



Board Meeting Date: 10/20/2026

Title: Polling Place Requirements

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Mert Woodard, Executive Director of Finance and Operations

Description: Minnesota Statutes § 205A.11 permits school boards to designate combined polling places for school district elections when no other election is being held in the school district. When establishing combined polling places, school boards are required to consider both the geographic and population distribution of polling locations throughout the district. Combined polling places generally must also be located at sites designated for use as polling places by a county or municipality. The statute establishes additional requirements related to School Board action, timing of polling place changes, notification to the county auditor, and, for certain special elections, notification to affected voters.

The purpose of this discussion is to provide the School Board with an overview of the requirements associated with combined polling places and to seek Board direction regarding the district's approach to polling locations for potential future school district elections. The discussion will provide an opportunity for Board members to consider voter access, geographic and population distribution, election administration, and the appropriate number and location of polling places before determining whether any changes should be considered.

Recommendation: No formal action is requested at this time. Administration recommends that the School Board discuss the use of combined polling places and provide direction regarding whether it would like administration to further explore potential changes to the district's polling place configuration for future school district elections.

If the Board expresses interest in pursuing changes, administration would use the Board's direction to develop a recommendation for future consideration and action in accordance with applicable Minnesota election requirements.

Desired Outcome from the Board: School Board direction regarding whether to maintain the district's current approach to polling places or further explore the use of combined polling places for future school district elections.

Attachments:

- [Combined Polling Places Analysis](#)