

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

List of Potential Elections Legislation for 2009:

- **Modernize Voter Registration**
 - by making it automatic for those applying for driver's licenses and state ID cards, unless they are not eligible or opt out;
 - OSS would check to see if voter is not eligible to vote
 - authorizes use of Corrections database re: felons and DPS database re: status check
 - automatic voter registration updates for name changes

- **Early Voting and Absentee Ballots Without Excuse**
 - in person early voting during 14 days before the election
 - early voter signs roster and puts ballot in machine – cannot vote again
 - ABs accepted and rejected centrally by AB boards
 - ABs counted centrally by AB boards, never sent to precinct
 - allowing staff to serve as AB board without party designation
 - once AB has been accepted, voter may not vote again
 - electronic transmission of ABs to domestic voters
 - sending ballots to ongoing AB voters, not applications
 - requiring use of SVRS for ABs
 - removing witness requirement for pre-registered voters
 - early voting at health care facilities

- **Vacancy Issues**
 - if a major political party's nomination becomes vacant after ballots have been printed, there must be a special election
 - except in large jurisdictions, if a nonpartisan nomination becomes vacant after ballots have been printed, the election moves forward without changes (no special election, no supplemental ballot)
 - in large jurisdictions, a nonpartisan vacancy triggers a special election

- **Online Voter Registration and Online Voter Registration Verification**

- **Changes to Recount Process**
 - change threshold for automatic recount from ½ % to ¼ %
 - federal and constitutional races go directly to a contest if the margin is less than 500 votes and over 2.5 million were cast
 - require candidates to request recounts
 - require local officials to conduct recounts, in return for reimbursement of their costs
 - define "identifying mark"
 - state that original ballots are not part of recount
 - require training for candidate representatives and that they be MN residents
 - specify how to reconcile when ballots are missing

- **Changes to Election Day Registration**
 - modify definition of residential facility
 - remove requirement that residential facilities provide lists of employees
 - require colleges to provide lists of students on and off campus to OSS

- **Election Administration bill**

Many items, including:

 - expanding vote by mail to larger jurisdictions
 - parties' election judge lists sent to OSS electronically to be sorted and distributed
 - requiring use of ERS for all races in state elections
 - clarifying that challengers may not speak to voters
 - allowing exit pollsters from select companies to be within 100 feet of door

- **Housekeeping bill**
 - including updating statutes to reflect use of optical scan ballots, instead of different colored paper ballots