, approving new construction, and passing the budget. This council and the mayor play a large role in enforcing the policies that we live by every day, even things like the state of public parks, street sweeping, police reform, and much more.

School Board Members

A district's school board is made up of elected or appointed officials who approve positions like the superintendent, budgets, and textbooks. School board members have also made decisions about when students return to school in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, enforcing or removing cops in schools, and more.

Sheriff

These are elected law enforcement officers who are often separate from your local law enforcement agency that tend to oversee local jails and investigations into crimes at the county level. As sheriffs are elected, they work for the people and are supposed to be free of influence from other members of the county government.

For more information about offices on the ballot and how to participate in your local elections, visit the [Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State website](#).