



Micki Otto  
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TO: County Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Micki Otto, Property Tax & Election Manager  
SUBJECT: Establish Absentee Ballot Board  
DATE: June 16, 2026

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**Discussion:**

Minnesota Statute 203B.121, Subd. 1 states that the County Board must establish an Absentee Ballot Board. Minnesota Statutes 204B.19 to 204B.22 say the Absentee Ballot Board must consist of a sufficient number of elections judges or deputy county auditors trained in the processing and counting of absentee ballots. The appointments must be made at least 45 days before the election.

The following positions shall be appointed as deputy auditors serving on the Absentee Ballot Board for the 2026 State Primary and State General Elections. All Accountant I, Accountant II positions in the office and the Property Tax and Election Manager have been trained in the processing and counting of absentee ballots.

- Accountant I
- Accountant II
- Property Tax & Election Manager

In addition, the office will need to appoint election judges to serve on the Absentee Ballot Board. Given the nature of the job, we are not placing names on the memo and ask that the Finance Director be authorized to appoint election judges serving on the Absentee Ballot Board for the 2026 State Primary and State General Elections. Election judge appointments will be filed in the Elections Office. In 2024, the Finance Director was delegated to appoint additional election judges as needed. Allowing the Finance Director to appoint all election judges is a slight change for 2026 and protects the names of the election judges.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the County Board appoint the listed positions as Absentee Ballot Board members for the 2026 State Primary and State General Elections. We also recommend that the board authorize the Finance Director to appoint election judges and additional deputy auditors as necessary.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Date: 18 June 2024

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RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE GOODHUE COUNTY  
ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD.

WHEREAS, Goodhue County is required by Minnesota Statute 203B.121, Subd. 1 to establish an Absentee Ballot Board effective June 16, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this board will bring uniformity in the processing of accepting or rejecting returned absentee ballots in Goodhue County; and

WHEREAS, the Absentee Ballot Board would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.18 to 204B.22 or deputy county auditors trained in the processing and counting of absentee ballots;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes an Absentee Ballot Board that would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 or deputy auditors to perform the task. The following positions have been appointed as deputy auditors for the absentee ballot board.

- Accountant I
- Accountant II
- Property Tax & Election Manager

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, appointment of election judges and additional deputy auditors by the Finance Director be authorized.

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State of Minnesota  
County of Goodhue

Anderson	Yes___	No___
Betcher	Yes___	No___
Flanders	Yes___	No___
Greseth	Yes___	No___
Majerus	Yes___	No___

I, Scott Arneson, duly appointed, qualified and County Administrator of the County of Goodhue, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County commissioners, Goodhue County, Minnesota at their session held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026, no on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Red Wing, Minnesota, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

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Scott Arneson  
County Administrator