



**Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota**  
and the Minnesota Participation Project

*Mobilizing and Empowering Native People*

MINNESOTA  
COUNCIL OF  
NONPROFITS

### **Voter Registration for Persons Experiencing Homelessness**

Although some voter registration policies and practices may impose requirements that interfere with or preclude registration by people who are homeless, there are options that can enable the process to run smoothly.

- A person who is homeless or between permanent residences can register to vote using the address of a shelter where they are staying. They can pre-register using that address, which will be most effective if they plan to be living there at least some of the time up until Election Day.
- Alternatively, they can register same day using a voucher. This may be a resident of the precinct who can vouch under oath that the person registering to vote lives in the precinct, or it may be a homeless shelter employee that can vouch for the registrant's residence at the shelter. There is no limit on the number of individuals a homeless shelter employee can vouch for on the day of the election.
- If a person who is homeless does not have an ID or does not know the last four digits of their social security number when they pre-register by mail, their application may be "challenged." On Election Day they can complete their registration and vote if they bring a voucher with them.
- Applicants can also draw a map to indicate where he or she lives "if the applicant lives in a rural district or has a non-traditional address" (National Voter Registration Act of 1993). This means that homeless people who can identify a street corner, park bench, etc. as their home base by drawing a map should not be prevented from registering to vote for failing to provide a traditional residential address.