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# POSTBULLETIN

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## Minnesota must set aside late ballots

Ballots that arrive by mail after 8 p.m. Election Day or after 3 p.m. in-person will be held separately upon arrival, court determines

BY DANA FERGUSON  
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — Minnesota election officials will have a hard cutoff on election night Nov. 3 in accepting absentee ballots, a federal panel announced Thursday, Oct. 29.

A three-member panel of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 in support of a pair of Minnesota Republican electors who challenged a state move to extend the date that officials could accept and count ballots by a week if the ballots were postmarked by Nov. 3. The pair argued that the extension violates state and federal election law and shouldn't be allowed to stand.

The decision means absentee ballots that arrive by mail after 8 p.m. Election Day or after 3 p.m. in-person will be held separately upon arrival. And their fate likely will be determined by another court.

In their decision, Judges Bobby Shepherd and L. Steven Grasz wrote that Minnesota law puts the power to make decisions about elections with the state Legislature, not the secretary of state's office. And while it may have been a decision made with good intentions amid with COVID-19 pandemic, the judges said the extended counting period shouldn't stand.

"The rule of law, as established by the United States Constitution and the Minnesota Legislature, dictates these rules must be followed notwithstanding the Secretary's instructions to the contrary," the panel wrote. "There is no pandemic exception to the Constitution."

The decision comes less than a week before the Tuesday, Nov. 3, Election Day, and as election workers around the state accept mail-in and in-person absentee votes.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Jane Kelly wrote that the Legislature had given the secretary of state latitude in this area and dropping the deadline so close to Election Day would cause "voter confusion and undermine Minnesotans' confidence in the election process."

Secretary of State Steve Simon earlier this year tweaked election rules to accommodate more people voting from home

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### COVID-19 case numbers

COUNTY	NEW CASES	TOTAL CASES
Dodge	7	413
Fillmore	12	277
Goodhue	18	651
Houston	19	238
Mower	6	1,545
Olmsted	43	3,402
Wabasha	9	414
Winona	40	1,336
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>142,311</b>

Updated: 11:00 a.m. Thursday  
Source: Minn. Dept. of Health

Forum Design Center



Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Geoff Koltz, owner of Always Available Seating in Greenleaf, Wis., works on tearing down bleachers Thursday near McNeilus Steel that would have been used for a campaign rally for President Donald Trump in Dodge Center on Friday.

## Trump visit back at airport — but it's invite-only

### Change comes after whirlwind of activity

Post Bulletin staff reports

President Donald Trump will hold an event Friday at the Rochester International Airport, but it will be invitation only, city officials confirmed Thursday night.

The event, at approximately 5 p.m., will be limited to 250 people and not open to the public, in order to comply with statewide COVID-

19 guidelines, according to a statement issued by city officials.

"The priority of the City and RST continues to be the health and safety of our residents and visitors," City Administrator Steve Rymer wrote in the statement. "We will continue to work with the various agencies to help ensure a safe arrival, departure and visit from President Trump."

The city's announcement

came hours after a rally in Dodge Center had been called off. The rally was originally planned for the airport, but was moved to the small town west of Rochester after city and state officials raised concerns about the visit adhering to state health guidelines that would limit the number of attendees.

### 'WE CAN'T DO IT'

News of the visit began circulating Wednesday

morning, when the Trump campaign announced the president would hold a late-afternoon rally at the Rochester airport. City officials were working out details for the rally Thursday morning when they were told of the change.

Air Force One would still land in Rochester, but the rally would take place in nearby Dodge Center. McNeilus Steel, which was set to host the event, sent a letter to its employees

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## Rochester. Dodge Center. Rochester.

### How Trump's hot-potato rally found a home

BY JEFF PIETERS  
jpieters@postbulletin.com

In a year that has forced so many life improvisations and course-corrections, Thursday in southeastern Minnesota provided a study in form.

A political barnstorming tour intended to stop in battleground Rochester ran

up against the coronavirus and its attendant public safety restrictions. That set in motion a dizzying sequence of events that had Minnesota journalists dashing all day.

Here's a play-by-play of how it unfolded:

**11 a.m. Wednesday:** We hear first word that President Donald Trump will be in Rochester at 5 p.m. Friday for

the third and final stop of a Upper Midwest campaign tour four days before the general election. Rally site is believed to be Rochester International Airport, but that is not confirmed.

**10:30 a.m. Thursday:** We get our first tip that the rally location will be moved to McNeilus Steel in Dodge Center. This comes

not long after Rochester city officials meet to plan for the rally at the airport. "We thought an agreement had been reached, or an understanding, and that a contract was ready to be signed for the use of the airport," said Rochester Mayor Kim Norton. "Everything seemed to be going well."

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## Health officials express concern about Trump rally

### Olmsted County reports new single-day high of 43 confirmed cases

BY JOHN MOLSEED  
jmolseed@postbulletin.com

Word of a planned Trump campaign rally Friday at the McNeilus Steel plant in Dodge Center had public health officials in Southeast Minnesota concerned.

The rally was planned on the eve of Halloween and amid a monthlong elevated rate of new COVID-19 cases.



Briggs

were already bracing for a possible spike in coronavirus infections due to colder weather and the upcoming holiday.

"To be honest, we're kind of scrambling," said Amy Caron, public health director for Dodge and Steele counties. Health officials

An internal email from McNeilus anticipated 25,000 people and was expected to draw people from the region and other states. That has health officials concerned because neighboring states are seeing higher rates of new COVID-19 cases, said Graham Briggs, director of Olmsted County Public Health.

"When we go out not too far from where we're at, we're seeing extremely

high transmission," he said. "We're back to seeing a strain on ER nurses and doctors and hospitalists that are being overwhelmed not too far from here."

Olmsted County is seeing a new high of about 32.9 new cases per day over the seven-day rolling average. The county saw a new single-day high of 43 confirmed cases

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# Lourdes High School names interim principal after departure

BY JORDAN SHEARER  
jshearer@postbulletin.com

Karen Juliano, the principal of Lourdes High School, has left the Rochester Catholic Schools system. Members of the RCS Board of Trustees released a statement saying Mary Spring has been named the interim principal. The change was

announced Oct. 23. “Dr. Karen Juliano has left Rochester Catholic Schools to pursue other opportunities,” said the statement from the board. “We wish Dr. Juliano the best and thank her for her dedicated service to RCS.” Juliano first started working for Lourdes High School in October 2018. She could not be reached for comment.

She has a doctoral degree from Spalding University in Louisville, Ky., as well as a master’s degree from Boston State College and an undergraduate degree from Regis College in Weston, Mass. Prior to arriving at Lourdes, she worked at Catholic secondary schools in Cincinnati, Louisville, Geneva, N.Y., and Tyngsboro, Mass.

Spring has worked at Lourdes High School since 2003. She has been the assistant principal for academics since August 2019. “She has demonstrated an ability to effectively communicate with families, lead the staff, and foster excellence among our students while challenging them to grow in faith and character,” the board’s statement said

about Spring. Spring has a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s degree in secondary education from Seton Hall University. Lourdes High School’s enrollment for the 2020-21 year is 340 students, according to its website. It was established in 1877.

## Trump Visit

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saying 25,000 people were expected and encouraging them to attend.

By mid-afternoon Thursday, things changed again, and the rally was taken out of Dodge Center.

When reached by email to ask if she had heard the news, Rochester Mayor Kim Norton wrote: “We’ve been told the same just a short time ago — awaiting word from legal about what they are thinking now.”

A Post Bulletin photojournalist was in the area of McNeilus Steel shortly before 3:20 p.m. Thursday documenting workers putting up banners and decorating bleachers with patriotic bunting. About 10 minutes later, after hearing the rally was no longer being held there, he returned and saw bleachers and banners taken down

JJ Francis, owner of Sominn Machinery Sales in Dodge Center, said he was told by Secret Service personnel that the rally was being moved back to Rochester.

He said they were planning to use his building in the parking lot of McNeilus Steel as their headquarters and were running phone lines through the building. Suddenly, personnel were removing the lines and equipment out of the building.

He said he was told they were heading back to Rochester.

“The Secret Service took all of their stuff out of my building and said they were following the governor’s mandate,” he said. “We can’t do it. It’s going to be in Rochester for 200 people.”

Courtney Hagen, who works at the Casey’s General Store on the north side of Dodge Center, said when it comes to a presidential rally and COVID-19 restrictions, people should be able to make up their own minds whether to attend.

“I think it should be everyone’s choice if they go or not,” she said.

### ‘NOT A POLITICAL STATEMENT’

John Stiles, spokesman for the Minnesota Attorney General’s office, said the state does not have the authority to cancel a public event, but the AG’s office does enforce Gov. Tim Walz’s executive orders.

Stiles said representatives from the City of Rochester, the airport, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, and the Republican National Committee spoke Wednesday. RNC officials said they would provide a COVID-19 preparedness plan Thursday morning.

“We’ve not heard from them,” he said, adding that the office later learned from social media and an internal email from McNeilus Steel that the event had been moved. By 5



Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Bill Phillips, an area manager for Subway in Southeast Minnesota, spells out “MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN ONE SUB AT A TIME” on Thursday in Dodge Center. “Just a little fun in advertising and showing support for the president,” Phillips said of the sign.

p.m., the office hadn’t received a plan for the rally at the Rochester airport.

“It’s been very one-sided communication,” Stiles said. “We’re getting our updates from Twitter like everyone else.”

Attorney General Keith Ellison issued a statement saying the office has worked with organizers of more than 80 events across the state since

the order was issued.

“COVID-19 is not a political statement, it is a deadly virus and the cause of a global pandemic,” Ellison wrote in the statement. “As Attorney General charged with enforcing our executive orders, I take very seriously my responsibility to stop it from spreading and cannot exempt anyone, regardless of their political views, from

complying with requirements to keep all Minnesotans safe from it.”

If an event violates the guidelines set in the executive order, the attorney general’s office would open a civil investigation and could eventually file a complaint against the parties holding the event.

## Ballot

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during the pandemic. Simon waived the requirement for a signature on absentee ballots and gave a longer window for ballots to make their way to election workers after Election Day following challenges from voter groups.

The extension initially met opposition from the Republican Party and Donald Trump’s presidential campaign, among other GOP groups that challenged it in state court but the groups ultimately dropped the challenge.

Republican state Rep. Eric Lucero and activist James Carson, meanwhile, took the question to federal court.

It was there that they found support from Shepherd, an appointee of former President George W. Bush, and Grasz, who was appointed by President Donald Trump. Kelly, who dissented, was appointed by former President Barack Obama.

Republicans celebrated the decision on Thursday, while Democrats said it would disenfranchise voters. Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party leaders urged voters to turn in absentee ballots before the Tuesday deadline.

“Secretary of State Steve Simon’s decision earlier this year to agree to count un-postmarked ballots arriving up to a week after Election Day eroded confidence in our elections and opens the door to fraud and abuse,” Lucero said in a news release. “Those seeking to cast a ballot early have had the opportunity to do so for more than six weeks now via no-excuse absentee voting, in-person voting locations, and ballot drop-off sites.”

Simon in a news release said the decision would cause a “tremendous and unnecessary disruption to Minnesota’s election” very late in the game.

“This last-minute change could disenfranchise Minnesotans who were relying on settled rules for the 2020 election — rules that were in place before the August 11 primary and were accepted by all political parties,” Simon said. “It is deeply troubling that the people who brought the lawsuit, a conservative legislator and presidential elector, would seek to sabotage the system for political gain.”

Gov. Tim Walz in an interview with CNN on Thursday night said he disagreed with the decision but assured voters that their voices would still be heard.

“I would tell voters if you have an absentee ballot in your hand right now drop it off in-person,” Walz said. “Here in Minnesota, we will still count all the votes, the system is still secure, those ballots will be segregated and this will obviously go further up through the judiciary to get a decision but at this point in time, people can avoid all this by simply going and

dropping their ballots off in-person.”

Earlier this week, the state reported that more than 1.3 million people had submitted absentee ballots and 580,000 had applied for the ballots but had not yet submitted them.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com

## Update

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Thursday. However, case positivity and community transmission — cases that aren’t tied to other known cases or outbreaks — remain steady and relatively low, Briggs said. The positive rate from testing is at about 5.4% as of Sunday, and the

community transmission rate is 16.6% through Oct. 22.

A jump in rates similar to what is being experienced in surrounding states could push daily new cases to around 150 per day, Briggs said.

“There is something going on in Minnesota that’s different from the Upper Midwest,” he said.

Whether that remains the case depends on people’s actions

during the next couple holidays. Briggs urged people to refrain from having or attending large gatherings with people from outside their households and to continue to wear masks around other people and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or more from other people.

“While we can message this, it’s really up to the community to come together and decide our fate,” Briggs said.

## Timeline

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**Noon Thursday:** Reporters are able to confirm the move to Dodge Center. McNeilus Steel Chief Operating Officer Glenn Sylvester says in an email to company staff, shared on social media, that 25,000 people are expected to attend. Dodge Center has a population of 2,730, according to a 2018 estimate.

**2 p.m. Thursday:** In a call with reporters,

officials from the Minnesota Department of Health say they weren’t notified of the Dodge Center event, but said they would consult the campaign and organizers about state rules around COVID-19 mitigation measures, which cap gatherings at 250 people. It’s unclear whether contact is ever made between MDH and the Trump campaign.

**3:20 p.m. Thursday:** First tip that the rally location in Dodge Center is canceled. Soon after, a Post Bulletin reporter and a photographer observe the dismantling of bleachers and fencing

that had been assembled for the rally, and hear from workers on the scene that the event has been canceled.

**3:45 p.m. Thursday:** Minnesota GOP sends announcement that party Chairwoman Jennifer Carnahan will be available to speak to reporters at the “rally location,” but the announcement does not specify the venue for the rally.

**3:50 p.m. Thursday:** The move back to Rochester is confirmed, but will the rally be at the airport? Also up in the air: What cap will there be on crowd

size? The state limit for gatherings is 250, but as reported yesterday, city officials were working to use the state’s guidelines that allowed for larger groups to attend in a safe way by following guidelines similar to those for sporting events.

**7:20 p.m. Thursday:** City officials confirm the rally will be held at the airport, as originally planned, but it will be invitation-only and will comply with state COVID-19 guidelines.

This story will continue, and we’ll be reporting it minute by minute at PostBulletin.com.

## LOTTERY

**Minnesota Daily 3**  
Thursday: 5-0-1

**Minnesota Northstar Cash**  
Thursday: 6-13-19-27-31

**Lucky for Life**  
Thursday: 2-11-32-44-47  
Lucky ball: 10

**Wisconsin Supercash**  
Thursday: 3-10-11-19-20-27  
Doublor: N

**All or Nothing**  
Thursday: 1-2-3-4-9-12-15-19-20-21-22

**Wisconsin Badger 5**  
Thursday: 5-8-9-12-16

**Wisconsin Pick 3**  
Thursday: 0-2-6

**Wisconsin Pick 4**  
Thursday: 9-0-3-7

### HEALTHY ELDERLY FEMALE VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR AGING RESEARCH

Mayo Clinic is seeking healthy volunteers to participate in an aging research. The purpose of this study is to find out if a form of vitamin B3, NFR (Nicotinamide Riboside), has any positive effects in bone, skeletal muscle, and metabolism in aging.

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF:**

- You are a female, 65-80 years old
- You are generally healthy
- NOT in current use of insulin
- The study requires 4 visits at the Clinical Research and Trial Unit (CRTU) located on the 7th floor of the Charlton Building – Methodist campus or on the 5th floor of Domitilla Building – Saint Marys campus of Mayo Clinic in Rochester.
- Also, you will be required to participate in an exercise program taking place at the Dan Abraham Healthy Living Center (DAHLC) facilities 3 times per week for 6 weeks.
- Some tests including physical exam, blood tests, tomography (non-invasive test that combines X-ray images and computer processing to visualize your bones), walking speed, muscle biopsy, and muscle force studies will be performed for further evaluation of your current health and progress.
- Remuneration and parking passes will be offered.

For more information, please contact Department of Medicine - Research at (507) 266-1944 or by email RSTDOMCTU@mayo.edu

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