



# Ramsey County Elections

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October 1, 2014

**TO:** Owners and Managers of Multiple-Unit Residential Buildings in Ramsey County

**FROM:** John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney  
Joseph Mansky, Ramsey County Elections Manager

**SUBJECT:** MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 211B.20 - ACCESS TO MULTIPLE-UNIT BUILDINGS FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES

**PLEASE NOTE** that the information contained in this document is solely intended to provide you with general awareness of Minnesota Statutes, Section 211B.20 authorizing candidate access to multiple-unit residential buildings in Ramsey County (a copy of this statute is enclosed for your reference). This document is neither intended nor should be construed as constituting legal advice to any person. Should you have any questions regarding any of the laws referenced in this document including how those laws could be applied to a specific set of facts, you are encouraged to seek advice from your own legal counsel.

**Q: What buildings or premises are covered?**

**A:** The state law covers all apartment and condominium buildings, townhouses, college dormitories, nursing homes, mobile home parks and private roadways on which there are two or more single family homes.

**Q: Who can enter the buildings or premises?**

**A:** The following persons are authorized access under the state law.

1. Any candidate for a state, federal, county, municipal or school district office who has either filed an affidavit of candidacy or organized a campaign committee for the upcoming general election provided that the building is located within the district or territory that will be represented by the office to which the candidate seeks election.
2. Campaign workers who are accompanying the candidate.

**Q: What can the candidates and campaign workers do while in the building?**

A: Candidates and campaign workers may:

1. Speak to voters in the district in which the candidate seeks election.
2. Conduct voter registration activities.
3. Knock on the doors of individual housing units and leave campaign literature under the doors, except in nursing homes, where campaign materials may be required to be left in an orderly manner at a central location.

**Q: How many buildings may the candidates and campaign workers visit on a single trip?**

A: Candidates and campaign workers who are campaigning at properties with more than one building may only visit one building at a time. If more than one candidate is campaigning on site at the same time as another candidate, each candidate is permitted to be in separate buildings.

**Q: Do the candidates and campaign workers have to carry identification?**

A: Yes, you can ask to see reasonable and proper identification from both the candidates and their campaign workers before granting them access to the buildings.

**Q: Can I require the candidates to make an appointment to visit my property or limit their access to certain times of the day?**

A: Yes, you can require that the candidates make a prior appointment with you before their visit and you can impose reasonable limits on the total number of persons permitted onsite and the hours during which they may conduct campaign activities.

**Q: Are there instances when I can deny access to my property?**

A: Yes, you are permitted to deny the candidates and campaign workers access into an individual residential unit, such as an apartment or mobile home, if desired. At nursing homes and assisted living facilities, you may also deny access to any voter's residential unit for valid health-related reasons. With good cause, you may also deny or expel candidates and campaign workers from your property.

**Q: What are the consequences for not permitting candidates and campaign workers access to my property?**

A: A building owner or building manager who violates a provision of the state law authorizing candidates and campaign workers access to a multiple-unit residential facility can be the subject of an unfair campaign practices complaint pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 211B.31-211B.37. As set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Section 211B.35, the range of possible dispositions for a determination that an unfair campaign practices has occurred can include at least one of the following: a reprimand, a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation, referral to the appropriate county attorney for consideration to prosecute the violation as a petty misdemeanor. Upon conviction of a petty misdemeanor, a violator is subject to a fine not to exceed \$300 for each offense.