



Election News for 2020

New in 2020 Presidential Primary

In 2016 legislation was passed establishing a presidential nomination primary. The current election law specific to the presidential primary is in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 207A and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8215. Common questions about the presidential primary are answered below.

When will the presidential nomination primary take place?

March 3, 2020.

Will all parties participate in the presidential nomination primary?

No, only major parties will participate.

Will all parties be on the same ballot?

No, each major party will have a separate ballot.

Who decides which candidates will appear on a party's ballot?

The chair of each party will submit a list of candidates for the party's ballot no later than 63 days before the date of the presidential primary (December 31, 2019).

What if a candidate drops out before the primary?

Once a party's list is submitted, changes will not be made to candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Will there be a place to write in a choice or vote for "uncommitted"?

Only if it is requested by the party chair. Party chairs will need to submit names of write-in candidates to be counted seven days before the primary.

Will any other offices be on the ballot?

No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

Important Election Dates to Remember in 2020

February 25	Precinct Caucuses
March 3	Presidential Primary
August 11	Primary
November 3	General Election

How will I be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary?

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary day (starting January 17, 2020). A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If

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Message from your Mayor

Where did the summer and fall go? It seems like of all of the seasons we have, winter is the longest. But there is one good thing about winter: the bugs aren't biting you or driving you crazy when you are trying to enjoy the outdoors.

After multiple public and business meetings with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) over the reconstruction of Highway 47, we finally have MnDOT on record moving forward

with four roundabouts. The locations will be along Highway 47 at 229th, Pederson, 233rd and Ambassador Boulevard. The council tried to convince them to go with two roundabouts, one at 227th and the other at Ambassador Boulevard with two stoplights in between at Pederson and 233rd. The fact is that Highway 47 is a state road and not under the control of the city. We did persuade MnDOT to key on

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Visit us on social media!



Some Winter Fun at St. Francis Parks

For some, winter it is not their favorite time of year. For others, winter can be a great time of year to get outside and enjoy what Mother Nature provides us! St. Francis parks can be enjoyed by everyone as long as you bundle up for the weather. Proceed with caution, of course, as playgrounds get slippery with snow and ice. If swinging on the swing set in the middle of winter is not your thing, how about racing your buddy down a sledding hill? Did you know St. Francis has a sledding hill? As most of you know already, St. Francis has one sledding hill located at Seelye Brook Park, 4550 229th Lane. The sledding hill is open to everyone during normal park hours!



It's almost that time of year to sharpen your skates and skate on over to our ice rinks! St. Francis has a recreation skating rink and a full-size hockey rink! The rinks are located just south of St. Francis Elementary School at 3948 229th Avenue. The parking area for the ice rinks is on the west end of the warming house parking lot.

Public Works tries to have the rinks ready for skating around December 21 every year, depending on weather conditions. You can check the city website for warming house hours and rules at www.stfrancismn.org/parksrec.

Winter parking restrictions in effect



The City of St. Francis has winter parking restrictions from November 1 to May 1. During this time, there is no parking on city streets from 1:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Along with this, if there is snow accumulation of more than two inches, there is no on-street parking until the roads have been plowed from curb to curb.

Officers will issue citations for winter parking violations. The most common complaint when someone receives a ticket is, "I didn't know." Please help spread the word to your friends, family and neighbors. Also, make sure any overnight guests are informed as well.

If you have any questions, contact an on-duty officer through Anoka County Dispatch at 763-427-1212.

All parking regulations can be viewed on the City of St. Francis website under Chapter 7.

Package theft deterrents

Holidays are approaching fast and packages are being delivered to more homes than ever before. Millions of Americans have packages stolen from their homes each year. There are several ways to protect yourself from criminal activity. Here are some measures that can be taken to protect yourself from package theft.

- If you know you won't be home during the delivery of a package, have it delivered to your workplace.
- Place insurance on the item being delivered.
- If you're going away for the holidays, place your package delivery on hold.
- Require signature on delivery.
- Install a security camera. Security cameras can deter a thief and act as a tool for law enforcement if a theft occurs.
- Check with your vendors and delivery services for other security options.



Elections 2020

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a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.

Will other people know which party's ballot I request?

A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

Will parties have to abide by the primary results?

The presidential primary results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

Who will pay for the presidential nomination primary?

County and municipalities will be reimbursed by the state for the primary costs.

How much will the primary cost?

The Office of Secretary of State surveyed all 87 Minnesota Counties and, based on that survey, estimates that the cost to administer the Presidential Nomination Primary will be \$11.9 million. The Secretary of State has certified this estimate to the Commissioner of Management and Budget. Counties and municipalities will be reimbursed for their costs of administering the Presidential Nomination Primary following the election.

Will there still be precinct caucuses?

Yes, precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

Local watershed organization tackles riverbank erosion

Jamie Schurbon

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization

Riverbank erosion causes problems for both property owners and the river's health. A recent inventory of river conditions found 80 stretches of eroding Rum River riverbank in Anoka County. The Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) and its partners will soon begin work to correct a number of those eroding riverbanks.

Riverbank erosion varies in size and type of solution. Amongst locally eroding riverbanks, some are 30-foot tall banks of bare, collapsing sand. These, often on the outside bends of the river, may require re-grading, rock or other robust engineering to fix. Other eroding riverbanks are just a few feet tall. These can be corrected with "softer" materials, such as armoring with cut cedar trees and planting for long-term stability. In either case, work is done with an eye toward improving habitat.

Three grants are being pursued, each for a different approach to fixing erosion. The grants are from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil

Resources and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The first two of these grant sources will make funding decisions in winter 2019-2020.

The latter has already favorably reviewed



Examples of eroding and restored riverbank.



the project and is recommending that the State legislature fund it at \$822,000. All of these funding sources get money from the Clean Land, Water and Legacy Amendment passed by voters in 2008.

The projects will be done through a partnership of organizations interested in the Rum River's health. Each of the following are providing matching funds for the grants: the URRWMO, Lower Rum River WMO, The Nature Conservancy and Anoka County Parks. The Anoka Conservation District is providing staff time to coordinate the grant applications and river work.

Stabilizing even just ten eroding riverbanks will decrease sediment entering the river by over 750 tons. That sediment makes the water brown, carries nutrients and other pollutants, and smothers fish spawning habitat. Every project will include habitat improvements in and next to the water. Work will begin in 2020.

The URRWMO is a special purpose unit of government made up of six cities: Bethel, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove and St. Francis. Its purpose is to manage the area's waters, particularly those that flow across city boundaries. More information is at www.URRWMO.org.

Save Your Bait, Save Our Lakes

As the weather gets colder, ice anglers are gearing up for the winter fishing action. While you are packing up all the equipment you will need for the fishing trip, don't forget your bait. While there are many types of bait on the market now, many anglers still prefer live bait over many others. The question is, what do you do with your bait after your fishing trip is over? Do you dump it in the trash, dump it in the lake or let it freeze on the ice? There are many ways to dispose of live bait after the fishing trip is over—some humane, some help others and some are illegal. Did you know it is illegal to release live bait into Minnesota waters? There is a hefty fine attached so instead of releasing live bait into the fishing hole, consider some other options: take bait home to reuse for a future trip, give it to another angler to use or throw them away in the trash. By releasing live bait into Minnesota waters, you could be spreading aquatic invasive species into the environment. Invasive carp can often be confused for common fishing bait and can be spread by anglers when they release their minnows into the water. Crayfish is another fishing bait and can also be invasive and cause problems with our lakes. There are a couple species of crayfish that are invasive and causing fish habitat problems here in Minnesota. Join many others by helping save our lakes from invasive species by not releasing your live bait into our valued Minnesota waters.



Retired Firefighters

St. Francis Fire Department retirees: please join us for spaghetti dinner at the fire station, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. The dinner is open to all retirees of the St. Francis Fire Department.



Santa & the Fire Truck

**Thursday, December 5
beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Santa and the Fire Truck are teaming up with St. Francis Firefighters to walk through neighborhoods to collect food donations for the North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf and hand out candy canes to the children.

For more information, follow St. Francis Fire Department's Facebook page @StFranieMnFire



WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Visit with

SANTA

**Thursday, December 12
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**St. Francis Police Department
4058 St. Francis Boulevard NW
St. Francis**

Children can visit with Santa and share their Christmas wish list. Remember to bring a camera to capture a photo.

The St. Francis Police Department is a drop-off location for Toys for Joy donations. Donations will be accepted in the lobby until December 13 and distributed to people living in northern Anoka County.



- Always buckle your seat belt!
- Brake properly to avoid skidding. If driving on snow or ice, start slowly and brake gently. Begin braking extra early when approaching an intersection.
- If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you regain traction, then straighten your vehicle. If you have anti-lock brakes, apply steady pressure.
- In fog, drive with headlights set on dim or use fog lights.
- In rain, fog, snow or sleet, stay within the limits of your vision. If it is too difficult to see, pull off the road and stop. Turn on hazard blinkers.
- Decrease speed and increase following distance on hazardous roads. Your speed should adjust for conditions without becoming an impediment to traffic flow.

Visit <http://hsem.dps.mn.gov> for the winter safety checklist.

RECYCLING – Holiday lights and cell phone collection

Every year St. Francis Public Works collects your old, used, broken or worn out cell phones and holiday lights for proper recycling. These items are not recycled through your curbside recycling carts; instead they are usually thrown in the trash. Public Works will collect your used lights and cell phones and properly recycle them at a local recycling facility. In 2018, through the drop-off program, we recycled over 220 pounds of holiday lights and cell phones! You can drop off your holiday lights and cell phones at the Police and Public Works Facility during our normal hours from 6:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have any recycling questions or concerns, please call Public Works at 763-233-5200.



**St. Francis
Police**



Department Facebook page

The St. Francis Police Department provides information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any recent crimes that have taken place.

Lakeshore Stewardship Vital to Keeping Lakes Healthy

Emily Johnson
Anoka Conservation District

Lakes are the pride and joy of Minnesotans, but the loss of their native aquatic and near shore lake vegetation as a result of increased lakeshore development is a grave threat. Both shoreline and aquatic plants are critical in maintaining a clean and healthy lake. Their loss results in severe negative consequences.



When aquatic vegetation is removed from a lake, it causes a chain reaction, resulting in murky water and loss of critical habitat for waterfowl and native fishes. Zooplankton rely on aquatic plants for food and safety. Without the refuge provided by these plants, they become easy prey for fish and their numbers dwindle. As a result, the algae normally eaten by zooplankton flourish. Algae get an extra boost from nutrients in loose sediment stirred up from the bottom of the lake. Since there's no more roots to stabilize this sediment, it can easily be stirred up by waves and wind, creating cloudy water conditions. Native walleye and bass are driven out by undesirable fish such as carp that thrive in these dirty water conditions.

Native plant removal from lakeshores can have an equally negative impact. Native shoreline vegetation acts as a buffer, filtering polluted runoff and trapping excess nutrients before they enter the lake. Their roots hold the soil in place and prevent erosion and property loss. In addition to these water quality benefits, native plant buffers provide critical habitat for pollinators and other native wildlife, deter nuisance wildlife such as geese, and create an attractive privacy screen while leaving plenty of room for water access from a dock or beach.

Retaining or replacing natural shoreline and aquatic vegetation is critical to a lake's health. Lakeshore owners have the power to make a difference on their shore through proper lakeshore restoration and stewardship. Doing this will improve lake water quality, which has a direct impact on property value, recreation opportunities, fisheries, and more.

To learn how to install your own lakeshore restoration project, visit: dnr.state.mn.us/lakescaping.

Chloride Management Strategies

Winter Maintenance

You can reduce salt use by:

- Shoveling before salt application
- Using salt at appropriate temperatures and the correct application rate—a maximum of 4lb for 1,000 square feet
- Sweeping and reusing salt and sand on dry pavement

Water Softening

Households and organizations with timer-based softeners can consider upgrading to demand-based units.

Households can reduce salt use by:

- Softening hot and indoor lines only
- Having their softener setting checked by a professional to maximize efficient salt use
- Not using a softener if the drinking water hardness is below 7 grains per gallon (Currently, the City of St. Francis has a hardness level of 13-14 grains per gallon.)

Water Resource Center. Chloride in Communities & Watersheds. *Advancing science-based solutions for freshwater management*. Retrieved from www.wrc.umn.edu/sites/wrc.umn.edu/files/umnwatershedbmps_final.pdf

Snowmobile safety

- Don't drink alcohol and ride.
- Pay attention to the weather and check trail conditions.
- Don't ride alone.
- Slow down, obey all trail signs and cross roadways with extreme caution.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay on designated snowmobile trails to avoid violating trespassing laws.
- Obtain a permit from the police department if riding in a permit zone.
- Obey all state laws and local ordinances. Snowmobile ordinances can be viewed on the City of St. Francis website under Chapter 7 of the city code.



Want to know more about groundwater?

View the groundwater education video created in collaboration with the Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Collaborative.

View and share the completed video, *Our Groundwater Connection* at <https://youtu.be/gxENTkMmyEE>



Stormwater management

Low-impact development and green infrastructure

Low impact development (LID) means an approach to stormwater management that mimics a site’s natural hydrology as the landscape is developed. Using low impact development approach, stormwater is managed on-site and the rate and volume of predevelopment stormwater reaching receiving waters is unchanged. The calculation of predevelopment hydrology is based on native soil and vegetation (MN Statute 2009, Section 115.03, subdivision 5c).

Low impact development principles complement, and sometimes replace, traditional stormwater management systems, which historically emphasized moving stormwater off-site with curbs, pipes, ditches and ponds.

Green infrastructure is an approach to wet weather management that is cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure management approaches and technologies infiltrate, evapotranspire, capture and reuse stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrologies. The terms “low impact development” and “green infrastructure” are used interchangeably.

Basic Principles	Examples
Water is a resource	Vegetated filter strips at the edges of paved surfaces
Reduce impervious surfaces to allow water to soak into the ground where it lands	Residential or commercial rain gardens designed to capture and soak in stormwater
Use natural systems to promote infiltration of water	Porous pavers, porous concrete, and porous asphalt
Protect ecologically important areas of proposed developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrower streets • Rain barrels and cisterns • Green roofs

Why low impact development is important

- Many LID practices prove to be attractive amenities to a neighborhood and using them may increase property values.
- Using LID practices and structures may reduce the overall cost of stormwater management.
- LID practices encourage rain to soak into the ground where it falls as there are fewer opportunities for water to collect pollutants and reach nearby waters.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and stakeholders are exploring how LID practices may help cities and townships achieve certain stormwater regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. *Stormwater management: Low-impact development and green infrastructure*. Retrieved from www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater-management-low-impact-development-and-green-infrastructure

Mayor

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safety, smoother traffic flow with accessibility to our businesses and make Highway 47 look like a real downtown district. Hopefully all of these parts working together will make Highway 47 better than it ever has been in the last 18 or more years. There will be one more public meeting coming in December, which you will be notified of once the date and time has been set. Thanks to all of you that have participated.

The last of the dilapidated unsafe buildings has been demolished behind Subway off of Bridge Street. This will make land available for townhomes as recommended in our St. Francis Forward Plan.

The city is still working with Mosaic Management on an assisted living facility and with Meridian Behavioral Center. Those projects have been moving slowly, but will most likely pick up in the spring. However Joshua Markum Builders is moving forward on construction of townhomes in the Meadows Development across from the police/public works building. Also the owner of the property at Ambassador Boulevard north to 241st Avenue has brought forward his proposed plat layout for the development of 124 acres including slab on grade villas, single-family residential homes and some light to medium commercial sites. There is a lot more to the process that will need to be done before we see building permits.

By now you have probably been notified of the water meter change-out to automatic meters that the city is undergoing. This was done because the previous company that was doing our meter reading wanted a 128 percent increase for their services. The council felt it was time to upgrade our meters in order to have control, avoid further gouging by the previous company and more importantly to give better and more accurate service to our rate users. There is no charge to you for the meter change-out, but once you have been notified by mail you will have to call Ferguson Waterworks to setup a time to have them come out. You will need to give them clear access to your water meter. If you have any water leaks or issues before or after the meter, that cost is your responsibility. *(Ferguson will only be changing your water meter and transmitter at no cost to you).

For Your Information

Neptune has assured the meter reading technology and data is continuously monitored from a “world class data center, providing the highest level of security, redundancy, and recovery services.” Neptune is responsible for the network and application security. Amazon Web Services (AWS) is responsible for securing the underlying infrastructure that supports the cloud while Neptune is responsible for the Head End Software (HES) that runs in the cloud. Neptune has given us further information confirming the water meter technology is encrypted. (Automatic meter reading has been around for twenty years; St. Francis is just catching up.)

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, enjoying time with your family and friends. Also I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please drive safely to your destinations.

Regards,
Mayor Feldman





St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 655
St. Francis, MN 55070

763-438-5163
chamber@stfrancischamber.org
www.stfrancischamber.org

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce serves the needs of its membership in working toward the common goal of a growing, healthy business environment and community as a whole.

save the date

FOR THE ANNUAL
ST. FRANCIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER

Murder Mystery Wedding
'Til Death Do Us Part

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020
7:00 P.M. IN THE EVENING

THE REFUGE GOLF CLUB
21250 YELLOW PINE STREET | OAK GROVE



Chamber Members

Ace Solid Waste, Inc.
Advanced Automotive Care, Inc.
American Family Insurance
– Mary Dresch
Anoka Hennepin Credit Union
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anytime Fitness
Barna, Guzy & Steffen, LTD
BTO Signs
Casey's General Store
City of St. Francis
Collision 2000
Connexus Energy
County Market
Crown Electric Inc.
Dairy Queen Orange Julius
Destination Academy, LLC
ECM Publishers, Inc.
Edward Jones Investments
Elaine M. Mustari, CPA, LLC
Freedom Strategy Group
Gold Star Kennels
Goodrich Pharmacy

Hakanson Anderson
Healthy Hangout
Hidden Haven Golf Club
Highland Money Management, Inc.
Kwik Trip
Lakeside Cabinets and Woodworking
Lee Carlson Center for
Mental Health & Well-Being
Mansetti's Pizza and Pasta
McDonald's
Minuteman Press – Ham Lake
North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf
Northstar Outdoors
Opp Family Chiropractic, P.A.
Patriot Lanes Bar & Grill
Premier Specialties
RE/MAX Results~Michelle Anderson
Re/Max Associates Plus
– Larry D. Anderson
Rum River Tree Farm
Sara Sauer, CPA, LLC
St. Francis Area Schools
St. Francis Bottle Shop

St. Francis Collision & Glass
St. Francis Dental Care
St. Francis Fire Department
St. Francis Insurance Agency, Inc.
– Gary Zimmerman
St. Francis Lions Club
St. Francis Physical Therapy
True Value Hardware
St. Francis United Methodist Church
St. Francis Veterinary Clinic
Steve's Collision
Subway – St. Francis
T. Bryce & Associates, Inc.
TC Net-Works, Inc.
The Bridge Church
The Oaks of Lake George
The Ponds Golf Course & Restaurant
The Refuge Golf Club & Restaurant
TJ Associates – Advanced Graphic
Solutions
Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Village Bank
Virtual Reality Arcade Corp

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

Events Calendar

- December 5** Santa on the Fire Truck in selected neighborhoods beginning at 5:30 p.m. (see ad on page 4)
- December 7** Breakfast with Santa – St. Francis Lioness at St. Francis American Legion, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- December 12** Have your picture taken with Santa at the Police Department, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (see ad on page 4)
- December 14** Gathering of Friends – St. Francis Lions at St. Francis American Legion, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- December 24** Christmas Eve Holiday – *City Offices Closing at Noon*
- December 25** Christmas Holiday – *City Offices Closed*
- January 1** New Year's Day Holiday – *City Offices Closed*
- January 20** Martin Luther King Holiday – *City Offices Closed*
- January 31** Annual Chamber Dinner at the The Refuge Golf Club, 7:00 p.m.
- February 8** St. Francis Lions present A Valentine Experience – Remembering the King at St. Francis American Legion, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- February 17** Presidents' Day Holiday – *City Offices Closed*

City Council Meetings

First and third Monday each month at 6:00 p.m.
(If a holiday, the meeting will be Tuesday.)

Planning Commission Meetings

Third Wednesday each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at
St. Francis Area Schools District Office
4115 Ambassador Boulevard NW

Agendas and minutes online: www.stfrancismn.org

City Hall Location

23340 Cree Street NW
St. Francis, MN 55070

Hours	Monday-Thursday	7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Contact Us	city@stfrancismn.org	763-753-2630
Website	www.stfrancismn.org	

City Council

Mayor Steve Feldman	763-235-2310
Councilmember Sarah Udvig	763-235-2311
Councilmember Robert Bauer	763-235-2312
Councilmember Kevin Robinson	763-235-2313
Councilmember Joe Muehlbauer	763-235-2314

