

Automatic Voter Registration in Minnesota

Automatic voter registration will ensure that Minnesotan voters remain registered to vote at their proper address when they interact with DPS or other government agencies, and will ensure that eligible but unregistered citizens can register to vote efficiently and securely. Here's how it works:

Step 1: Department of Public Safety (or other agency) Application. During the regular course of certain DPS interactions—applying for, replacing, renewing, or changing the address on a driver's license or state ID card—clients generally supply the information election officials need to register them to vote, including Name, Address (mailing and residential), Date of Birth, Citizenship Status, and Signature Image. The Secretary of State shall determine if other state, tribal, or local government agencies also collect sufficient information to identify eligible citizens for potential automatic voter registration, and may work with them to allow participation in the program.

Step 2: Citizenship Filtering. *Only* clients who provide a document that demonstrates that they are a citizen (which is generally required by the DPS) will be included in AVR. As part of this step, demonstrated non-citizens or people whose citizenship status is unknown are excluded from the AVR workflow. Other agencies may verify citizenship instead through a database check.

Step 3: Option to Decline Registration with Receipt (In Person or by Mail). For people who have demonstrated their citizenship and provided the information necessary to register to vote, the agency provides a written receipt at the conclusion of the transaction. The person can decline to register that day by returning the receipt to the Department of Public Safety office, or by mailing it to the appropriate County auditor at the address provided on the form. If the person returns the receipt to the DPS office or other agency on the same day the person receives it, that agency shall not transmit the person's information to the Secretary of State and the declination remains private. If the person doesn't return the receipt on the same day and wants to decline to register to vote, they can return the receipt later by mail.

Step 4: Verification by Election Officials. For any person who is included in AVR but does not decline, the Secretary of State will send data to County Auditors, subject to the usual verification of eligibility that election officials undertake for any voter registration application. The County Auditor will update existing voter registration records or register the person to vote accordingly.

***Preregistration** allows people who are sixteen or seventeen years old but will not be eighteen years old by the next election, and are otherwise qualified to vote, to preregister to vote; once they are eighteen years old the person automatically becomes fully registered to vote. This provision allows the registration transaction to take place at the age that many first interact with DPS. As with regular registrants, only preregistrants who provide a document demonstrating citizenship will be preregistered to vote.