

Registering to Vote: *Hawa Registers to Vote*

Hawa is 34 years old. She became a United States citizen in 2008 but she has never voted. She didn't register to vote when she became a citizen but Hawa meets these requirements to vote. She is at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States. She has lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days before the election. If she had a felony conviction record, it was dismissed.

Hawa is concerned about health care. Her daughter has diabetes and Hawa has a hard time paying the bills for her medicine. She works as a housekeeper and makes \$10.00 an hour. She doesn't have health insurance.



Hawa wonders about health insurance. Can it help her daughter? John, her teacher, tells Hawa there is an election soon, and one of the things to decide is to increase or decrease government health care. John tells Hawa that she can vote. Hawa wants to vote, but she doesn't know how. She asks John to help.

John says, "First you need to register. You can register to vote before the election. This is called pre-registration. That puts you on the list of voters so it will be easier when you vote. You can also register on election day at your polling place, which is the building where you vote."

"I want to register before the election. I want to pre-register," says Hawa.

"You can do that right now on the computer," replies John. "Let's go to the web site for the state of Minnesota www.mnvotes.org. You can register there on-line. It asks for information, like your name, address, date of birth and identification. That can be your Minnesota driver's license or ID, or social security number.

"If you don't have that information today, I will bring a registration form to the next class and you can pre-register then," John answers. "Do you want the form in English or Somali? The forms also are available in Hmong, Spanish, Vietnamese, Lao, Khmer, Chinese, Oromo, Amharic and Russian."

"Please get me a form in English, so I can practice my English," says Hawa. "Will you help me if I don't understand the instructions?"

John downloads the voter registration form in English. He brings it to class the next day. He also gets a form in Somali for Hawa to give to her husband. They need to pre-register 20 days before the election. Hawa completes the form in English, using a pen, not a pencil. It is very easy. Now she finds out where to mail the voter pre-registration form. It can be sent to Secretary of State, 60 Empire Drive, suite 100, St Paul, MN 55104.

On her way home, Hawa buys an envelope and a postage stamp and mails her voter registration form. When she gets home, she gives the other registration form to her husband. Now she can help him fill it out. She can be his teacher.

Questions for discussion: *Hawa Registers to Vote*

1. What are the eligibility requirements for voting in Minnesota? Is Hawa eligible to vote? Are you eligible to vote?
2. What are the languages used on voter registration forms? What language does Hawa chose for voter registration? What language will you use?
3. What does John do to get registration forms? What information is needed to complete the form?
4. How do you find out where to mail your voter registration form? What is the address?
5. How do you find the polling place to vote? Where will you vote?
6. Can Hawa help her husband register? Can you help other people register?

Minnesota Voter Registration Application

Apply online at mnvotes.org, or complete lines 1 through 8 of this form. Please print clearly.

Personal Information & Qualification

1. Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<small>election official use only</small> IP M AB
2. Will you be at least 18 on or before the next election? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you mark "NO" to either of these questions, DO NOT complete this form.	
3. last name or surname <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	first name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
middle name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	suffix <small>(Jr., Sr., III, etc.)</small> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
4. address where you live (residence) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
apt. number <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
city <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
zip code <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
5. if mail cannot be delivered to the address above, provide P.O. Box <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
city <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
zip code <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
6. date of birth (not today's date) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	school district (if known) <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
county where you live <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
phone number <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	email address <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
7. mark one box and provide the number that applies to you: <input type="checkbox"/> I have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card number: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a MN-issued driver's license or MN ID card The last four digits of my Social Security Number are: XXX-XX- <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a MN-issued driver's license, a MN-issued ID card, or a Social Security Number.	

Registration Updates - Are you currently registered under a different name or address?

previous last name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	previous first name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	previous middle name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
previous address where you were last registered <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		
city <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		
state <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		
zip code <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		

Read And Sign Only If All Parts Apply To You.

8. I certify that I:

- will be at least 18 years old on election day;
- am a citizen of the United States;
- will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day;
- maintain residence at the address given on the registration form;
- am not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes my right to vote;
- have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;
- have the right to vote because, if I have been convicted of a felony, my felony sentence has expired (been completed) or I have been discharged from my sentence; and
- have read and understand this statement, that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

sign here **X** _____ date: ____ / ____ / 20____

Election Judge Official Use Only

W _____ P _____ SD _____ Initials _____	ID with Current Name & Address ID Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> MN Driver's License, Learner's Permit, MN ID Card, or Receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal ID Card	Photo ID + Document with Current Name & Address Document Type: _____ Photo ID Number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License, Learner's Permit or State ID Card <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Passport <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Military or Veteran ID <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal ID <input type="checkbox"/> Student ID	Other <input type="checkbox"/> Vouched For <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Late Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Registration in Same Precinct <input type="checkbox"/> Student ID with College List ID Number: _____
--	--	---	---