

Proposed Increase in Municipal Filing Fees

Current municipal filing fees are \$20, established by statute in 1967—nearly 50 years ago—and never changed or adjusted. Charter cities are able to alter their filing fees, and both St. Paul and Rochester have done so. With Ranked Choice Voting, Minneapolis no longer conducts a primary to narrow the field of candidates to serious contenders. Consequently, the single ballot put in front of voters during the municipal general election needs to be a “serious ballot” – eliminating, to the degree possible, frivolous candidates. Staff proposes to raise municipal filing fees, effective concurrent with the planned 2013 Municipal Election. This chart summarizes the proposal for Minneapolis:

2013 Candidate Filing Fee Chart – PROPOSAL TO INCREASE FEES			
Office/Position	Salary/Compensation Info.	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Mayor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City-wide • Full-time 	2012 \$105,568 annually – plus benefits including health and dental insurance, long-term disability and life insurance, city-paid contributions to an HRA/VEBA account, and choice of participation in Federal Social Security program or the PERA Defined Contribution Plan, free parking and transportation reimbursement	\$20	\$500
Council Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 for each of 13 Wards • Full-time 	2012 \$80,354 annually – plus benefits including health and dental insurance, long-term disability and life insurance, city-paid contributions to an HRA/VEBA account, and choice of participation in Federal Social Security program or the PERA Defined Contribution Plan, free parking and transportation reimbursement	\$20	\$250
Board of Estimate & Taxation 2 At-large <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City-wide • Part-time 	2012 \$35 per Board meeting – set in City Charter	\$20	\$20
Park Board 3 At-large <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City-wide • Part-time 	2012 All commissioners receive \$11,040 annually plus benefits; the president receives \$12,240 annually plus benefits	\$20	\$50
Park Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 for each of 6 Districts • Part-time 		\$20	\$50

To meet the charter-imposed timeline for a potential alteration for municipal filing fees, a notice of intent for introduction would need to be made at the upcoming regular Council meeting on Friday, February 8, 2013. Staff believes serious elected offices benefit from serious candidates and campaigns, and that voters are best served in this regard by serious ballots—all of which can be advanced by having serious filing fees that match the level of importance of the municipal office (demonstrated, in part, by the compensation provided by the government).