

2022 Minnesota Absentee Ballot Application

Complete lines 1 through 7. Please print clearly.

Important: Active duty military and overseas voters should not use this application. See the other side for more information.

1. absentee ballots requested for the following election(s)

- 2/8 Special Election 4/12 Special Election 8/9 Primary Election ~~Both 8/9 & 11/9 Elections~~

2022 General Election Absentee Ballot Drop Box Use



4. mark all boxes that apply:

- I have a MN issued driver's license or MN ID card number. The number is: _____
- I have a social security number. The last four digits are: **XXX-XX-** _____
- I do not have a MN issued driver's license, MN issued ID card or a social security number

Your identification number will be compared to the one on your voter's certificate.



Background - 2020 Election Use

- Due to COVID-19 Pandemic – AB Drop Box was utilized in many cities including WSP
- Fear of illness and USPS delays made 24/7 contact-less drop box convenient, secure, fast and safe
- Generic lobby drop box was outfitted with artwork to convert to AB Drop Box
- Accessible, locked, bolted to concrete pad and under surveillance 24/7
- Heavily used by voters in 2020

Pros

- Convenient 24/7 ballot submission option
- Contact-less: safer for those at high risk of illness or death due to COVID-19
- New dedicated drop box is no cost to the City as state grant funds would cover the purchase
- 24/7 video surveillance, locked, emptied daily, physically secured to concrete
- Documented AB voter fraud/ ballot box tampering is very minimal

Cons

- Draws scrutiny from those critical of non-hand-to-hand transfer of ballot
- Camera surveillance does not prevent tampering, it dissuades and documents it
- Secure box is not 100% tamperproof. Tools or significant force could dislodge or damage box
- Confusion about where to drop– Drop boxes are not at designated polling places – Voters go to the wrong city – Some have placed ballots in USPS mailboxes

Where Are We and What's Next?

- Need to give notice to Secretary of State 40-days prior to AB start– too late for Primary
- \$12,600 State grant approved to purchase dedicated new secure drop box
- Across Dakota County (best we can tell) –

No Box: Eagan, Lakeville, Farmington, Rosemount, Inver Grove Heights

Undecided: SSP (leaning toward No Box)

Registered with SoS: Apple Valley (still deciding)

Will Have Box: None



Action

Item in tonight's City Council Meeting with two options that will determine staff's next moves.

A. Register the City of West St. Paul's intent to use an absentee ballot drop box with the Secretary of State in accordance with Minnesota Statute 203B.082 AND accept the Minnesota 2022 Drop Box Grant in an amount of up to \$12,600.

-or-

B. Not use an absentee ballot drop box for the 2022 General Election.

