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Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Agency Profile 1

Office of Minnesota Secretary of State — Agency Profile

https://sos.mn.gov

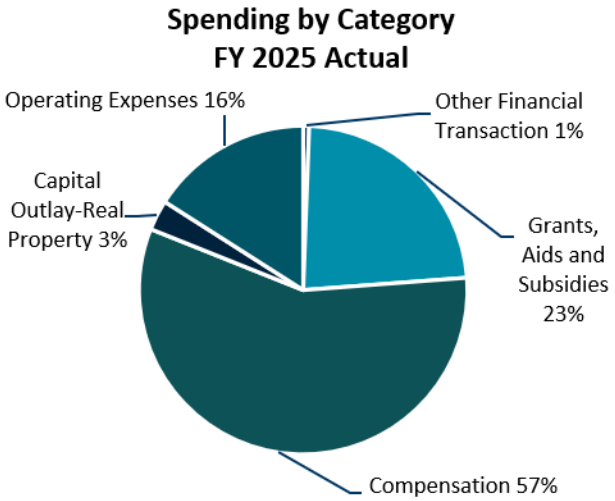
AT A GLANCE

- Over 667,000 active businesses in the state served by the Business Services division.
- Contributes nearly $27 million to the general fund each biennium.
- As a result of the federal government's designation of the nation's election systems as critical infrastructure in 2017, collaborates with federal, state, and local partners to protect Minnesota's election system.
- Support local election officials in conducting approximately:
  - 1,800 township elections annually
  - Every 2 years: 900 city elections, 300 school district elections, 200 other elections
  - 8 special state legislative elections in calendar year 2025
  - Statewide primary and general elections (2 year cycle)
  - Statewide presidential nomination primary (4 year cycle)
- Administered nearly $16 million in FY24-25 and $6 million in FY26-27 in elections related grants and reimbursements.
- Over 17,000 separate applicants and participants served by Safe at Home as of July 2026.
- 4,317 Official Documents filed in calendar year 2025.
- Coordinate trainings, applications, and appointments for 288 boards and commissions spread across more than 90 agencies.

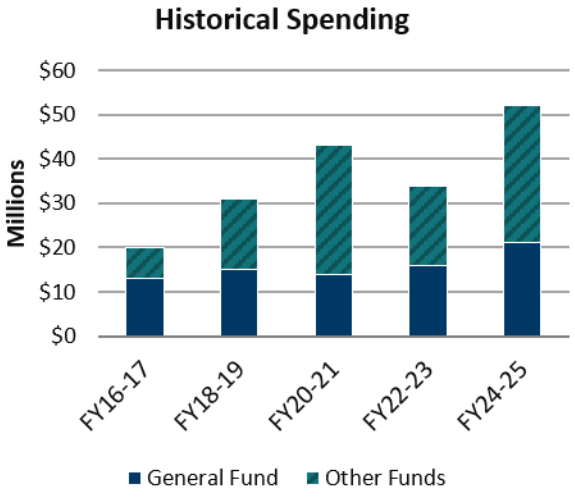
PURPOSE

The Office of the Secretary of State is a constitutional office headed by the independently elected Secretary of State. As the chief election official in Minnesota, the Secretary of State oversees the administration of elections, and promotes voting and civic engagement. The Secretary of State also facilitates commerce, maintains the records of the state, and provides key services for those who fear for their safety through administering Safe at Home address confidentiality services. The Office has made it easier for Minnesotans to interact with the Office by developing secure and accessible online services for voters, businesses, and those interested in Open Appointments. The Secretary of State serves on the State Board of Investment, the Executive Council, and other specified boards.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

STRATEGIES

The core functions of the Office are:

- **Election Administration:** The Office of the Secretary of State administers Minnesota's statewide elections, supporting local officials, securing election systems, certifying voting equipment, and maintaining essential voter and reporting databases. It also advances election security, modernizes voter tools, manages grant programs, supports redistricting, and provides extensive voter outreach to ensure accessible, accurate, and secure elections for all Minnesotans.
- **Safe at Home:** Safe at Home, the Office's address confidentiality program, protects Minnesotans who fear for their safety by providing a legal substitute address, forwarding mail, assisting with third-party interactions, and supporting law enforcement in emergencies. Since 2007 it has grown significantly, strengthened through recent policy updates, expanded partnerships, and is nationally recognized as a leading model for safeguarding the privacy and security of survivors.
- **Business Services:** The Business Services Division supports Minnesota's business community by processing and maintaining business filings, recording and retrieving liens, issuing notary commissions and apostille authentications, and providing broad customer service and outreach tools.
- **Administration:** The Administration Division supports the Secretary of State's constitutional duties by safeguarding, recording, and retrieving official government documents, administering the State of Minnesota's Open Appointments process, and managing public communications. It also provides essential internal support across the Office to ensure transparency, accessibility, and effective engagement with Minnesota residents and government partners.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

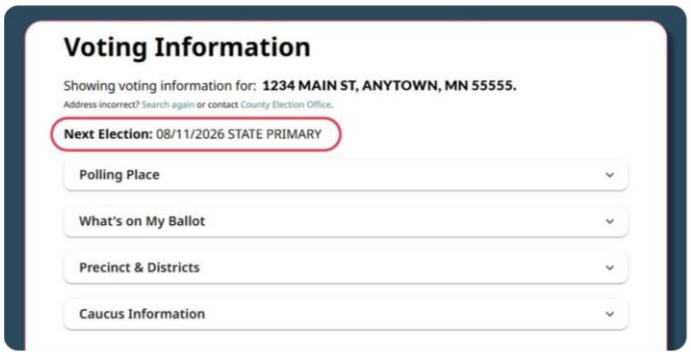
A core function of the Office of the Secretary of State is to administer and oversee elections statewide. There are approximately 2,700 elections held annually in Minnesota, serving over three and a half million registered voters. In partnership with local election officials, the Office's Elections Division works to ensure that every eligible vote is properly cast, counted, and reported.

3.8 M registered voters in MN

2,700 annual elections administered

79.96% voter turnout in 2024

The Office partners with and provides training and support to local election officials at the county, city, school district, and township levels to conduct elections in the state. Prior to the adoption, use, or purchase of voting equipment, the Office must examine and certify each type of voting system. The Office's Elections Division is responsible for conducting the examination and providing this certification. In addition, the Office provides the backbone of the elections system by developing and securing key election databases, specifically the Statewide Voter Registration System, which includes records for all the state's 3.8 million+ registered voters and the Election Reporting System, through which vote totals are reported. At the conclusion of any multi-county election, county canvassing board reports are reported to the State Canvassing Board for certification. The Secretary of State serves as chair of the board, with the Office's Elections Division preparing the canvassing board report and testifying on the results before the board.



The Office has developed online tools, including online voter registration, online absentee ballot requests, and online lookup tools, to provide convenience to voters and cost savings to local election officials. Access to these online tools expanded in 2024 to include availability in 10 additional languages. In 2025, the Office modernized these tools further by combining many of the features into a Voter Information Portal – creating one stop for voters to get polling place information, what's on their ballot, candidate information, and how to vote ahead of election day. Address entry functionality was also improved, allowing voters to more quickly access their information. The Information Technology (IT) Division of the Office invests significant time and resources to protect these online tools and databases. More broadly, this team is responsible for providing modern, secure, and accessible IT systems that allow Minnesotans to access the key services the divisions across the Office provide.

blocked over 8,000,000 potentially malicious IP connections

Due to the increased cybersecurity threats to election infrastructure, a dedicated IT security team was added to the Office in 2015. This team has blocked over 8,000,000 potentially malicious IP connections. In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security designated U.S. election systems as part of the nation's critical infrastructure. In the past this designation brought opportunities for the Office to receive support from federal partners such as the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, among others. In recent years, the federal government has eliminated much of that support, forcing the Office to obtain these services at a cost from third parties

In order to enhance IT operations and security across the Office, the IT Division looks for opportunities to partner with external stakeholders. Some examples of this include the Office initiating a Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP) hosted by a vendor that specializes in these programs. The Office has been thoughtfully and deliberately adding more of its applications to the scope of the program. To date, no major security vulnerabilities have been identified. Additionally, the Office participates regularly in Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (RVA) on our systems and infrastructure. These RVAs are provided now by third-party vendors.

The Office also maintains an Election Security Navigator program to help assist counties and local governments in protecting election infrastructure at the local level. The program does this by providing both IT security and physical security resources, guidance, and financial support through the administration of federal grants.

Every ten years, the Elections and Administration Divisions play an integral role in the redistricting process. The Elections Division provides extensive technical guidance and support to counties to facilitate the redistricting process at the local level. Additionally, the Office provides instructions and support to counties to reconfigure the state voter registration database to reflect the boundary changes made in redistricting. The Administration division participates in redistricting by filing the resolutions and maps received by local governments of their final redistricting plan.

Increasingly, the Elections Division has overseen the creation of multiple grant programs to improve Minnesota's election system. These grant programs include federal Help America Vote Act security grants to improve the physical security, cyber security, and accessibility of local elections systems; the VOTER fund designed to supplement local election spending, an accessibility grant program for Minnesota's polling places, and a Presidential Nomination Primary reimbursement process. The Office issued over $5.3 million in fiscal years 2024-2025 and $6 million in funding to local governments in fiscal years 2026-2027 for the improvement of Minnesota's election systems and hosting temporary absentee locations on college campuses. During Presidential election years, the Office reimburses counties, cities, and towns for the cost of administering the Presidential Nomination Primary. In fiscal year 2024, the Office reimbursed local governments for $10.6 million for this purpose.

Administered nearly $16 million in FY24-25 and $6 million in FY26-27 in election-related grants and reimbursements

Finally, to ensure voters have the information necessary to participate in Minnesota's election system, the Office engages in extensive efforts to provide information to Minnesotans about registration and voting by working with businesses, non-profits, service organizations, schools, and others throughout the state.

SAFE AT HOME

The Address Confidentiality Services Division managed by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State is commonly known as Safe at Home. Designed to help people who fear for their safety, especially survivors of domestic violence and stalking, Safe at Home has been helping people maintain a confidential address since September 1, 2007. It is open to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, people with professional safety concerns, and those who otherwise fear for their safety who live in Minnesota or who intend to move to the state in the next 60 days.



People enrolled in Safe at Home are assigned a PO Box address to be used as their legal address. It is a tool for their safety. All private and public entities in the state of Minnesota must accept the Safe at Home PO Box address as a participant's actual address per M.S. 5B.05(a). Using the assigned PO Box, Safe at Home provides a mail forwarding service. Safe at Home receives participants' mail and forwards all First-Class Mail to their physical address. Over one million pieces of mail are processed annually.

Safe at Home also assists participants with their interactions with third parties should problems arise when giving the Safe at Home address to others. To facilitate this, staff work with third party stakeholders, such as county offices, utility companies, banks, and schools, to ensure legal compliance and to ensure their business practices accommodate the safety needs of Safe at Home participants.



Since the inception of Safe at Home, more than 17,000 individual participants and applicants have been served. Total served increases every year. In fact, the total number of participants and applicants served in 2025 was more than double the number served in 2016.

Because the Safe at Home address is a participant's legal address, the Office accepts legal service of process for all participants. A participant's true address is known only to Safe at Home. For this reason, staff are available on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in case of a law enforcement emergency that requires a participant's true address. If there is an emergency where law enforcement needs a participant's physical address, the law enforcement agency can make a data disclosure request through the Duty Officer at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.



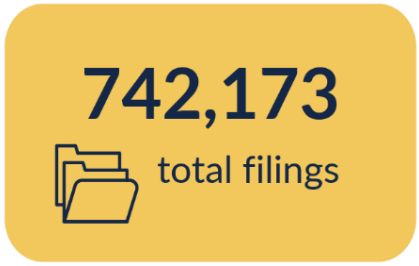
In 2026, there were some policy changes due to administrative rulemaking and a Safe at Home bill that passed during the legislative session. The application process was modified, creating more accessibility for enrollment meetings. The changes have been well-received by victim advocates with whom the Office partners we well as applicants. The changes required re-training all partnering victim advocates. Other changes include required Safe at Home training for judges, and formalizing collaboration with other state offices by requiring them to designate a liaison for Safe at Home staff to contact when assisting Safe at Home participants.

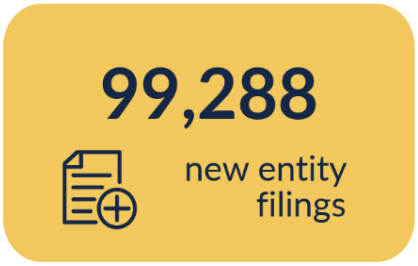
Minnesota's address confidentiality services are considered the strongest in the country; a position solidified when the legislature made it possible for Safe at Home participants to purchase property confidentially. As additional states established address confidentiality services, several states looked to Minnesota's services as a model.

BUSINESS SERVICES

The Secretary of State's Business Services Division makes up more than half of the employees at the Office of the Secretary of State and provides customer service and filing services to those conducting business in Minnesota. This includes all businesses, nonprofits, newspapers, and notaries. Fees for these services add approximately $27 million to the General Fund each biennium. In 2025, the office filed over 742,000 total filings, including 99,000 new entity formation filings.







The Office's Business Services Division approves and files articles of incorporation and amendments for all business and nonprofit organizations operating in the state. It provides both online options and in-person appointments for those filing a business, articles, and renewals. Additionally, staff are available to assist those conducting business searches, and those ordering copies of filings and certificates. Customer service staff additionally answer public inquiries via phone and email. Business Services has improved public outreach with an extended slate of business community events to better spread our educational reach, as well as increased the number of documents translated into eleven different languages.



The Business Services Division records documents filed under the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) regarding collateral pledged to secure loans and administers the Central Notification System (CNS) for farm product liens. The Division also serves to file and maintain statewide federal tax liens.

The Office of the Secretary of State is the competent authority in Minnesota for issuing apostille authentications, which verify the authenticity of a document's signature, seal, and issuing authority. Apostilles ensure that public documents are accepted overseas under The Hague Convention. They are commonly used for documents such as birth and death records, power-of-attorney agreements, and other important records, and the authentication issued by our office provides assurance to the receiving party that the document is authentic. In 2025, the Office processed 33,045 apostille authentications.





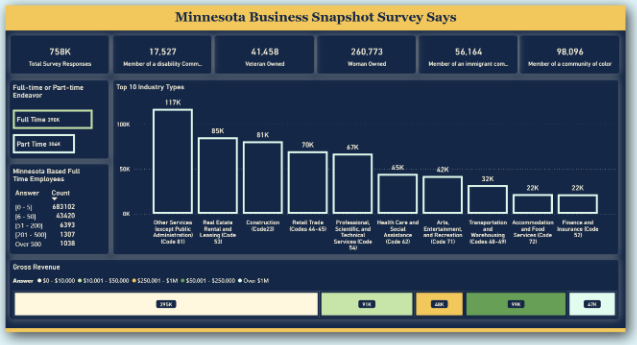
In 2026, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State launched a set of protections for business owners impacted by business identity theft. Previously, these matters were addressed through the judicial system. The new Business Identity Recovery process now assigns this responsibility to the Office of the Secretary of State, giving individuals affected by this crime a free and fast way to correct their records. With new legal authority to intervene on behalf of targeted businesses, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State can now investigate and redact illegitimate filings after a business owner reports a wrongful filing. The Office has received 180 complaints and processed 131 cases, bringing a quick end to an unneeded ordeal for local business owners.

In September 2016, Secretary of State Steve Simon launched the Minnesota Business Snapshot, an initiative designed to serve Minnesotans by providing the public with data and information on the economic and demographic make-up of Minnesota's businesses. The Minnesota Business Snapshot (MBS) is a voluntary, five-question survey offered to new and existing businesses in Minnesota as they file an original filing and subsequent annual renewals or annual reinstatements. The survey was put together with the input of individual business owners, business organizations, nonprofits, and researchers from across the state. In 2025, the office released new interactive tools that make MBS data available online at sos.mn.gov/snapshot. These tools allow Minnesotans to search for individual businesses by location, community, or industry or explore statewide trends, with both datasets updated daily to provide fresh insights into Minnesota's business landscape.

Business Entities by Community & Industry



Survey Says

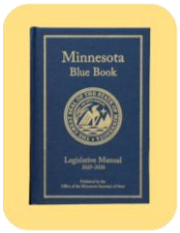


ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary of State's Administration Division serves to assist the Secretary with his constitutional duties, including the administration of the Open Appointments process, certification of Official Documents, maintenance of original Chapter Laws, and service on the Executive Council, State Board of Investment, and Board of the Minnesota Historical Society.

As keeper of the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota, the Secretary certifies the authenticity of official documents, such as acts of the Legislature, and proclamations and executive orders issued by the Governor. All Official Documents are signed by the Secretary and filed by the Administration Division.

The Administration Division is the forward-facing division, it communicates with the public, elected officials, and other business and advocacy groups on behalf of the Secretary of State. This includes the creation and distribution of items such as the Legislative Manual (Blue Book) and flag etiquette guide. Items such as these are provided both physically and electronically. Maintaining the Office's website is a priority of the Office, and the Office has continued to increase the number of services and information provided online.



The Administration Division is also where the Office provides information about the 288 State Boards, Commissions, Councils, Work Groups, and Task Forces that work to advise policy makers and regulate professionals. The Office communicates vacancies through a monthly Open Positions Notice which is sent to over 25,450 email addresses, and through the maintenance of an online portal for Minnesota residents to access information and apply for vacant positions. The Office is also responsible for filing and safeguarding the State's Official Documents and for distributing a copy of any executive order to any individuals who have asked to be notified when one is filed. In 2025, 4,317 Official Documents were filed with the Administration Division.

288 state boards & commissions

4,317 Official Documents filed in 2025

25,450 recipients of Open Positions Notice

In addition to the work the Administration Division does to assist the Secretary and constituents, the Administration Division also provides support to the Office's other divisions in the form of human resources, scheduling, research, counseling direction, project management, record maintenance, and more.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

The Office measures its performance by the indicators set out in the table below. Each of these measures indicates the Office's strategies are working.

ELECTIONS

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of registered voters	Quantity	May 1 Voter Registration Counts [1]	2020: 3,392,082 2024: 3,594,940 The number of registered voters in Minnesota that the Office serves continues to grow.	2026: 3,847,240
Voter Turnout	Result	State Canvassing Board Report	2020: 2,968,281 (74,72%) Minnesota is routinely in the top 3 states for highest turnout during statewide general elections.	2024: 3,292,997 (79.96%)

[1] https://www.sos.mn.gov/election-administration-campaigns/data-maps/voter-registration-counts/

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
County Election Administrator Training Hours	Quantity	Attendance at OSS biennial election county elections administrator training conference	2024: 270 county elections officials attended the OSS biennial county elections administrator training conference. Attendance at the conference continues to grow as counties add more election staff and dedicate time and resources towards training.	2026: 292 county elections officials attended the OSS biennial county elections administrator training conference
Election Performance Index (EPI)	Result	MIT Election Data Science Lab 2026 Report [2]	2020: EPI 89%, #2 in the country	2024: EPI 89% , #1 in the country

SAFE AT HOME

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of applicants and participants served by Safe at Home in calendar year	Quantity	Safe at Home Annual Report to the Legislature, January 2026 [3]	2020: 4,334 participants served 2023: 5,286 participants served Over the last five years, the program saw a 40% increase. In the last two years, the number of participants increased 24%.	2025: 6,567 participants served
Cost of postage to forward mail to Safe at Home participants	Quantity	Safe at Home Annual Report to the Legislature, January 2026 [4]	2023: $113,034.00 In the last two years, the cost to forward participant's mail rose 54%.	2025: $173,687.00
Number of victim advocates who voluntarily partner with Safe at Home	Quantity	Safe at Home Annual Report to the Legislature, January 2026 [5]	2023: 340 An increase of 19% over two years.	2025: 405

[2] https://elections.mit.edu/#/data/map
[3] https://www.sos.mn.gov/media/3r1f5xhm/safe-at-home-annual-report-2026-finale.pdf
[4] https://www.sos.mn.gov/media/3r1f5xhm/safe-at-home-annual-report-2026-finale.pdf
[5] https://www.sos.mn.gov/media/3r1f5xhm/safe-at-home-annual-report-2026-finale.pdf

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of active households as of last day of calendar year	Quantity	Safe at Home Annual Report to the Legislature, January 2026 [6]	2023: 1,947 An increase of 28% over the last two years	2025: 2,490
Number of applications received	Quantity	Safe at Home Annual Report to the Legislature, January 2026 [7]	2023: 906A 40% increase over the last two years.	2025: 1,264

BUSINESS SERVICES

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
New business filings	Quantity	Office of Secretary of State Business Filing System	2015: approx. 61,000 2023: 97,826 2024: 94,694 New business filings have risen substantially over the past decade, climbing roughly 63% from 2015 to 2025 despite some year-to-year fluctuations.	2025: 99,288
Total Number of Business Filings	Quantity	Office of Secretary of State Business Filing System	2015: approx. 412,000 2023: 693,903 2024: 724,231 The total number of active filings the office manages increased about 80% from 2015 to 2025.	2025: 742,173
Number of UCC/Tax Lien & CNS web filings	Quantity	Office of Secretary of State Business Filing System	2015: approx. 181,000 2023: 213,397 2024: 219,279 Increased 12% over the last two calendar years.	2025: 240,317

[6] https://www.sos.mn.gov/media/3r1f5xhm/safe-at-home-annual-report-2026-finale.pdf
[7] https://www.sos.mn.gov/media/3r1f5xhm/safe-at-home-annual-report-2026-finale.pdf

ADMINISTRATION

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Official Documents filed	Quantity	Official Documents Portal	2021: 3,792 2023: 5,417 Relatively steady over the previous four years	2025: 4,317

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No Evidence-based Practices were identified.

The following statutes provide the legal authority for the Office of the Secretary of State:

Minnesota Constitution

Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 5, 5A, 5B, 15, 201, 202A, 203B, 204B, 204C, 204D, 205, 205A, 206, 211A, 300, 302A, 303, 304A, 308A, 308B, 317A, 319B, 321, 322A, 322B, 322C, 323A, 333, 336, 336A, 358, 359, 549.