

**Give Every Voter Every Chance to Vote  
Support SF 535/ HF 334, Early Voting**

**Summary:**

- **SF 535/HF 334** would provide Minnesotans with a system which will allow voters to select the candidates they wish to vote for prior to Election Day *in person*. Making it to the polls on Election Day isn't always an easy task for many and affording voters only one day in which they may cast their ballot is an unnecessary restriction to our civil rights. The proposed bills would open the opportunities voters have to vote by allowing them to do so on the days leading up to Election Day.

**The advantages of Early Voting:**

- **Give Voters greater flexibility in the voting process**  
A voter's ability to vote is largely dependent on their work/school schedule and other prior obligations.
- **Waiting in line does not improve democracy. Voting does!**  
Some states allow voters several weeks to submit ballots while others allot only a couple extra days. Either way it is more convenient for voters than only allowing voting to occur on Election Day where long lines can be a common deterrent.
- **Early voting expands voters' ability to exercise their right to vote**  
Allowing vote counters more time to tabulate votes would inevitably result in fewer Election Day controversies.

In states where Early Voting is allowed, voters have taken full advantage of the extra opportunity to vote.

- **24.5%** of ballots submitted nationally in the 2012 general election were submitted early (absentee or otherwise).
- Comparatively, only **8.1% of Minnesota ballots** were submitted early and those were all absentee ballots submitted by voters who qualify under M.S.A. § 203B.02 (Unable to go to polling place, indefinite residence abroad, or active military personnel overseas.)
- **Minnesota is in a minority of states that do not allow early voting**
- 32 states, or 2/3 of the United States allow registered voters to cast a ballot in person during a designated period prior to Election Day. In fact, Minnesota does not even allow no-excuse absentee voting which is available in several states which do not offer early voting.

Early voting is a growing trend which has proven popular in states that have adopted it. It is a system that affords voters greater opportunity to exercise their civil right to vote in our increasingly busy and complex world where such basic rights can often be taken for granted. In fact, Minnesota does not even allow no-excuse absentee voting which is available in several states which do not offer early voting. **Voting is too important to limit it to one day! Support SF 535 / HF 334 and give every voter every chance to vote.**

