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Under current law, prior to an election each major political party in Minnesota provides the secretary of state with a list of eligible voters willing to serve as election judges at that election. The secretary sorts the names on the list by precinct, and distributes them to the appropriate local elections official based on the precinct where each person resides.

Although local officials must use the list when hiring election judges, in practice many jurisdictions are required to employ additional election judges beyond those contained on the list—either to ensure political party balance, or because there are insufficient names on the list to fully staff the polling places in that jurisdiction.

This bill requires the list submitted by a major political party to indicate whether a person is willing to travel outside of their home jurisdiction to serve as an election judge, and the distance that person is willing to travel. When the secretary of state compiles a list of potential election judges for distribution to local elections officials, the list must newly contain the names of those willing to travel to serve in that jurisdiction.