

HOW AN ELIGIBLE MINNESOTA VOTER CONTESTS THE VOTE

Minnesota Statutes chapter 209 • August 11, 2026 State Primary

This is a starting point, not legal advice. Read the statute. Confirm clerk hours. File on time. A post, a petition, or a call for a recount is not a contest.

Who may file

Any eligible voter, including a candidate, may contest the nomination of a person for whom the voter had the right to vote. Minn. Stat. § 209.02, subd. 1. You do not have to be Mike Lindell or Phillip Parrish. You do have to be an eligible Minnesota voter who had the right to vote in that race.

What you must do — not what you may say

1. Complete the Notice of Contest. Specify grounds. Sign it.
2. Serve Lisa Demuth (and Ryan Wilson if you name both) in the same manner as a civil summons, and send a copy to each last-known address by certified mail.
3. Furnish a copy to Secretary of State Steve Simon, the official who issues the certificate of nomination.
4. File the Notice with the Court Administrator, Ramsey County District Court, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102.
5. Do all of that within five days after the canvass is completed. If the State Canvassing Board completed the canvass on August 18, 2026, the deadline is August 23, 2026. Confirm that date. Do not assume the clerk is open Sunday. Plan to file Friday.

What this does that a recount does not

A recount re-counts accepted ballots. A contest is what opens rejected absentee envelopes (§ 203B.121, subd. 2(e)), authorizes court-appointed inspection (§ 209.06), allows a visual guard on the ballots (§ 209.05), and stops destruction of envelopes while the case is pending (§ 203B.121, subd. 4(d)).

Who to serve

Lisa Demuth, declared Republican nominee for Governor — last-known address by certified mail, plus personal or substituted service.

Ryan Wilson, declared Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor — same, if named.

Steve Simon, Minnesota Secretary of State, Veterans Service Building, Suite 210, 20 West 12th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55155. Email copy may be sent in addition to, not instead of, service.

How to use the attached Notice

- Print it. Fill every blank in ink or type.
- Put your full legal name, address, phone, and email.
- State that you are an eligible Minnesota voter.
- Keep the grounds. Add facts you personally witnessed if you have them.
- Sign. Keep a copy. Keep certified-mail receipts.
- File an affidavit of service after you serve.

If many voters file, each notice must still be individually served and filed. Copying a template and not serving it does nothing.

Christ is King.