

2025 State and Local Government and Elections Omnibus Bill: SF 3045
Comparison of Senate and House Elections Provisions

	Start Page	Topic	Senate Section(s): SF 3045, 3 rd Eng.	House/Senate Comparison	House Section(s): SF 3045, 1 st Unofficial Eng. (from HF 2783)	Summary Description/Notes
	Elections Administration (Senate Article 8, House Article 5 unless otherwise noted)					
1.	R1, R62, R63	Access to multiunit dwellings		House only	1, 2, 44, 45	Amends the laws governing access to multi-unit dwellings by United States Census workers (sections 1 and 2) and candidates (sections 44 and 45), including a notice requirement and the times during which access must be provided.
2.	R1	Determination of residence, civil commitment		House only	4	Establishes the residence of a person committed to a secure treatment facility as a sexually psychopathic personality or sexually dangerous person as their last known address prior to the committal order, for voting purposes.
3.	R2, R3, R7, R8, R9, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14, R15, R17, R20, R21, R30, R48, R49, R52, R53, R54	Updating voter registration	1, 2, 3, 4, 5* (lines 146.11, 146.15, 147.26), 7, 9, 10* (151.18), 11, 13* (lines 152.19-152.20), 14, 15, 16, 17* (lines 159.29-156.30), 18, 19, 20, 21* (line 159.26), 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 42, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68* (lines 196.30, 197.21-22), 71* (line 199.12, 199.15), 72* (line 199.22), 73, 74, 75	Senate only		Amends various sections of law to specifically refer to or to allow for updating voter registrations.

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4.	R4	Voter registration; residential facilities	5*	Policy differences	5	<p>Strikes the requirement for a residential facility operator to prepare a list of employee names to be certified to the county auditor to be used for vouching for residential facility residents. Instead requires employees to provide proof that they are employed by and working in the residential facility before vouching for a resident. Adds references to updating voter registration. This section is effective the day following final enactment.</p> <p>Senate only: immediate effective date.</p> <p>House only: An election judge may not sign a proof of residence oath vouching for any individual who appears in the precinct where the election judge is working. The Secretary of state must publish guidance for residential facilities and residential facility employees on the voicing process.</p>
5.	R6	Voter registration; additional proofs of residence for students	6	Similar	6	<p>Specifies that additional proof of residence for students must be allowed during the 18 days before an election and on election day.</p> <p>Senate only: Requires an updated residential housing list to be certified to the county auditor no later than 35 days before each election, instead of 20 days. Effective date of January 1, 2026 and applies to elections held on or after February 6, 2026.</p>
6.	R7, R10, R13, R15, R28, R53, R67	Minor Changes – Senate only	8, 13*, 17*, 21*, 28, 38, 72*, 96* (206.57, subd. 6b)	Senate only		<p>Section 8 strikes a reference to precincts where voter registration is not required.</p> <p>Section 13 rewrites a sentence for clarity and strikes a reference to preregistration.</p> <p>Sections 17 and 21 update terminology for consistency.</p>

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						<p>Section 38 strikes a reference to report due dates that have already passed.</p> <p>Section 72 updates terminology with reference to voters with a disability and specifies assistance is at the request of the voter.</p> <p>Section 96 repeals 206.57, subd. 5b, which is a township voting equipment study that was completed in 2016.</p>
7.	R8, R18, R66	Registration form	10*, 25, 94	Similar	7, 8	<p>Amend provisions related to absentee ballot applications and returning those applications.</p> <p>Senate section 10 and House section 7 amend the absentee ballot application by striking a requirement that the voter registration application include a box to indicate a voter’s preference to join the permanent absentee voter list. Difference: Senate includes an effective date of July 1, except that the change is effective January 1, 2026, for the online voter registration application.</p> <p>Senate section 25 and House section 8 amend the deadlines for submitting absentee ballot applications, depending on how the application is returned. After 5 pm on the deadline before an election, the secretary of state must replace the electronic absentee ballot application with information about options to vote for the upcoming election. Applicants using the online absentee application must provide both a driver’s license number or state ID card number and the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security number. The county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk must retain all applications. If an application is received after the deadline for receipt, the official in charge of the ballot board must attempt to contact the applicant to notify the applicant of opportunities to vote in the election. Differences:</p>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate excludes agent delivery. - Senate specifies other means of delivery Lines 162.10-.11) and House does not (lines 58.29) - Senate timeline is five days before the election and House is seven days before the election - Senate specifies “primary, general, or special election) (line 162.24) and house refers to “an election” (line 59.12) - Senate requires an absentee ballot application to include a space to apply to automatically receive an absentee ballot. - Senate includes an effective date of July 1, 2025, except the provisions relating to the online application are effective July 1, 2025. <p>Senate section 94: Senate only provision. Provides for a transition to new voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications to accommodate for the changes to the forms related voters being able to apply to automatically receive an absentee ballot.</p>
8.	R9	Copy of voter list	12	Senate only		Requires the secretary of state and county auditors to provide the public information list within 5 business days of receiving a complete request, instead of the 10 days required by current law. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
9.	R16, R37	Combined polling places; e-poll books	22, 50	Policy differences	22	Senate: section 22 allows an electronic roster to contain preregistered voter data on voters for multiple precincts in the case of a combined polling place. Replaces references to preregistered voters with references to registered voters. This section is effective June 1, 2025.

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						<p>Senate: section 50 allows election officials responsible for electronic rosters to combine precinct data files as necessary to be loaded onto electronic rosters for combined polling places.</p> <p>House: section 22 requires the secretary of state and county auditor to provide guidance to election judges on procedures to ensure that each voter is provided the correct ballot. In addition, a map showing precincts served by a combined polling place, and a notice that multiple ballot styles are used, must be prominently displayed near the entrance to the polling place.</p>
10.	R20	Administering Absentee and early voting laws	27	Similar	9	<p>Requires the designation or notice that a municipality will administer absentee voting to specify whether the municipality’s office will be designated as an absentee voting location or only an early voting location.</p> <p>Senate only: includes the alternative procedure for in-person absentee voting.</p> <p>House only: specifies that, if a county auditor designates a municipal clerk to administer absentee and early voting laws, the designation is only effective if the clerk accepts the responsibility. Includes a contingent effective date upon the receipt of the early voting certification.</p>
11.	R22	Return of absentee ballots	31	Policy differences	10	<p>Updates terminology regarding absentee voting envelopes to refer to the proper type of envelope.</p> <p>Senate only: Absentee ballots delivered in person must be returned by 3 p.m. on election day. After 3 p.m., the county auditor or municipal clerk must post a notice with information on how voters may vote in person on election day.</p>

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						House only: Absentee ballots delivered in person must be returned by 5 p.m. on election day.
12.	R23, R27, R30, R31, R57, R64	Misc. election admin - same	32, 37, 40, 41, 43, 79, 91	Same	12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 40, 46	<p>Various election administration provisions</p> <p>Senate 32 and House 12 update terminology regarding absentee voting envelopes to refer to the proper type of envelope.</p> <p>Senate 37 and House 15 requires two members of the ballot board to make sure that the number of absentee ballots removed from the ballot box is equal to the number of absentee ballots from the tally of absentee ballots from the tally of ballots that were inserted into the ballot box that day. Requires absentee vote totals to be added to the vote totals on summary statements for the appropriate precinct in all elections.</p> <p>Senate 40 and 41 and House 16 and 17 specify that the absentee ballot application deadlines in an earlier section do not apply to emergency response providers and voters with a disability who request absentee ballot applications to be electronically transmitted.</p> <p>Senate 43 and House 18 requires the early voting official to take certain actions to remove, secure, and document ballots each day during the early voting period. This section is effective upon the revisor of statute’s receipt of the early voting certification and applies to elections held on or after the 85th day after the revisor receives the certification.</p> <p>Senate 79 and House 40 change the filing period for municipal elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the municipal general election</p>

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						<p>held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.</p> <p>Senate 91 and House 46 change the timeline for calling a special county election. The election may be held within 84 days after a resolution is adopted, instead of within 74 days under current law.</p>
13.	R23	Temporary polling places	33	Similar	12	<p>Allows a federally recognized Indian Tribe with off-reservation Tribal lands to request an additional polling place to be on that land.</p> <p>Senate only: Requires the county auditor and secretary of state to post notice of absentee polling places on their respective websites. Notices must be posted as soon as practicable and no later than five business days after designation or receiving the notice. The notices must include the polling place’s address and the dates and times the polling place will be open for voting. This section is effective September 1, 2025.</p> <p>House only: Similar to Senate but notices must be posted within five business days. If a designation applies to both a primary and general election, a separate notice must be provided for each election.</p>
14.	R24	Absentee voting; health care facilities	34	Senate only		<p>Provides that if a health care professional at a health care facility determines it is necessary to ensure the health and safety of election judges, the voter, or others at the facility, two employees of the facility may receive a ballot from the election judges and deliver the ballot to the voter instead of the election judges. This section is effective September 1, 2025.</p>
15.	R25	Absentee ballot application: public data		House only	13	<p>Make public the date on which an absentee ballot application is signed, the date it was accepted, and the method of submission</p>

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16.	R25, R43, R47, R56, R58	Election judge party balance; local elections	35, 57, 63* (194.10-194.11), 76, 77, 83	Senate only		Provides that election judges in standalone county, municipal, and school district elections are exempt from election judge party balance requirements.
17.	R27	Opening of absentee ballot envelopes	36	Similar	14	<p>Amends the handling of absentee ballot signature envelopes. This requires counting, cross-checking, and accounting for empty signature and ballot envelopes at various steps in the process. Discrepancies in the count must be noted in the ballot board incident log and reported to the official responsible for the ballot board.</p> <p>Senate only: All envelopes must be retained for the duration of the contest period.</p> <p>House only: Ballot board must not dispose of or destroy ballot envelopes until 30 days after the deadline for bringing an election contest expires or if a contest is filed, 30 days after completion of the contest and any related appeals, whichever is later.</p>
18.	R29	Retention of UOCAVA ballots	39	Senate only		Specifies that if a county and municipality agree that the county’s ballot board retains responsibility for UOVACA ballots, the county ballot board will open, count, and retain the ballots.
19.	R44	Affidavit of candidacy	44	Senate only		Requires an affidavit of candidacy to include a phonetic spelling or pronunciation of the candidate’s name or a certification that the candidate will use the applicable technology’s default pronunciation.
20.	R32, R34, R38, R39, R47, R49, R53, R64	Misc. election administration – minor differences	45, 47, 48* (lines 180.12-180.24), 52, 54, 63* (except lines 194.10-	Similar	19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 32, 33, 34, 48	Senate 45 and House 19 specifies that candidates for judicial office, county attorney, and county sheriff are not required to include the candidate’s address of residence on the affidavit of candidacy. Candidates for these offices must include

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			194.11), 68* (except 196.30), 69, 92			<p>a phone number and email address. If a bill is used as proof of residence for office, the bill must be recent. Difference: Senate has an immediate effective date.</p> <p>Senate 47 and 48 and House 20 and 21 requires a candidate who is absent during the filing period to include proof of residence with the affidavit of candidacy. Requires proof of residence filed with affidavits of candidacy be filed during the filing period. Copies of proof of residence are private data. Difference: Senate sections are effective the day following final enactment. Senate specifies that the copies are private data on individuals and includes a cross-reference to the data practices act.</p> <p>Senate 52 and House 23 requires a notice to be posted in a conspicuous place if a polling place is changed. The notice must be posted at the closed polling place and must include the location of the new polling place. If a precinct is required to provide election materials in languages other than English, the sign must also be in the additional languages. The notice must be posted at each election until the next general presidential election or until redistricting has occurred. The secretary of state must prepare a sample notice. Differences: line 184.29/71.32 reference to subdivision versus paragraph and use of practical versus practicable.</p> <p>Senate 54 and House 25 require the county auditor to develop a county elections chain of custody plan for elections in the county. The plan must account for both physical and cyber security of elections-related materials. This section is effective the day following final enactment and county auditors must file a plan with the secretary of state by June 1, 2026. Differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate requires the local clerks to either use the county plan or create their own plan; House allows local clerks to create a plan. - Senate requires a local plan to also be filed with the county auditor.

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Senate requires the first plan to be completed by June 1, 2026. House requires first plan to be completed by September 1, 2025. <p>Senate 63 and House 32 requires jurisdictions that conduct elections by mail to send ballots no later than 28 days before any election, rather than the current 14 days. Difference: Senate effective date of November 15, 2025, for elections held on or after January 1, 2026.</p> <p>Senate 68 and House 33 adds a reference to updating voter registration on election day. Strikes a reference to a prohibition on a candidate from assisting voters. Difference: Senate includes an immediate effective date.</p> <p>Senate 69 and House 34 strike the requirement that election judges initial the backs of ballots. Differences: Senate strikes “all” on 198.2 and includes an immediate effective date.</p> <p>Senate 92 and House 48 require the election of municipal officers held after incorporation or consolidation to be held on a uniform election date. Requires ballots to follow the ballot formatting laws. Requires candidates to file affidavits of candidacy in the same manner as other municipal candidates. Difference: Senate includes a June 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
21.	R33	Presidential electors; petition	46	Senate only		Specifies that the section, as opposed to the subdivision, does not apply to candidates for presidential elector nominated by major political parties. Requires each nominated candidate to submit a petition and a signed, notarize affidavit of candidacy for president or vice president that includes information about the candidate and a declaration that the candidate will follow applicable election and campaign finance laws

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22.	R34, R56, R58	Changes to names on ballots	48*(lines 180.25-180.30), 78, 81	Senate only		Requires the official receiving the filings to notify the official responsible for preparing ballots of the names of the candidates placed on the ballots, any changes to candidates, or any other information necessary to prepare the ballot. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
23.	R35	Write-in candidates	49	Senate only		Requires a candidate for county, state, or federal office who wants write-in votes to be counted to file a request not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the 19th day before the general election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the general election. For cities that adopt a resolution requiring candidates to request to have write-in votes counted, the request must be filed no later than the 19th day before the election; current law sets the deadline at the 7th day before the election. This section is effective on January 1, 2026.
24.	R38	Municipal boundary adjustments	51	Senate only		Changes the deadline for when a municipal boundary adjustment will take effect for an election from 21 days before an election to 46 days before an election. This prevents the change from taking place in the middle of the absentee voting period.
25.	R38	Cannabis prohibited in polling place locations		House only	24	Prohibits a polling place from being located in any place or adjoining room to a place where cannabis products are served or sold.
26.	R39	Notice of polling place change; emergency	53	Senate only		Amends the statute related to notices that must be posted when a polling-place changes on election day due to an emergency. If a precinct is required to provide election materials in languages other than English, the sign must also be in the additional languages.
27.	R40	Election judge party balance requirement		House only	26	Applies election judge party balance requirements to any location where ballots are being counted, recounted, or reviewed. Each major political party must be represented by at least one election judge in each precinct.

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28.	R40, R41	Election judge appointment	55, 56	Policy differences	27	<p>Amends the process for political parties providing lists of individuals willing to serve as election judges. Specifies information that must be included on the lists. If the required information is not included on the list, the name must not be forwarded to an appointing authority.</p> <p>Senate only: Provides a March 1 deadline for submission of lists by each major political party. Specifies that election judges for a municipality’s ballot board must be appointed by the municipality’s governing body. Requires the appointing authority to contact each voter on the list about their interest in serving as an election judge. Requires appointing authorities to first exhaust the list of voters provided by the political parties before appointing other individuals to serve as election judges. Sections are effective January 1, 2026.</p> <p>House only: Provides an April 1 deadline for submission of lists by each major political party. Allows the party to designate names on the list of individuals available to serve as alternates in the event of unexpected vacancies or if all positions representing the party cannot be filled. If necessary, the county auditor or municipal clerk must notify party representatives to request additional names, to the extent practicable. The secretary of state must provide a form that may be used by political parties to recruit individuals willing to serve as election judges. The form must allow individuals to indicate an interest in traveling outside of their precinct, and to serve as a member of an absentee ballot board.</p>
29.	R43	Election judge oath	58	Similar	28	<p>Expands the election judge oath.</p> <p>Senate only: adds a cross reference to the statute on intimidation and interference with the voting process. Includes a June 1, 2025, effective date.</p>

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						House only: Uses more general terminology referencing an election judge’s performance of duties as an election judge.
30.	R43	Election judge training		House only	29	Requires county-administered training programs offered to election judges to be consistent with the training programs required to be established by the secretary of state.
31.	R44	Number of election judges	59	Policy difference	49	Senate only: removes an exception that allows untrained election judges to serve in precincts where less than 100 individuals voted in the last state general election. House only: repeals the subdivision, which in effect requires all election judges to be trained regardless of precinct size.
32.	R44	Election judge advice line		House only	30	Requires the secretary of state to provide a dedicated telephone line for use by election judges on each state election day. The line must be available for election judges to clarify procedures when the offices of the county auditor or municipal clerk cannot be reached.
33.	R44	Election reporting system	60	Senate only		Requires the secretary of state to maintain an election reporting system. Assigns responsibilities and timelines for entering candidate names into the system. Requires testing prior to elections. Requires county auditor to report unofficial election results in the system for federal and state elections. Specifies that the results in the system are unofficial and election results are not official until after the canvassing board certifies the result of the election. This section is effective on June 1, 2025.
34.	R45	Election supplies	61	Senate only		Allows municipal clerks to secure certain election supplies from the county auditor until the day before the election, as opposed to four days before the election in current law. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

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35.	R46	Errors and Omissions	62	Policy differences	31	<p>Amends the errors and omissions process. Allows for service by email. Provides a process for parties to agree on a remedy to correct an error, omission, or wrongful act without a court order. An official may correct an official ballot without a court order if the ballot is not in compliance with laws and rules on ballot format.</p> <p>Senate only: provides for a candidate who does not prevail in a court proceeding to pay the costs and disbursements for the prevailing party in certain circumstances. June 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
36.	R51	Polling place roster	70	Senate only		<p>Adds a reference to the location of residence in the polling place roster statement. This section is effective September 1, 2025.</p>
37.	R52	Assistance in marking ballots		House only	35	<p>Allows a voter who needs physical assistance in marking a ballot to request the assistance of two election judges at any location where ballots may be cast, including early and in-person absentee voting locations, and in a polling place on election day.</p>
38.	R52	Voters unable to enter a polling place	71*	Policy difference	52	<p>Senate only: strikes language referencing polling places where ballots or electronic voting systems are used; specifies that the assistance of election judges is upon the request of the voter.</p> <p>House: adds references to locations where ballots may be case for early and in-person absentee voting</p>
39.	R55, R56	Legislative vacancies; special elections		House only	37, 38, 39	<p>Requires the filing period for a special election called to fill a vacancy in a legislative office to be a minimum of five days and a maximum of ten days in length, excluding holidays. This section also allows special elections to be held within 40 days, rather than within 35 days, after issuance of a writ, if the elected</p>

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						person will be able to be seated immediately and participate in a legislative session.
40.	R57, R59	Local canvassing boards	80, 84	Senate only		Extends the deadline for a city, town, and school district canvassing boards to complete the canvass to the 14th day after the after an election (instead of the 10th day after the election). Requires the town and school district canvassing board to declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for the respective town or school district office.
41.	R58, R59	School district elections	82, 85	Senate only		<p>Section 82 changes the filing period for school district elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the school general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. This section is effective January 1, 2026.</p> <p>Section 85 provides that if a municipality conducts elections by mail, the school board may designate a polling place not used by the municipality.</p>
42.	R60	Testing voting systems	86	Senate only		Requires public notice of the time and place of the testing of voting systems to be given at least five days in advance, instead of the two days required by current law. Strikes a reference to “punched” ballots. Specifies that it applies to each question in the contest. This section is effective on September 1, 2025.
43.	R60, R61, R62	Presidential nomination primary	87, 88, 89	Senate only		Requires the secretary of state to report to the public the results of a preference ballot if a major political party conducts a preference ballot instead of participating in the presidential nomination primary. Requires the secretary of state to bill major political parties for the party’s portion of the presidential nomination primary. If a party does not pay the party’s portion by October 1 in the year preceding the presidential election, that party is not permitted to participate

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						in the presidential nomination primary. If no major political party pays their portion, a presidential nomination primary will not be held in the following year.
44.	R60	Prohibited connections; passwords in polling place		House only	41	Requires that any password used by the election judges to access ballot recording or tabulating equipment to be kept in a safe and secure place in the precinct so that it is not accessible to or visible by the public.
45.	R63	Town ballots	90	Senate only		Strikes obsolete references to separate ballots and separate ballot boxes.
46.	R65	Hospital boards	93	Senate only		Changes the filing period for hospital board elections to be no more than 112 days or less than 98 days before the general election held in November. The timeline in current law is no more than 98 days or less than 84 days. Provides that a hospital district board must act as a canvassing board and between the 3rd and 14th day after an election, canvass the returns and declare the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for hospital district office and the results of any ballot questions. The changes related to the filing period are effective January 1, 2026.
47.	R66	Voter outreach	95	Senate only		Requires the secretary of state to conduct voter outreach efforts across the state with the goal of increasing voter turnout, with a focus on the counties with the lowest voter turnout in the last two general elections. The secretary must provide voter outreach materials in the three most common non-English language and other language required for a language minority district. Requires a report to the legislature.
48.	R67	Voting equipment grant account (see also appropriations article)	96*	Senate only		Repeals 206.95, which is the voting equipment grant account.
49.	R67	Inspection of ballots	96*	Senate only		Repeals Minn. Stat. 209.06, which relates to inspection of ballots.

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50.	R67	Effective date	97	Senate only		Provides an effective date of July 1, 2025, unless otherwise provided.

* A section that has been included on multiple lines.