

**CITY OF MINNETRISTA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**



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**Subject:** Designate Voting Period – Absentee and Early Voting

**Prepared By:** Paula Bauman, Assistant City Administrator  
Ann Meyerhoff, City Clerk

**Meeting Date:** June 1, 2026

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**Issue:**

Determine whether the city of Minnetrista will implement 18 days of in-person absentee voting (AB) at City Hall.

**Background:**

The 2026 Minnesota legislative session concluded on May 20, resulting in new legislation requiring municipalities to determine their in-person voting period for future elections. Under the new law, municipalities must decide whether to begin administering in-person voting 46 days before an election or transition to the new 18-day early voting period. The statute states: “the municipality must determine whether the municipality's office will be designated to administer voting under section 203B.081 starting on the 46th day before the election or the 18th day before the election.”

In practice, this means municipalities must choose between continuing the current 46-day in-person absentee voting process, which uses absentee ballot envelopes, or implementing the 18-day early voting process, where voters cast ballots directly into the DS200 tabulator in a manner similar to Election Day voting.

The legislation can be viewed here: [Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 102](#)

If the city adopts the 18-day early voting period, the primary operational change would eliminate the first 28 days of in-person absentee voting at City Hall. Residents would still have the option to vote absentee during that time by requesting a ballot online or by mail through the Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office. Completed absentee ballots could still be returned to City Hall or mailed to the SOS office.

City staff supports transitioning to the 18-day early voting period. The change would continue to provide residents with accessible voting opportunities while improving the efficiency and consistency of election administration. It would also streamline staffing and operational planning, reduce costs, and provide a clearer and more manageable voting schedule for the public.

If Council chooses to designate the city’s voting administration period for the 2026 elections under Minnesota Statutes sections 203B.081 to begin on the 18th day before the election, Staff will create a communications plan to clearly communicate that voters can cast their ballot during the 18-day early voting period at City Hall. The messaging will emphasize the new timeline, the convenience of voting early at City Hall, and the continued availability of Election Day and mail voting options.

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**Mission Statement:**

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost-effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

**Recommended City Council Action:**

Hennepin County has requested municipalities voting period designations by June 1 to assist with election administration timelines. Staff recommends the City Council designate the city’s voting administration period for the 2026 elections under Minnesota Statutes section 203B.081 to begin on the 18th day before the election.

**Attachments:**

- Voter participation totals for 2022 and 2024 elections

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**Mission Statement:**

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost-effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.



### Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-08/09/2022 - STATE PRIMARY, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-In Person

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	4	0	0	0	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	1	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	1	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	9	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Municipality Total:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hennepin County Total:</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	



### Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-08/09/2022 - STATE PRIMARY, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-Direct Balloting

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	12	0	0	0	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	9	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	39	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Municipality Total:</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hennepin County Total:</b>			<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	



## Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-11/08/2022 - STATE GENERAL, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-In Person

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	121	0	0	2	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	41	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	60	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	172	0	0	0	0	0
		Municipality Total:	394	0	0	2	0	0
Hennepin County Total:			394	0	0	2	0	0



## Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-11/08/2022 - STATE GENERAL, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-Direct Balloting

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	157	0	0	0	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	70	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	121	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	312	0	0	0	0	0
		Municipality Total:	660	0	0	0	0	0
Hennepin County Total:			660	0	0	0	0	0



## Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-08/13/2024 - STATE PRIMARY, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-In Person

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	2	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	1	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	3	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Municipality Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hennepin County Total:</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-08/13/2024 - STATE PRIMARY, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-Direct Balloting

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	13	0	0	0	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	9	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	14	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	12	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Municipality Total:</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hennepin County Total:</b>			<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-11/05/2024 - STATE GENERAL, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-In Person

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	143	0	0	0	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	28	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	70	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	223	0	0	0	0	0
		Municipality Total:	464	0	0	0	0	0
Hennepin County Total:			464	0	0	0	0	0



## Ballot Count: Accepted and Rejected

County-Hennepin, MCD-MINNETRISTA, Election-11/05/2024 - STATE GENERAL, AB Designated-All Municipalities, Application Type-Regular, Regular Application Delivery Method-Direct Balloting

Municipality	Ward	Precinct	Accepted			Rejected		
			PCT	FED	PRS	PCT	FED	PRS
Hennepin								
151-Minnetrista		2240-MINNETRISTA P-1	577	0	0	0	0	0
		2245-MINNETRISTA P-2	222	0	0	0	0	0
		2250-MINNETRISTA P-3	422	0	0	0	0	0
		2255-MINNETRISTA P-4	1068	0	0	0	0	0
		Municipality Total:	2289	0	0	0	0	0
Hennepin County Total:			2289	0	0	0	0	0