

Example 2026 Judicial Ballot Explanatory Notes

The numbers on this document correspond to the numbers on the 2026 Judicial Example Ballot found at the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State's [Example Ballots](#) webpage. Citations below refer to Minnesota election statutes (M.S.) and their subdivisions (subd.) or Minnesota election rules (M.R.) and their subparts (subp.), which can be found in full at the [Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes](#) website.

1) Multiple laws apply:

- M.S. 204D.11, subd. 6: “**Judicial ballot.** When it would not be possible to place all offices on a single ballot card for the state general election, the judicial offices may be placed instead on a separate judicial ballot. The judicial ballot shall be prepared by the county auditor in the manner provided in the rules of the secretary of state.
The judicial ballot must be headed with words: “Judicial Nonpartisan General Election Ballot...”
- M.R. 8250.0375, subp. 1: “**General form.** The judicial ballot must only be used when it is not possible to place all offices on a single ballot for the state general election as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.11, subdivision 6. The ballot for judicial nonpartisan offices must be prepared in the same manner as the state general election ballot, except the ballot heading provided in part 8250.1810, subpart 3, must instead use the words “Judicial Nonpartisan General Election Ballot.””

2) Multiple laws apply:

- M.S. 204B.36, subd. 4: “**Judicial candidates.** The official ballot shall contain the names of all candidates for each judicial office and shall state the number of those candidates for whom a voter may vote. Each seat for an associate justice, associate judge, or judge of the district court must be numbered. The words “Supreme Court,” “Court of Appeals” and “(number) District Court” must be printed above the respective judicial office groups on the ballot. The title of each judicial office shall be printed on the official primary and general election ballot as follows:
 - a) In the case of the Supreme Court:
“Chief justice”;
“Associate justice (number)”
 - b) In the case of the Court of Appeals:
“Judge (number)” or
 - c) In the case of the district court:
“Judge (number)”
- M.S. 204B.36, subd.5: “**Designation of incumbent; judicial offices.** If a chief justice, associate justice, or judge is a candidate to succeed again, the word “incumbent” shall be printed after that judge’s name as a candidate.”
- M.R. 8250.1810, subp. 6: “Judicial offices must follow special district offices and appear in the following order:
Chief Justice – Supreme Court
Associate Justice – Supreme Court
Judge – Court of Appeals
Judge – District Court”

3) M.R. 8250.1810, subd. 6: “Where judicial offices are designated by number, the seats must be listed in numerical order, except that for judicial offices for a specific court for which there is only one candidate filed must appear after all other judicial offices for that same court.”