



Request for Committee Action

To: Elections & Rules
Date: 7/22/2014
From: City Clerk's Office
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Presented by: Casey Joe Carl
File type: Ordinance
Subcategory: Code Amendment

Subject:

Title 8.5; Ranked Choice Voting Processes.

Description:

Amending the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Title 8.5, Chapter 165 and 167 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Elections: In General and Municipal Rules of Conduct, updating references to Ward boundaries, compensation of Election Judges and Sergeants at Arms, and mathematical elimination processes.

Previous Directives:

On April 18, 2008, an ordinance amendment was approved by the City Council amending Title 8.5 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Elections by adding a new Chapter 167 relating to Municipal Elections; Rules of Conduct, establishing rules for counting ranked choice voting elections.

At the City Council meeting on May 24, 2013 Council adopted amended rules of conduct for municipal elections in the City of Minneapolis further streamlining the RCV process.

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

Not Applicable

Background/Analysis:

Based on lessons learned from the 2009 and 2013 Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) municipal elections, election staff, in collaboration with the City Attorney's Office, recommends the following changes to Chapters 165 and 167 to update references to ward boundaries, compensation of Election Judges and Sergeants at Arms and streamlining of the tabulation process through a more robust mathematical elimination process.

Proposed RCV Changes and Updates

1. Ward Boundaries

- Remove outdated ward boundary descriptions which are more accurately reflected in Appendix B.

2. Compensation of Election Judges and Sergeants at Arms

- Setting Election Judge and Sergeant at Arms pay at forty (40) percent greater than the prevailing minimum wage unless Council sets a different rate. This language was removed from the Charter during the Plain Language Charter restructuring and is being added back into Code due to its importance to ensuring the ability to conduct elections.

3. Mathematically Impossible to be Elected process

- In an effort to ensure that Election night results are available in a timely and efficient manner, staff proposes adding an additional method to the RCV processes to eliminate candidates who are mathematically precluded from winning. This will allow “batch” elimination of candidates and will make the elimination more efficient and should make results available in a more timely manner.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

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Attachments:

1. City of Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, Title 8.5, Chapters 165 and 167 as amended.