



## Request for Committee Action Office of City Clerk – Elections & Voter Services Division

**Date:** June 11, 2014

**To:** The Honorable Elizabeth Glidden  
Chair, Committee of the Whole

**Subject:** Approving a change in the polling place serving voters in Ward 2 – Precinct 5 for the 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

**Related Action:** On April 25, 2014, pursuant to Resolution No. 2014R-183, the City authorized the establishment of 125 electoral precincts and specific polling places to serve those precincts, effective with the 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

**Recommendation:**

- (a) Amend the prior resolution to designate a new polling place to serve the voters in Ward 2 – Precinct 5; and
- (b) Direct the City Clerk to provide notice, as required by statute, to all households within Ward 2 – Precinct 5 having at least one registered voter of the change in the designated polling place.

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Presenters in Committee:	Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk

**Background:** In April, the number of precincts was increased —from 117 to 125— to better serve voters in recognition of the fact that, following the 2012 Presidential Election, several exceeded the maximum voter-to-precinct ratio recommended by the Secretary of State. A polling place is designated to serve voters in each precinct; in a handful of instances, one polling place may serve two or more precincts. Recently, staff was contacted by representatives of the Pratt Community School (66 Malcolm Ave. SE), which serves as the polling place for Ward 2–Precinct 5. As the result of unintended delays associated with remodeling and related construction work at that site, the school is unable to serve as a polling place in 2014. The school anticipates it will be able to accommodate service as a polling place for that precinct in time for the next regularly scheduled election, which is the 2016 Presidential Election. Meantime, a new polling place must be identified to serve voters in that area. Staff has consulted with Council Member Gordon on a potential relocation, and the selected site is the Prospect Park United Methodist Church, located at 22 Orlin Ave. SE. The statutory provisions governing the designation of polling places is found under Minn. Stat. § 204B.16, subd. 3, which requires that polling places be finalized no less than 90 days prior to the date of the scheduled election. No changes in polling places can be made between a primary and general election. However, the statute does provide that if a designated polling place becomes unavailable for use within that 90-day timeframe, a change can be made provided that notice is provided by nonforwardable mail to every affected household with at least one registered voter in that precinct stating the new polling place location at least 25 days before the election. Assuming this change in polling place designation is approved, staff will coordinate with the Hennepin County Elections Office on sending the required notices to all households within the precinct having at least one registered voter.

**Attached:** Draft Resolution  
Full list of polling locations, as amended