



**Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota**  
and the Minnesota Participation Project  
*Mobilizing and Empowering Native People*



### **How Victims of Domestic Violence Can Register to Vote Anonymously**

*Many victims of domestic violence are afraid to register to vote because they do not want their address and other information to be available to the public. However, there are a couple of ways that they can register without their information going on the public voter rolls.*

- A victim of domestic violence can ask the county auditor to allow them to register without adding their name and information to the public voting rolls. Many police officers and judges use this same process. The victim must provide the county auditor with a written request to have their information taken off the public rolls for fear of safety of the voter or the voter's family. *It is highly recommended that the voter attach this written request to your voter registration application at the time of registration.* NOTE: Prior to 2005, a court order was required to remove one's name from the public voting rolls. All that is required now is a simple written request stating that the voter fears for their safety and wishes to be removed from the public rolls.
  - If they do so, their name will appear on the rolls at the polling place, but will not appear on the file that can be purchased by the general public.
- A victim of domestic violence may also vote by absentee ballot if they are only temporarily residing at a shelter or other residence. In this case, they should have the absentee ballot sent to them at their temporary residence, but use their permanent address when filling it out.
- A victim of domestic violence may use a shelter or group home as their address when registering to vote. They may also use the home of a friend or family member if they are currently living at that home.
- A victim of domestic violence can also register to vote same day, vote, and then ask their county elections office to remove them from the rolls. This request should be made in writing and sent to their county elections office. It should be noted that it may take some time for the county elections office to process such a request. If they choose this option, they will have to re-register the next time they vote.

As of 2005, victims of domestic violence living in a registered shelter may also register to vote on Election Day using a shelter employee as a voucher. Provided the facility has submitted a list of employees 20 days prior to the election to the county auditor, each employee can vouch for an unlimited number of residents of the shelter.