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Message from MSBA Executive Director, Kirk Schneidawind:

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) has been a leading advocate for public education since 1920, by supporting, promoting, and strengthening the work of public-school boards.

All elections are important, and this year’s elections will once again bring challenges Minnesotans have never experienced before.

As in every election, education issues should be one of the forefront considerations when going to the polls. Minnesota has more than 850,000 students enrolled in K-12 public education. Minnesota has a diverse student population that includes more than 144,000 students enrolled in special education, and more than 324,000 students eligible for free and reduced lunches. Issues matter!

Before the pandemic, Minnesota was already experiencing one of the worst achievement gaps in the nation. These past two years of experiencing a global pandemic has taught us several things - the impact on education has been significant across the U.S. and here in Minnesota. The issues that we wrestled with before the pandemic are still very real. We, as public education advocates, must ensure candidates for public office understand the importance of these urgent issues facing Minnesota school boards, students, and staff each day.

It is important to remember voters will also cast ballots for significant local elections. On Tuesday, November 8th, 305 school boards will be holding elections for four-year terms along with a handful of special elections. As a part of our mission to support school board members, we have developed a video for individuals interested in running for their local school board.

I hope you find this voter guide, which provides you with information on registration, election details, and questions to pose to candidates, helpful as you navigate through this year’s election cycle. And remember to vote!

Sincerely,

Kirk Schneidawind
MSBA Executive Director
2022 Elections:

Redistricting has added a new dimension to this year’s elections. In Minnesota’s general election, the governor, U.S. House and all other statewide offices will be on the ballot. The August primaries will determine which candidates appear on November’s general election ballot. Unique to this year, a special election to fill a vacancy for Rep. Jim Hagedorn, who represented Minnesota’s first district in the U.S. House, has been scheduled for August 9. The Minnesota Legislature will look very different next year. As of June 2022, there are 47 departing state legislators. Several Minnesota House Representatives are making a run at a Senate seat and one Senator is pursuing a House seat.

Voters will also cast ballots for important local elections. This November 305 school boards will be holding elections for four-year terms along with a handful of special elections. As a part of our mission to support school board members, we have developed a video for individuals interested in running for their local school board.

MSBA hopes you find the following voter information helpful.

Voter Information:

- **Absentee voting:** All registered voters can cast a no-excuse absentee ballot and vote from home in August’s primaries and November’s general election. But you’ll need another registered voter or a notary as a witness.

- **Early in-person voting:** Cast an absentee ballot early and in person at your county election office — from June 24 through Aug. 8 for the primaries and from Sept. 23 through Nov. 7 for the general election.

- **In-person voting on Election Day:** The primaries are Tuesday, Aug. 9, and the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8. In most of the state, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Who can vote in MN?

- U.S. citizens
- Individuals at least 18 years old
- Residents of Minnesota for at least 20 days
- Felons who have completed all parts of a sentence, including any probation, parole, or supervised release.

When is Election Day?

- Primary Election Day – Tuesday, August 9, 2022
- General Election Day - Tuesday, November 8, 2022
How and when do I register to vote?

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 - Primary

Registration Deadlines:
• By Mail - Tuesday, July 19, 2022 (By 11:59 p.m.)
• In Person - Tuesday, August 9, 2022
• Online Get Registered! - Tuesday, July 19, 2022 (By 5 p.m.)

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 - General Election

Registration Deadlines:
• By Mail - Tuesday, October 18, 2022 (By 11:59 p.m.)
• In Person - Tuesday, November 8, 2022
• Online Get Registered! - Tuesday, October 18, 2022 (By 5 p.m.)

What do I need to register to vote?

Those who meet the above qualifications, may register to vote in Minnesota.

To register online, you will need at least one of the following:
• A Minnesota driver’s license
• A Minnesota identification card number
• The last four numbers of your Social Security Number

To register by mail or in person:
• Send the paper registration to your county elections or Secretary of State office
• Complete a registration form at your county elections office
• Register in person on election day at your polling place

How do I vote absentee or early?

• June 24 through Aug. 8 for the primaries and from Sept. 23 through Nov. 7 for the general election.
• Absentee ballots are online at the MN Secretary of State’s website or at your county elections office.
• Early voting is open during normal business hours. Additionally, locations offering absentee ballots for federal, state or county elections must be open:
  o The last Saturday before Election Day (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
  o The day before Election Day until 5 p.m.
  o This does not apply to school districts holding standalone elections.
• Some local jurisdictions may provide additional absentee voting days or hours beyond the above required days and times. Call your jurisdiction for more information.
**Where can I vote?**

- Every voter has at least one place where they can vote early in person with an absentee ballot.
- In person at your county election office.
- In addition to your county election office, some cities and towns offer in-person absentee voting. Check with your city clerk’s office for more information.

**When can I vote?**

The primaries are Tuesday, Aug. 9; the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls are generally open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. — towns with populations below 500 may not open polling places before 10 a.m. You should be allowed to vote if you’re in line before the polls close. Use the state’s voter information portal to find your polling location and hours.

**What is on my ballot in 2022?**

All voters will have these races on their general election ballot:

- Governor of Minnesota
- Lt. Governor of Minnesota
- Secretary of State of Minnesota
- Attorney General of Minnesota
- State Auditor
- U.S. House of Representative
- Minnesota State Senator
- Minnesota State Representative

Voters may also have one or more of these races on their ballot:

- County Officials
- City Officers
- School Board Members
- Township Officers
- Local ballot questions
- Judicial seats
Questions for State & Local Candidates:

- If you had been in office last spring and given the $9.25 billion surplus, would you have voted in favor of a supplemental education budget bill? A tax bill with refunds? Or would you have voted to wait until the budget year?
- If you had been in office last spring, how would you have resolved the 2022 K-12 education bill, given the $1 billion leadership agreement target?
- Are you familiar with the special education cross-subsidy?
  - Are you aware of the special education cross-subsidies in the school districts in your potential legislative district?
  - How would you propose eliminating the special education cross-subsidy in Minnesota?
- Are you familiar with the English language (EL) cross-subsidy?
  - Are you aware of the English language (EL) cross-subsidies in your potential legislative district?
  - How would you propose eliminating the English language (EL) cross-subsidy in Minnesota?
- How would you support local school boards? Do you believe in their authority and autonomy?
  - Would you refrain from supporting statewide, unfunded mandates?
  - Will you support giving school boards the authority to reform and innovate student learning?
- What is your understanding of Minnesota’s student achievement gap and what measures will you as a legislator take to eliminate the gap?
- Do you believe current funding levels for public education are adequate or inadequate and why?
- Do you support increases in the general education funding formula that at least keep pace with inflation?
- Do you support the use of public tax dollars for private education?

Ways to Get Involved During the Election:

- Meet with legislators/candidates
- Meet with school board members
  - Watch or promote the MSBA video on school board elections
- Attend local candidate forums
- If a candidate or campaign calls or knocks on your door, ask questions
- Contact local candidates and ask for their positions on education issues
- Stay informed during legislative sessions, and contact your representatives about issues you care about
- VOTE!
Election Resources:
Democratic Party Website: dfl.org
Independent Party Website: www.mnip.org
Republican Party Website: www.mngop.com

Legislative Resources:
Minnesota House of Representatives: www.house.leg.state.mn.us/
Minnesota Senate: www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/
DFL House Caucus: dflhouse.com
DFL House Caucus: www.house.leg.state.mn.us/dfl/
DFL Senate Caucus: senatedflcaucus.com
Republican House Caucus: www.mnhrcc.com
Republican House Caucus: www.house.leg.state.mn.us/gop
Republican Senate Caucus: www.mnsenaterepublicans.com
Republican Senate Caucus: www.senate.mn/departments/office_bio.php?office_id=1002

Candidate Information:
MN Secretary of State: www.sos.state.mn.us/
Candidate Filings: candidates.sos.state.mn.us
League of Women Voters: www.lwvmn.org/