General election 2020

Tuesday, Nov. 3  Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Stay safe, plan ahead – prepare to vote!

We’re in this together

Many things are changing all around us every day. One thing that hasn’t changed is that people in St. Louis Park love to vote! City elections staff and poll workers are here to help you if you need us. We want to make sure you know your options and can cast your ballot as safely and as efficiently as possible. In order to protect each other from the spread of COVID-19, review your options for voting in the general election and consider voting by mail if you can.

We understand you may prefer to vote in person either early at city hall or at your polling place on Election Day – that’s ok. If you choose to vote in person, be aware that additional health and safety protocols, along with other unknown factors such as unexpected polling place location changes, may affect the service levels you have come to expect and that we work very hard to provide. You may experience longer wait times than usual, you may be asked to wait in line outdoors in varying weather conditions, or you may need to vote at a new location. We are navigating this challenging time as best we can, and we will get through this together.

Where to vote – know before you go

Due to COVID-19, circumstances for voting may change before you cast your vote. For polling locations and expectations. We understand this is not ideal. We are doing everything we can to minimize changes. However, some facilities may choose to remain closed to the public, and we need to respect that sometimes difficult decisions need to be made in the interest of protecting the health and safety of our community. Be aware that polling places may need to be combined or move with little notice. We will do the best we can to communicate changes with you as soon as possible.

If you intend to vote in person on Election Day, stay informed by:
- Visiting www.stlouispark.org/vote for the latest information
- Signing up at www.stlouispark.org/sign-up for email updates
- Following @stlouispark on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Calling the election line at 952.924.2503
- Emailing elections@stlouispark.org

Your vote plan

As Election Day approaches, your options for participating are more limited. This year you may encounter additional logistical challenges to cast a ballot, so developing a vote plan may help you plan ahead. A vote plan is simply how, when and where you will vote. The St. Louis Park elections team is here to support your vote plan. Check out our online voting plan tool at www.stlouispark.org/vote or write down your plan now. Below are options to consider.

Option A: By mail

- Apply for a ballot online or on paper. Check the online absentee ballot tracker to see if you have already applied for a general election ballot. If you have already applied, do not submit another application. Your ballot will arrive after the Sept. 18 start of the early voting period.
- Apply early! Additional delays may occur due to a high volume of requests.
- Vote! It is best to vote and mail your ballot so it arrives by Election Day. This is the best way to ensure your ballot will be counted, regardless of any law changes that may occur.
- You may return your completed ballot in a few different ways:
  - Mail your completed ballot back using the United States Postal Service. For your ballot to be counted, it must be postmarked by Election Day, Nov. 3, and received in the mail by Nov. 10.
  - Return your completed ballot to the utility billing drop box located outside the main entrance at St. Louis Park City Hall. This box is under 24-hour surveillance and will be emptied twice daily Monday – Friday, at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., by two election officials. No ballots will be accepted in this box after 3 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3.
  - Return your completed ballot during regular business hours to the city clerk’s office located on the third floor of city hall.
- If you are a registered Minnesota voter, you will not need a witness to sign your signature envelope.
- If you are not a registered Minnesota voter at the time you apply for your ballot, a registration form will be sent to you with your ballot and you MUST have a witness sign your signature envelope and verify the proof of residence you used to register. Follow the instructions provided with your ballot.

Option B: In person at city hall

- In-person voting is available 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, Sept. 18 – Nov. 2 at city hall.
- Be prepared. Additional measures to protect elections staff and voters will be in place. Expect to see other voters at city hall.
- The governor’s executive order requires face coverings to be worn at city hall.
- City hall will be open extended hours for in-person voting on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Option C: In person on Election Day

- Check your polling location before you go to vote as it may have changed. Any service disruptions that require us to move a polling location on short notice will be posted at www.stlouispark.org/vote.
- Be prepared to wait. Dress appropriately in case you have to wait outside. Additional measures to protect poll workers and voters will be in place, including physical distancing, reduced number of individuals allowed in the room used for voting, protective barriers and increased cleaning protocols. This could mean each voter will take longer to process and may have to wait outdoors.
- The governor’s executive order requires face coverings to be worn at polling locations.
How to vote by mail

**Step 1:** Apply to receive a ballot in the mail

- Online: Apply online at mnvotes.org by computer or mobile device.
- **By mail:** Fill in the paper form, address the envelope and mail it to Hennepin County Elections.
- **Over the phone:** Call us to have an application sent to you.

**Step 2:** Receive your ballot and vote

- **Receive your ballot during the early voting period.** (Sept. 18 – Nov. 2)
- **Vote your ballot.** A person may assist you at your request.
- **Place your completed ballot in the provided envelope.**

**Step 3:** Return your ballot

- **Double check!** A witness may need to sign your envelope.
- **Return your ballot by mail or in person at city hall by Election Day.**
- **Track your ballot status online at mnvotes.org to see when it gets counted.**

Where to vote – be prepared

Due to COVID-19, circumstances for voting may change before you vote, including rules, polling locations and expectations. We understand this is not ideal. We are doing everything we can to minimize changes. However, some facilities may choose to remain closed to the public, and we need to respect that sometimes difficult decisions need to be made in the interest of protecting the health and safety of our community. Be aware that polling places may need to be combined or moved with little notice. We will do the best we can to communicate changes with you as soon as possible.

If you intend to vote in person on Election Day, stay informed by:

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- Signing up at www.stlouispark.org/sign-up for email updates
- Following @stlouispark on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Calling the elections line at 952.924.2503
- Emailing elections@stlouispark.org

Your polling place may change. Check the location before you go to vote.

Can’t make it to the polls on Election Day? Vote early!

Did you know that the early voting period begins 46 days before any election? This means that early voting for the Nov. 3 general election begins Sept. 18. Consider an early voting option if you cannot make it or are uneasy about voting at your polling place on Election Day.

City hall is open for in-person voting Sept. 18 – Nov. 2, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. We will offer extended service hours Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you come to city hall to vote early, face coverings are required by the governor’s executive order.

The Minnesota Secretary of State, Hennepin County elections and the City of St. Louis Park encourage you to consider voting by mail to help us protect one another and minimize the spread of COVID-19. If you have already applied for an absentee ballot for the general election – great job! Do not apply again. Your ballot should arrive in the mail shortly after the early voting period begins on Sept. 18. If you are interested in voting by mail but haven’t applied yet, apply as soon as possible due to projected volume increases. Give yourself enough time to request, receive and return your voted ballot by the deadline. Visit www.stlouispark.org/vote for more information about early voting.

St. Louis Park precinct map

St. Louis Park precinct map

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St. Louis Park

MINNESOTA

Experience VOTING in the Park.

September 2020
Stay informed without leaving your home
St. Louis Park voters can visit www.stlouispark.org/vote to find important elections information. Read the latest elections news, find out where to vote, view a sample ballot, review early voting options, register to vote, learn how to vote if you are experiencing special circumstances or sign up to become an election judge. You can also find out how to get to your polling place by bike, bus or car.

Stay informed! We communicate with voters regularly through city social media channels and Nextdoor. Be sure to follow @stlouispark on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at mnvotes.org for general information, to check the status of a vote by mail ballot and for these other tools:

- Find out if you are registered to vote, view a sample ballot or find your current polling place. Visit mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx to check your voter registration. You must enter your name and address exactly as they appeared on your registration for the system to work. If you believe you are registered but did not find anything, consider trying again using other variations of your name and/or address (e.g. Robert or Bob, Elizabeth or Liz, removing hyphens or apostrophes, etc.).
- Register to vote or apply to vote by mail. You can also apply with a paper form if that is easier for you. If you would like a blank copy of either form, or if you have questions, call the elections office at 952.924.2503.
- Visit mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx to check the status of your vote by mail ballot or the location of your ballot in the process. It’s like tracking a mailed package. Here are some of the things it can tell you:
  - Can’t remember if you applied to vote by mail? Avoid duplicating work by checking the tracker first. Each update is entered by an election worker by hand, so if you just submitted your application or recently mailed your ballot back, it may take a few days for the update to show up in the tracker. If you applied for your ballot online, you should receive an email confirmation that your application was submitted.
  - Apply for a ballot but haven’t seen it yet? The tracking tool shows if your application was received and if your ballot has been sent.
  - Returned your voted ballot? Occasionally check the tracking tool. It will show when your ballot is received and when it is officially counted.

Find your polling place. The poll finder is an up-to-date tool that uses official polling place information to be sure you know where to go to vote. If you need to vote in person this year on Election Day, check the poll finder and the St. Louis Park elections website at www.stlouispark.org/vote before you go to vote. Locations may change on short notice or precincts may combine to serve voters on Election Day.

See a sample ballot. View and print a sample ballot before Election Day using this tool. Sample ballots are typically posted a week before early voting starts in mid-September. Some voters use a printed sample ballot as a guide when voting at the polling place.

Campaign Kindness: how you can help
1. Register to vote! Deadline for preregistration is October 13
Check now and make sure you are registered to vote. If you have moved, changed your name or not voted in the past four years, you may no longer be registered to vote. In addition, voters who will turn 18 between now and Election Day, who had their rights restored after a criminal conviction or who have newly attained citizenship must register before they can vote. Check your registration status or register to vote at mnvotes.org. You can also check your own registration status during regular business hours by calling the elections line at 952.924.2503.

Why should you check your registration now? Registered voters take much less time to process on Election Day. Additionally, being a registered voter also helps process vote by mail requests much quicker and reduces the amount of paperwork you will have to complete with your ballot. Help us today by taking five minutes to make sure you are registered to vote.

2. Avoid political discussion at the polls
All elections decide important issues that affect daily life. Each voter has the right to express their opinion on their ballot, in privacy and without influence. Campaigning of any kind is banned within 100 feet of a polling place or anywhere on public property. Discussing contentious issues or candidates should be avoided. Take this opportunity to speak about other topics with your neighbors and reserve political discussions for other times and locations.

3. Thank an election worker
Election workers are critical to ensuring you are able to cast your ballot safely and securely. Even during a pandemic, our election workers have stepped up to provide this critical service to our community. Please take a moment to thank an election worker for their hard work and dedication to protecting your right to vote.

4. Vote by mail
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends voting by mail this year. If you can, please consider this option. This will help protect the community by reducing the number of voters at polling places on Election Day and avoiding large gatherings of people. If you cannot vote by mail, or have concerns about the process, you can vote in person at city hall starting Sept. 18. City hall is open for early voting from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. Special hours are available on the Saturday before Election Day, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and on the Monday before Election Day, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are interested in voting early, don’t wait until the last minute.

Have questions? Contact us!
- Voting can be confusing. The process may take multiple steps, or you may be in a new situation this year that requires you to change how you usually vote. If you have any questions about voting, contact us at 952.924.2503. Our office hours are 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you can’t reach us, leave a message and someone will get back to you within one business day.
- You may receive confusing items in the mail or see misleading information on non-city social media sites or television. It is a good idea to double check information before you participate in the election, submit any forms or respond to mailings or social media posts. We can walk you through the official steps for however you choose to vote, and we can verify information to ensure you are getting accurate and updated information. We are your local elections office, so the information we provide is tailored to your experience. Remember, not everything you hear on the news or read on non-city social media sites may be 100 percent accurate. Check your facts.
- Elections staff can’t provide you with information about other voters, including a spouse, child, parent or sibling. This includes registration status, whether an individual has requested an absentee ballot or if an individual has already voted in this election. Elections staff can provide you with tools to register to vote or vote by mail, including a paper application if you need one. Registration materials are also available in alternate languages.
Your ballot and what you need to know

- In St. Louis Park, the ballot for the 2020 general election includes the offices of president of the United States, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, State Senator District 46, State House District 46A and 46B, Hennepin County Park Commissioner District 3, and judicial offices for the Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals and the 4th District Court.
- NO city offices are on the ballot in 2020. The city holds municipal elections in odd-numbered years. The next municipal election will be held in 2021.
- The ballot has two sides and contains both partisan and non-partisan races. All partisan races are denoted by the party affiliation listed underneath a candidate’s name.
- View a sample ballot for your precinct online at www.stlouispark.org/vote, at city hall or by calling the elections office.
- Whether you vote early or at the polls on Election Day, the ballot you are issued contains all the races for which you are eligible to vote.
- Follow instructions to mark your ballot and fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s).
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, you do have options to correct it. Contact an election worker for additional information.

Who can vote in Minnesota?

To be eligible to vote, you must be:
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of any felony sentence

Registering before Election Day

If you know you are not registered to vote under your current name and/or at your current residential address, you should register to vote before Election Day. This will make your trip to the polls much faster. State law requires you to register at least 21 days prior to Election Day so that your name is on the list of registered voters at your polling place. The last date for preregistration for the 2020 general election is Oct. 13.

Registering on Election Day

If you missed the preregistration deadline, you can register or update your registration when you vote. Whether you choose to vote early or at your polling place on Election Day, you will need to bring proof of residence to register. For a list of acceptable proofs of residence under state law, visit www.stlouispark.org/vote or call 952.924.2503.

Don’t wait!

Don’t wait until Election Day – plan ahead and contact the elections team with any questions!

Are campaign signs regulated?

When election season begins, residents and visitors will start to see campaign signs popping up throughout the community. Political signs are regulated by MN Statute 211B.045 and City Code Section 36-362(h)(5).

Keep in mind:

- Political signs of any size are permitted in any number from 46 days before an election.
- Political signs must be removed within 10 days after the general election has been held.
- Political signs should not be placed on the public right of way or on any publicly owned property, including boulevard trees and utility poles.
- Political signs must not obstruct the vision at an intersection or otherwise create a hazard to public safety.

Campaign sign help

If you have questions about campaign signs in St. Louis Park, call 952.924.2592.

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