

# Safeguards in Place to Protect Elections

## Voter Registration

Key safeguards are in place before, during and after voting to maintain secure elections in Anoka County.

In the next four issues of the Anoka County News, there will be information regarding various aspects of secure elections: voter registration and public accuracy tests, Election Day activities, voting machine counts, and the post-election review. After publication in the Anoka County News, these articles will be available on the county's website, [anokacountymn.gov/3966/Election-Integrity](http://anokacountymn.gov/3966/Election-Integrity). More information on the elections process in Anoka County can also be found on this site.

### Voter registration

Anoka County continually updates its voter rolls as required by Minnesota law. The county performs updates daily as new information is received. Registrations and registration updates come to the county from a variety of sources, including:

- Directly from the voter via paper applications.
- Directly from the voter via online registrations/updates.
- DVS (Driver and Vehicle Services).
- DOH (Department of Health).
- USPS (US Postal Service).
- DOC (Department of Corrections).
- ERIC (Group of states that share registration information).

The identity of all registrants is verified by either sending the registrant's driver's license number to DVS or sending the last four digits of the registrant's social security number to the Social Security Administration. Each address is then verified by sending a postal verification card to the address provided by the registrant. If a registrant's identity cannot be confirmed through those methods, then that registrant is marked as "challenged." A voter whose registration is challenged must complete additional steps prior to being allowed to vote.

### Public Accuracy Tests

Prior to every election, the equipment to be used in that

election must be tested to ensure accuracy and that it is working as intended. This process is referred to as Preliminary Testing and includes the DS200 voting machines that will be used in the polling locations as well as the DS450 and DS850 high throughput scanners and tabulators used by Anoka County for processing absentee ballots. The Public Accuracy Test (PAT) is a public demonstration of that testing. There are certain requirements that must be met for this test laid out by statute:



- Notice of the PAT must be posted and published at least 48 hours in advance.
- Two election judges of different major parties must witness the test.
- The testing of the voting systems and programs must be with the test deck — there is a test deck for each precinct.

All test ballots must be marked "TEST." The test deck includes all scenarios for how a ballot might be marked by a voter:

- Valid votes for each candidate or question on the ballot.
- Overvotes: Vote for one candidate but two are chosen.
- Undervotes: Vote for two candidates but only one is chosen.
- Blank ballots in which no positions have been voted.
- Ballots marked by the omniballot (assistive voting device).
- Ballots marked by hand.
- At least one test ballot must be intentionally damaged so that it is unreadable by the machine.

In election jurisdictions with more than three precincts, a minimum of three precincts must be tested. In a jurisdiction with three or less precincts, all precincts must be tested.

### *Adaptive Needs from pg. 9 ...*

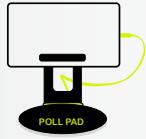
#### **Anoka County Parks**

Within the Anoka County Park system, the entire guest experience is being examined to see how universal design and adaptive needs can be met within facilities, equipment and programs. A variety of programs are in development that will provide inclusive and adaptive opportunities to engage with nature, animals, and peer-to-peer interaction. To help deliver these new program offerings, a grant application is being submitted to secure equipment, such as track wheelchairs for off trail access, modified kayaks and water entry chairs, and adaptive ski equipment for winter recreation.

#### **Anoka County Library System**

Last year, the Library system obtained sensory kits with items like fidget spinners and noise-canceling headphones to help make visiting the library more enjoyable for people of all abilities. The Library also started offering Sensory-Friendly Storytimes for families with young children with special needs. Based on input from families, the Library offered adaptive cooking and art classes that paired teens with disabilities with peer buddies to learn and create together this summer. While their students were in class, parents had the opportunity to meet other caregivers in a supportive space led by special educator Rachel Jorgensen, author of "Supporting Your Child with Special Needs: 50 Fundamental Tools for Families." You can find adaptive and sensory-friendly programs on the Library's event calendar at [tinyurl.com/ACLAdaptiveEvents](http://tinyurl.com/ACLAdaptiveEvents).

# Elections and Voting



## Electronic Pollbooks



These devices have been in use in Anoka County polling places since 2018.

The decision to use pollbooks has benefited Anoka County residents and provided greater efficiencies for election judges and administrators. It is important to note that at no point in time are the pollbooks ever connected to the voting machines, and the information pollbooks access is securely encrypted.

**Reduced Wait Times** – Gone are the days of standing in long check-in lines, divided alphabetically by last name, and seeing some lines empty while others take more time because voters in those lines have common last names. Voters can now use any line to check in and, instead of flipping through volumes of paper to find your name, an election judge can now simply do a quick search on the pollbook. Because of these efficiencies, the time you spend in the polling place has been drastically reduced.



**Election Integrity** – Paper rosters required a manual “Voted” stamp next to the name of every resident who voted absentee. This meant many hours of stamping by election officials, with the potential for mistakes. With pollbooks, this process is done instantaneously, without the possibility of human error. This process is repeated on Election Day as well for any absentee ballots that are received on that day. The ability to update a voter’s status in real time allows an election judge to instantly see if the person trying to check in already has a voted ballot.



**Voter Privacy** – Each page of the paper roster listed the names of multiple residents, which allowed for the possibility of others seeing if you had checked in. The pollbooks only display the information of the person who is currently checking in, thus increasing privacy for every voter.



For more information on elections in Anoka County, visit: [anokacountymn.gov/3966/Election-Integrity](http://anokacountymn.gov/3966/Election-Integrity)

## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Storm sewer systems carry water directly into our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. If anything other than stormwater enters the system, it is an illicit discharge. Substances can include oil, chemicals, sediment, and more.



### Tips for residents

- Take used oil to a recycle center or a fast oil-change business.
- Revegetate bare or eroding areas of your lawn.
- Return old paint to the store where you purchased it.
- Secure your trash when placed on the street.
- Take all old chemicals, including paints and automobile fluids, to your local household hazardous waste drop-off: <http://tinyurl.com/2wycrmns>.
- Do not pour fats, oils, or grease into your sink or sewer.
- Do not over fertilize your lawn.
- Pump your septic tank every 3 years.
- Report any hazardous spills immediately: (612) 670-3059.

# What to Expect on and After ELECTION DAY



**E**lection Day is fast approaching on Nov. 5 — there are only a few more weeks before people around the nation head to polling places to cast votes for candidates in a myriad of races.

While this year's presidential contest is garnering the most attention, there are plenty of other races to be decided at the state, county, municipal, and school district level.

Those who want to know which candidates and questions are on their respective ballots can visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website: [sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot](https://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot). Here, voters can view their sample ballot by entering their zip code and street address.

## On Election Day

Prior to heading out the door to vote, it's a good idea to look up the location of your polling place, especially if you're new to an area and haven't voted in that precinct yet. The state's online polling place finder can be accessed at [www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](https://www.pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us) — again, the only information needed is a person's zip code and street address.

All polling locations are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, and Minnesota law stipulates that all employers need to give employees time off to vote, without penalty or deduction in salary or wages. This law also applies to absentee or early voting, which started Sept. 20.

When voters arrive at their Anoka County polling locations, they'll be greeted by election workers and asked to sign in at any available line on an electronic pollbook, which is a secure voter verification system that is never

connected to the voting machines.

After being verified on the pollbook, voters are presented with their ballots and head to voting booths. All voters in Anoka County use paper ballots, creating an auditable paper trail that allows for independent verification of election results using hand-count methods.

Once ballots are filled out, voters feed them into ES&S Digital Scan 200 voting machines to count and tabulate ballots. Digital Scan 450 & 850 machines are used for central counting of absentee ballots. ES&S is one of three vendors with ballot counters that have been tested and certified by test labs accredited by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and tested and certified by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State for use in Minnesota elections.

## Post-Election Activities

After the polls have closed and vote totals are tallied, there's a meeting of the Anoka County Canvassing Board, at which election results are reviewed and certified. The canvassing board also randomly selects a minimum of four precincts to participate in the Post Election Review (PER). The PER is a hand-count audit following state general elections to ensure the ballot counter results are accurate. At the PER, teams of election judges hand-count the absentee and polling place ballots for each precinct. The hand count must differ by no more than one-half of one percent of the machine count, otherwise additional review(s) are triggered. The PER is held at the Anoka County Government Center and is open to the public.



## View Your Sample Ballot

[sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot](https://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot)

## Find Your Polling Place

[pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us)

# At a Glance: 2025 HIGHWAY PROJECTS

## 1. 44th Ave. NE from East River Rd. to Main St. NE, Fridley

Reconstruct existing bridge deck, widen pedestrian accommodations, and bridge approach improvements. Project includes signal replacement at East River Road. Construction: winter-fall.

## 2. Mississippi St. at Old Central Ave., Fridley

New roundabout. Construction: summer-fall.

## 3. Mississippi St. at 7th Ave., Fridley

New roundabout. Construction: summer-fall.

## 4. Viking Blvd. from Rum River Bridge to Lake George Blvd., Oak Grove

Reconstruct roadway surface with concrete pavement. Construction: spring-summer.

## 5. Rum River Blvd. at Seelye Brook, Oak Grove

Replace existing timber bridge. Construction: fall.

## 6. Bunker Lake Blvd. from Round Lake Blvd. to Hanson Blvd., Andover

Pavement surface mill and overlay, existing traffic control signal system improvements, and pedestrian/bicyclist facility ADA improvements. Construction: summer-fall.

## 7. Crosstown Blvd. NW at Nightingale St. NW, Andover

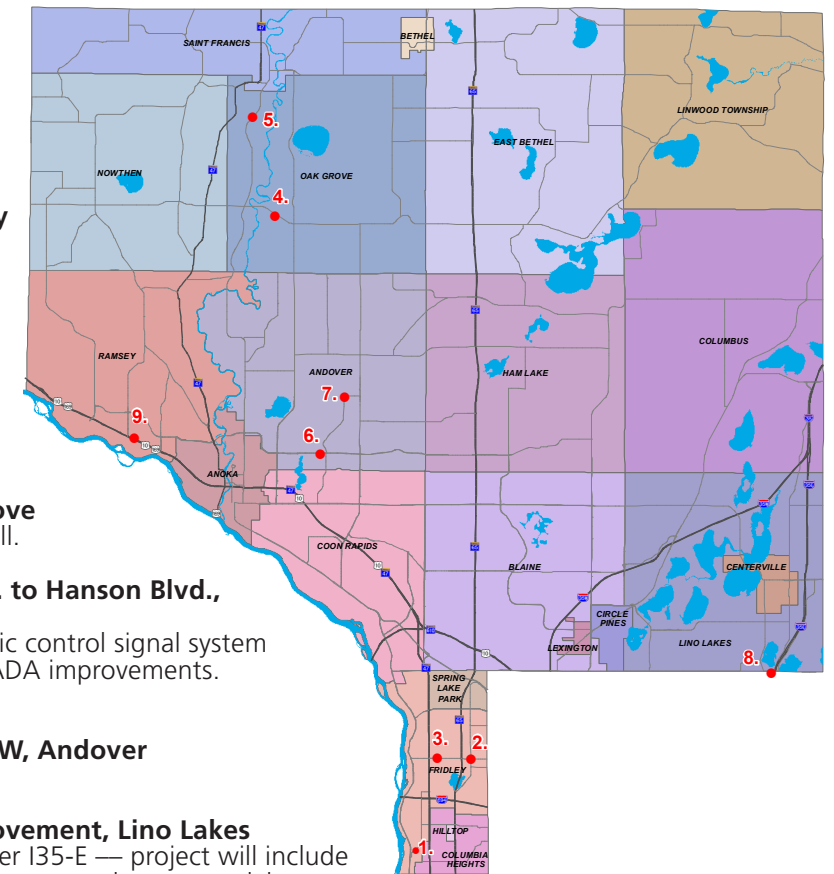
New roundabout. Construction: spring-fall.

## 8. County Road J at I-35E interchange improvement, Lino Lakes

Construction of new, full-access interchange over I35-E — project will include new bridge over I35-E, southbound on and off ramps and new roundabouts at Centerville Road, 20th Avenue South, and Otter Lake Road. Construction: summer 2025-fall 2026.

## 9. Highway 10 Ramsey Gateway, Ramsey

Construction of new grade-separated interchanges at Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard that will replace existing signalized intersections. At-grade BNSF railway crossings on Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard will also be grade-separated. Construction: spring 2024-fall 2025.



Salt is applied during the winter to melt ice on surfaces. Because of this, chloride levels in our environment have increased.

### TIPS FOR SALT USAGE

- Follow instructions
- Store salt indoors
- Keep walkway shoveled
- Mix sand with salt
- Apply sparingly in high-traffic areas only



State law prohibits the placement of signs in the public right-of-way. Remember these tips:

- Do not attach signs to any traffic control devices, such as signal poles, signal boxes, or signposts.
- Power poles and fences are usually located on or near the right-of-way lines and are a good reference for the width of the highway right-of-way; however, visit the Anoka County GIS website, [gis.anokacountymn.gov/propertysearch/](https://gis.anokacountymn.gov/propertysearch/), to determine the right-of-way width prior to installing signs. Call 763-324-3100 for right-of-way questions.

# Property Tax Assistance for Seniors and People with Disabilities

[Click HERE](#) FOR MORE INFO!

Trained volunteers are available to help senior citizens and people with disabilities apply for their homeowners/renters Minnesota property tax refund (M1PR) form. This program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Any changes to this schedule will be announced on the property tax line, 763-324-1480.

June 11: 9 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Center	9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine
June 12: 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center	11155 Robinson Dr., Coon Rapids
June 20: 2 to 4 p.m.	Murzyn Hall Columbia Heights Senior Center	530 Mill St., Columbia Heights
June 27: 10 a.m. to noon	Ham Lake Senior Center	15544 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake
July 8: 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center	11155 Robinson Dr., Coon Rapids
July 16: 9 a.m. to noon	Fridley Community Center	6085 7th St. NE, Fridley
July 17: 9 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Center	9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine



Have you ever wanted to become an election judge or know someone who might? The time is now! With the State Primary Election Aug. 13 and the State General Election Nov. 5, the need is great. If you are interested, please reach out to your city or town clerk today.

**What is an Election Judge?**  
Election judges are temporary, paid

employees of local election officials trained to handle all aspects of voting at the polling place. Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections and is a great service to the community.

**Who Can Apply?**  
You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and able to read, write and speak English. Students 16 and 17 years old can be election judge trainees. Relatives cannot serve together in the same precinct at the same time. Candidates cannot serve in a precinct where they are on the ballot.

**How to Apply**  
You can go to your municipality's website for more information on their hiring process or contact your city clerk.

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**Pay**  
You can choose to volunteer or be paid. Wages vary by municipality.

**Training**  
You must take the required online training that will be roughly two hours in length. Head judges and assistant head judges are required to take an extra one hour of in-person training as well.

**Workday schedule**  
A typical schedule on Election Day is from 6 a.m. to around 9 p.m. In some cases, you can ask to work a half-day.

**Right to time off from work to serve**  
Your employer is required to give you time off from work to be an election

judge without a reduction in pay. To qualify, you must:

1. Notify your employer in writing at least 20 days in advance of Election Day.
2. Attach a copy of your schedule and pay rate form to your written notice. The schedule and pay rate will be provided by the jurisdiction that hires you as an election judge.

**High school student trainees**  
16 and 17-year-old students can work as election judge trainees, receive training, and be paid for their work. It's a great way to learn about elections and voting, and earn cash at the same time!

[Click HERE](#) for more info.

## Commissioner District 1 Special Election

# TIMELINE

