

Taking the ballot to the people:

Initial plans & preparations for the 2016 election

MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL
Standing Committee on Elections & Rules

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Taking the ballot to the people: Plans & preparations for the 2016 election

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The Elections & Voter Services Division is committed to ensuring all eligible Minneapolis voters have both the opportunity and the ability to cast a ballot. Driven by this commitment, the Division seeks to eliminate unnecessary barriers to electoral participation and to make voting as easy as possible, taking the ballot to the people in as many ways as possible. To achieve that objective, the Division will focus its plans for this year’s presidential election in three areas: (1) increasing voter registration; (2) improving access to the ballot box; and (3) recruiting the right staff in the right places to support voters at every step of the process. This report highlights some key strategies to support these objectives.

I. INCREASING REGISTRATION

A. Why registration is a primary focus

Registration is the necessary first step to participating in an election. As the Elections & Voter Services Division (EVS) has expanded outreach and education efforts, it has become clear that ensuring voters are registered is the key to providing a smoother experience for voters, poll workers, and staff.

Registration is not, however, a direct contributing factor to voter turnout. Research consistently shows the greatest determinant driving participation is ballot content. In other words, specific races, candidates of interest and competitive campaigns, or compelling or controversial ballot questions primarily determine voter turnout. All other issues—including ease of access to the ballot box—are secondary factors driving engagement. Focusing on registration will not address all the complex factors contributing to a steady national decline in voter participation, nor will it automatically increase actual voter turnout. Nevertheless, it is a necessary step to easing access to participation. So, while the ultimate decision of whether or not to participate rests with individual voters, ensuring those who choose to participate face as few barriers as legally required is an underlying value that drives the work of the EVS Division.

The mandated registration process has been identified as a key obstacle to increased participation in U.S. elections by scholars and election experts. After the Civil War, registration was implemented as a means of ensuring only “legitimate voters” could exercise the franchise. Thus, mandatory voter registration in the United States began not as a means of enhancing or expanding democracy, but as a means of limiting and controlling it—even, in some cases, to deny it, particularly for immigrants and people of color.

Since that time, the U.S. has made significant progress in decreasing barriers to voter registration and to full participation in elections. Highlights in this regard include passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1964, possibly the most important civil rights legislation, and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 which standardized and simplified registration as part of the licensing process for motor vehicles. Thus, through the years, the U.S. voter registration system has shifted from one intended to prevent electoral fraud to one that is designed to facilitate participation and promote inclusion.

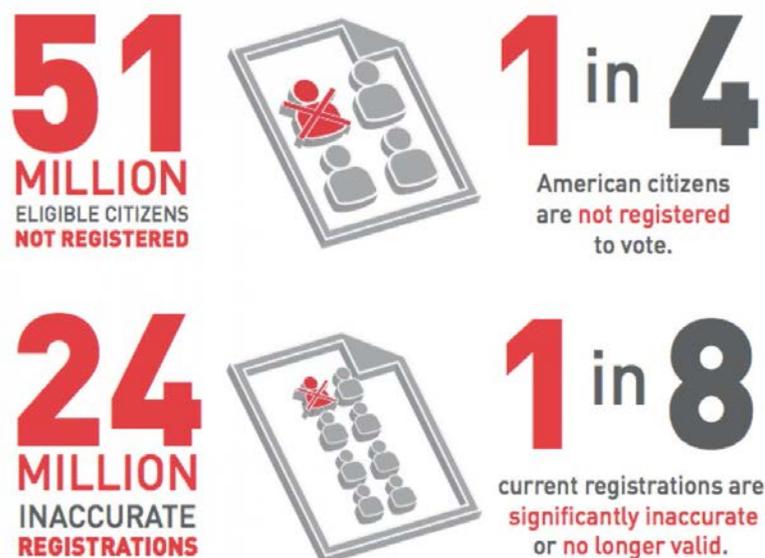
Today, voter registration can be seen as serving three legitimate functions:

1. Identifying qualified electors based on expressed legal provisions (e.g., citizenship, age, residency, etc.);
2. Preventing electoral fraud and abuse of the electoral system; and
3. Supporting other related functions connected to the electoral system, such as sizing electoral districts, establishing or redrawing boundaries, deciding the number and location of polling places, determining the number of ballots to produce, and providing election information to voters.

Despite historical shifts toward greater inclusion, mandatory registration remains one of—if not *the*—single biggest administrative obstacle to greater electoral participation.

Nationally, an estimated 51 million eligible citizens are not registered to vote, approximately one in every four Americans.¹ The Secretary of State puts the number of eligible but unregistered Minnesotans at 800,000. According to the Pew Center on the States, an additional 24 million existing registrations (or roughly one in eight current registrations) are inaccurate. In addition to registering when voting for the first time, it is necessary for residents to re-register when moving to a new address, making a name change, or when it has been more than four years since last casting a ballot. This contributes to a large number of existing registrations which require updates, most often due to a move or name change following marriage, for instance.

THE CONCERN OVER VOTER REGISTRATION



Figures courtesy of the Pew Center on the States

The U.S. does not have compulsory elections; therefore, the right to vote is deemed to include the right to refuse to participate. But eligible citizens who, by right of law, do wish to participate are most frequently denied access to the ballot box because of registration challenges. It is the number one issue that prevents an otherwise eligible, qualified voter from participating.²

This “opt-in” approach that underpins U.S. registration requirements means some voters will choose not to register, effectively depriving them of the right to vote and, as an extension of that decision, the right to

¹ *Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient: Evidence that America’s Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade.* Pew Center on the States Issue Brief. February 12, 2012. Accessed from http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs_assets/2012/pewupgradingvoterregistrationpdf.pdf

² Weiser, W., Brater, J. Kasdan, D., and Norden, L. *How to fix the voting system.* Published by the Brennan Center for Justice on December 19, 2013. Accessed from <http://www.brennancenter.org/publication/how-fix-voting-system>

participate in their government. This can have significant implications on government outcomes – one reason registration has been such a fiercely debated subject over the years. Research shows registration rates fit a pattern; that is: men are more likely to be registered than women; whites are more likely to be registered than non-whites; middle-aged and older citizens are more likely to be registered than young people and others eligible to vote for the first-time, including naturalized citizens; those with higher levels of education are more likely to be registered than those with lower educational attainment; higher-income citizens are more likely to be registered than lower-income citizens; property owners are more likely to be registered than those who do not own property. So, mandatory registration contributes to a democracy gap which helps reinforce voting and participation rights for some citizens, but which challenges, suppresses, or denies those same opportunities for others. Who benefits most from the existing, opt-in registration system? Wealthy, white, educated, middle-aged (and older) men who own property. In other words, the original citizen defined in the United States Constitution.

When those who participate in a democracy at higher rates have values, attitudes, and preferences that differ from those who are less likely to participate, political and policy outcomes are more likely to negatively impact certain populations and give an unfair advantage to others. Because participation begins with the opt-in, voluntary registration system, it is essential to work towards ensuring the population that registers to vote is not systematically biased or unrepresentative of the population as a whole. Newer research has identified that the nation’s largest voting bloc, making up more than 56% of the voting-eligible population in the U.S., could be composed of unmarried women (of any age), young and first-time voters, and voters of color, as illustrated in Figure 1 (below). Collectively, this group is referred to in the literature as the “Rising American Electorate”³ (RAE) or the “Emerging Majority.”

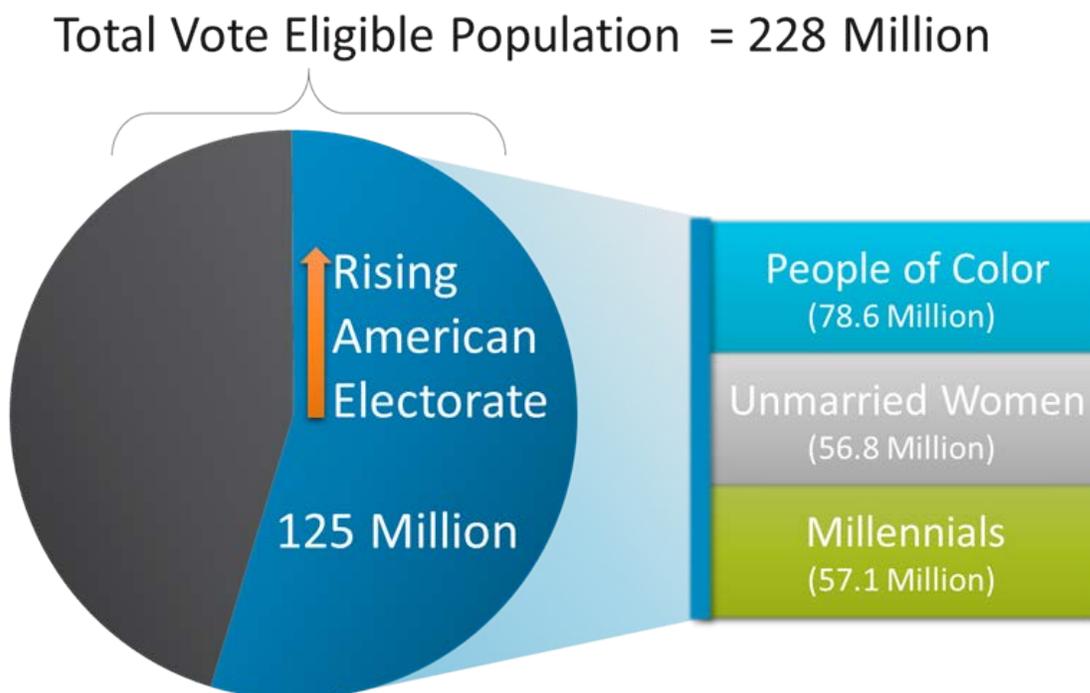


Figure 1. Makeup of the Rising American Electorate

³ The term Rising American Electorate was coined by the Voter Participation Center; for more in-depth discussion see: <http://www.voterparticipation.org/the-rising-american-electorate/>

However, despite their overall numbers, RAE’s demographic groups participate at much lower rates than the overall voting-eligible population, and are significantly under-registered. In 2014, 42% of all RAE members were not registered, compared to just 26% of Americans not falling into these groups. Closing this registration gap will prepare more voters to participate in elections and help prevent electoral outcomes from lacking legitimacy.

B. Focusing on registration in voter outreach and education

The EVS Division launched its voter outreach and education (VOE) program in 2013 and has built on its initial successes in subsequent years. In 2016, registration will be at the center of all outreach efforts, particularly targeting under-represented communities. VOE plans include an assortment of strategies that maximize resources, build capacity, and leverage community partnerships to reduce the registration gap and make voting as accessible as possible for all eligible Minneapoltans.

❖ Building personal contacts with voters

All candidates know that personal contact with voters can be a winning strategy to drive turnout; that’s why door-knocking is standard procedure for campaigns—because it works. Research shows that people are more likely to follow-up and take requested action when they are asked to make a personal commitment, are invited to participate, or make a personal contribution to a cause. The same is true for turnout and participation in elections: when voters are personally invited to participate, they are more likely to follow-through on that commitment.⁴ Mobilizing teams to undertake this level of fieldwork is a key component of VOE strategies for the 2016 Presidential Election.

Getting voters registered is the first step towards inviting them to cast a ballot, either before Election Day as an absentee voter or in their assigned polling place on Election Day. The Secretary of State is planning a state-wide “PLEDGE & REG” campaign, and Minneapolis EVS will participate in those efforts. By securing pledge cards from potential voters, EVS will be able to establish and maintain ongoing contact in order to provide reminders at key points in this year’s election timeline, including registration deadlines, the dates of absentee voting,



and—of course—reminders on Election Day to get out and vote. These reminders may be done via email, text messaging, and/or regular postal mail, or a combination of all three. Again, the personal contact—before, during, and even after the election—will help to solidify positive relationships between EVS and voters.

EVS will also expand on its partnerships with community-based groups and organizations to promote registration and participation. As in prior years, EVS will make all its educational materials, tools, and information available for those wishing to use such materials for their own voter engagement campaigns. EVS is also exploring the creation of ready-made “Voter Registration Drive Packets” to facilitate successful registration drives by local groups and associations, and will also make staff available to help coordinate and contribute to non-partisan registration drives.

⁴ See the study done by the organization Nonprofit VOTE working with 94 nonprofit organizations in 2012 to track voter contacts with 33,741 individuals in seven states demonstrating their effectiveness at increasing voter turnout, accessible at <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/2012-evaluation-nonprofits-increase-voting/>

❖ *Community liaisons*

A key aspect of developing and supporting direct community connections with target groups is having good representation; specifically, an ambassador from that community who knows that community and can use those connections to promote awareness about the election, about the importance of registration, and the key dates and timelines associated with participation. To be effective in this regard, EVS will partner with the Neighborhood & Community Relations Department to recruit and embed a team of “community liaisons” in the Division whose primary focus will be on electoral engagement within specific groups; these include the City’s various cultural communities (i.e., African-American, American Indian, East African, Latino, Southeast Asian); new and first-time voters (including students and new citizens); seniors; voters with disabilities; military veterans; and voters who are homeless, living in shelters, or in transition. Adding these liaisons will expand the Division’s reach into the community through recognized and trusted ambassadors, and will also greatly increase the capacity and cultural competency of this important work, with direct assistance from NCR as the City department with the highest level of expertise in building reciprocal relationships of trust with communities.

These community liaisons will help educate voters on the importance of registering and provide EVS with valuable feedback loops with the communities being served to ensure that the Division is able to recognize any barriers and other issues or concerns these voters might be facing to electoral engagement in order to provide the resources and tools that will be most useful to them.

❖ *Leveraging CORE partnerships, part 1*

EVS is looking at initiating some strategic organizational partnerships by expanding its CORE (Charitable Organizations Recruitment for Elections) program. CORE is the updated version of the former Adopt-A-Precinct program which debuted in 2013. Its initial focus was partnering with 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations to recruit election judges. While that focus on recruitment continues, CORE will also be used to leverage greater penetration into targeted communities. The vision of this expansion is to formalize support, including resources, for a select number of community-based nonprofit organizations that are willing to commit to meeting identified targets around planned VOE activities, including registration.

❖ *Focus on renters*

Higher rates of mobility occur throughout Minneapolis, particularly in parts of the city where voter participation rates fall below the citywide average. More than 50 percent of Minneapolis residents are renters; thus, the concern about the potential negative impact registration can have on highly-mobile voters prompted action by the City Council. In 2015, it enacted the Tenant Notification of Voter Registration (TNVR) program which requires all landlords in Minneapolis to provide information about voter registration to all tenants aged 18-years and older on first occupation. Providing tenants information about registering to vote is a low-cost, high-impact means of effectively targeting this key community demographic at a point in time when it is known to be especially relevant. The TNVR program will also help get registration information to students who are renting in the city while enrolled at one of the higher education institutions in Minneapolis. It is very common for students to rent in a different location each year of their education, and ensuring they have the information and tools to easily and quickly update their voter registrations when changing addresses is an important step to ensure students can easily participate in elections.

Under the TNVR program, landlords must provide qualifying tenants with a packet of information that includes a voter registration application and an accompanying information sheet that outlines eligibility requirements, key election dates, and information about how to complete registration online, if desired. These information packets are available in English, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish, and can be translated into other languages upon request. Prior to the TNVR ordinance becoming effective on March 1, 2016, all property owners and managers registered with the City of Minneapolis were provided copies of the information packet along with instructions about the requirements of the new ordinance and directions on how to request more information packets, if

needed. These packets are available in four different languages, and requests are fulfilled on a daily basis, with a turnaround time of 24 hours. As of March 21, 2016, more than 9,300 information packets have been requested by property owners covering 918 licensed rental properties. Exhibit A includes a map tracking those requests by location. Measures are being taken to track registrations attributable to the ordinance to the extent possible. Since March 21, 56 voter registration applications have been returned and attributed to tenants who received information at move-in. Figure 2 below breaks down the most common zip codes represented on the applications received to date.

Zip codes for returned registrations

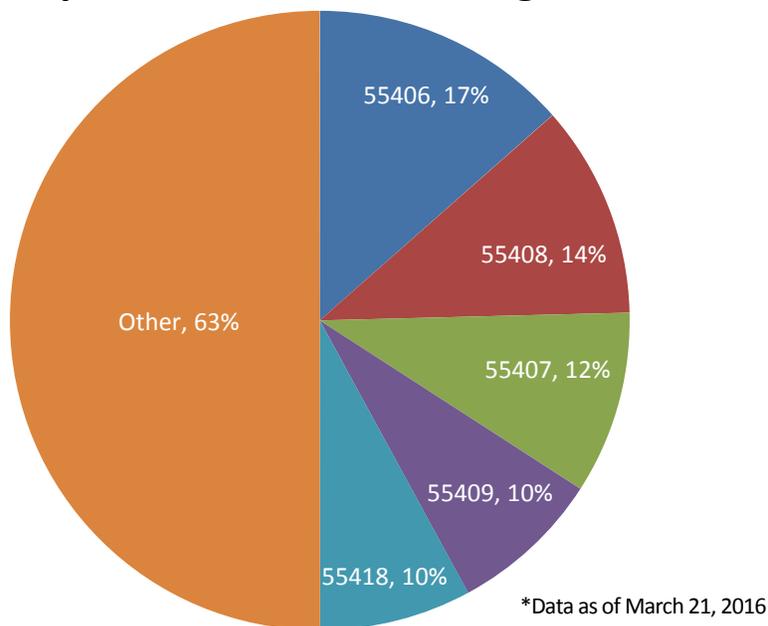


Figure 2. Zip codes completed voter registrations have come from attributable to TNVR

❖ *Urban Scholars – 2016 group project*

EVS has proudly participated in the City’s Urban Scholars program for several years.⁵ In 2013, EVS led the group projects which involved all scholars in that year’s class participating in VOE strategies for specific targeted audiences. In 2016, EVS will again lead group projects for all scholars in the program, which is expected to include 50-60 students. As in 2013, these projects will focus on VOE topics. There will be between 12 and 16 small groups, each assigned work on a discrete area of outreach, education, and/or engagement. The projects are intended not only to enhance the work of the Division in planning and conducting VOE campaigns, but—equally as important—to give the scholars project management experiences that expose them to aspects of how the City works with the community and takes advantage of their unique perspectives and experiences in improving City operations. A first-of-its kind cohort of four scholars will work in EVS as a primary assignment this summer to give full-time attention to planning, organizing, and conducting voter outreach, education, and engagement strategies. This full-time team of scholars will significantly enhance the capacity of the permanent team of election administrators in this important work.

⁵ Urban Scholars is a leadership and professional development internship program providing students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds with distinctive professional experience in the public sector.

❖ *National Voter Registration Day*

Participating in community events and activities is another tactic EVS will use to connect with voters and build awareness around key election-related messaging. One of the highest-profile events this year will be the fifth annual National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 27. Following last year's successful event at City Hall, EVS intends to again utilize this nationally-recognized occasion to draw attention to the importance of registration in advance of the general election in November. As in 2015, the EVS Division will conduct its own direct registration efforts as well as participating in and supporting other planned activities and events that day, including efforts organized by the Office of the Secretary of State.

❖ *Voter Guide to all households*

More than two-thirds of residents surveyed following the 2013 Municipal Election indicated the voter guide mailed by the City that year was their primary source of information about the election.⁶ This overwhelmingly positive feedback spurred EVS to plan a similar guide for the 2016 Presidential Election, to be mailed to every household in the city. The Voter Guide will describe the offices on the ballot and any ballot questions; provide details on how to register; information about voting absentee; and help voters find their precinct and assigned polling place on Election Day. An address-specific sample ballot will be included to serve as a "practice ballot" that can get voters prepared to cast their official ballot—helping reduce time spent waiting in lines or in voting booths at the polls on Election Day.



⁶ *The 2013 Municipal Election: An Analysis & Recommendations*, March 25, 2014. Accessible at: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-127166.pdf>

II. ACCESS

A. Absentee voting

❖ *Encourage “early voting” and vote by mail options*

In Minnesota, absentee voting begins 46 days before each regularly scheduled election. Absentee ballots can be cast either in-person or by mail. In 2016, absentee balloting for the primary will run June 24 to August 9, while absentee balloting for the general election will run from September 23 to Election Day on November 8.⁷ In-person absentee voting is similar to—and is even sometimes referred to as—“early voting.” However, there are important differences between no-excuse absentee in-person voting and true early voting. Nevertheless, because many voters refer to in-person absentee balloting as early voting, EVS will use and promote this term, as well as the opportunity to cast an absentee ballot, to encourage voters who choose to take advantage of this option in order to reduce the potential for long lines and extended wait times at the polls on Election Day.

In 2014, Minnesota became the twenty-seventh state to authorize unrestricted (no-excuse) absentee voting, resulting in an explosion in the volume of absentee ballots, and setting new records.⁸ That year, 3,930 ballots were accepted for the primary, making it the largest primary total on record regardless of year in the election cycle. Absentee ballots in the primary accounted for 13.49 percent of all votes cast, up from 6.55 percent in the 2010 mid-term and up from 5.75 percent in the 2012 presidential primary election. The general election total of 12,279 accepted absentee ballots was the fourth largest for any election on record going back to 1990. As shown in Figure 3 (below), absentee turnout rates in 2014 trended much more closely with rates usually associated with a presidential election year rather than prior mid-term elections.

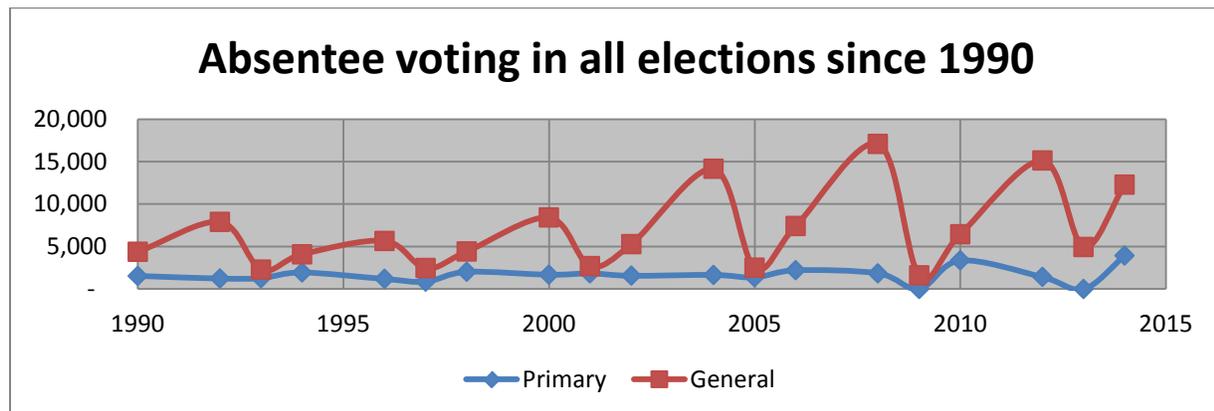


Figure 3. Number of absentee ballots cast by Minneapolis voters in all elections since 1990

Given the probability of setting new records for absentee participation in the 2016 Presidential Election, preparations are underway to expand absentee voting options to reduce long lines and wait times and offer more service options to voters.

❖ *Satellite voting sites for the general election*

Just as in the last three years, in-person absentee voting will be offered at City Hall, primarily in the rotunda, for both the primary and general election. Additionally, plans are being made to offer in-person voting at up to four additional sites during the 46-day absentee period leading up to the general election. Keeping with the overall

⁷ Minn. Stat. § 203B Subd. 3

⁸ Minn. Stat. § 203B

theme of “taking the ballot to the people,” this strategy would give all voters a choice of up to five “early vote” locations, significantly increasing access to the ballot box and convenience to voters. Geographic considerations are being taken into account for where to locate these satellite voting locations, as well as population and demographic data, and previous voting trends.

In considering potential facilities to use as satellite voting sites, EVS first investigated the availability of City-owned or agency partner assets, such as park properties and library locations. EVS was not able to identify any available sites of this kind that would be available for the 46-day period leading up to the general election. After exhausting these options, EVS sought partnerships with community organizations that might be able to host an in-person absentee voting location. A tentative agreement has been reached with the Minneapolis Urban League to use the Van White conference room as a satellite location serving North Minneapolis. The Urban League is an eager partner in promoting voter engagement and participation more broadly, is a trusted community institution, is located in a spot familiar to many in the community, is situated on multiple public transit lines, offers ample visitor parking, and has the potential capacity to provide interpretation support in addition to planned staffing for that location. EVS is contacting other community organizations which may be able to accommodate the specific needs of serving as a satellite voting location, particularly through the CORE program that engages nonprofit, community-based organizations. EVS is collaborating with the Finance & Property Services team to identify, evaluate, and—with Council’s approval—pursue appropriate locations that may be available to lease as “early voting locations” in 2016.⁹

❖ *Extended in-person service hours for primary and general elections*

As part of expanding access to the ballot, staff proposes to extend service hours in the days leading up to the primary and general election. Minnesota law requires jurisdictions to offer service hours for in-person absentee voters from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the last Saturday before an election, and until 5 p.m. on the Monday before Election Day.¹⁰ Minneapolis has long exceeded these requirements by offering extended voting hours on the two Saturdays before Election Day, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Staff proposes to continue that expanded service level for the primary in August.

In advance of the general election in November, staff recommends expanding service hours to mirror the extended hours that were offered in 2014, with Sundays and evening hours at all voting locations, including City Hall and satellite “early voting” locations, in the critical two-week period leading up to Election Day, shown on the next page in Figure 4. Specifically, this proposal would increase in-person service hours as follows:

- Starting Monday, Oct. 24, in-person absentee voting will be available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- On Saturdays, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, in-person absentee voting will be available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- On Sundays, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, in-person absentee voting will be available 12 noon to 5 p.m.

⁹ As part of this work, a separate Request for Committee Action is being brought forward to the Elections & Rules Committee to request staff authorization regarding negotiating and entering into lease agreements for satellite voting locations.

¹⁰ Minn. Stat. § 203B.085

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	Oct. 24 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Oct. 25 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Oct. 26 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Oct. 27 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Oct. 28 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Oct. 29 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Oct. 30 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Oct. 31 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Nov. 1 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Nov. 2 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Nov. 3 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Nov. 4 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Nov. 5 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Nov. 6 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Nov. 7 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	ELECTION DAY Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.	<i>*51.5 extended hours will be available to in-person absentee voters before the general election, far beyond the 6.5 extended hours required by state statute, for a total of 366 hours available to in-person voters.</i>			

Figure 4. Extended absentee voting hours for the 2016 General Election

The experiences with absentee voting in 2014, including offering extended hours, demonstrate the need for continuing this level of service, particularly in a presidential election year. While the volume of in-person absentee voting started as a small-but-steady trickle, participation steadily increased as Election Day drew closer. As evidenced by the sharp increase in total voters particularly in the second week of extended voting hours in 2014, it is probable more voters will take advantage of in-person voting in the closing days before the 2016 Presidential Election.¹¹

❖ **Absentee voting and VOE efforts**

Part of encouraging voters to vote early, either using in-person absentee voting or by mail ballot, is a robust voter education effort. Making voters aware of these options is the primary goal of such efforts, including publicizing the availability of the additional satellite voting locations closer to where voters may live or work. It is also important voters understand how the absentee voting process does (and does not) work so that they are prepared to follow the necessary procedures to assure their absentee ballot can be accepted and counted. For this reason, the expanded availability of in-person absentee voting is of particular importance to ensure all voters can complete all aspects of the process at a time and location when assistance is available from trained election staffers.

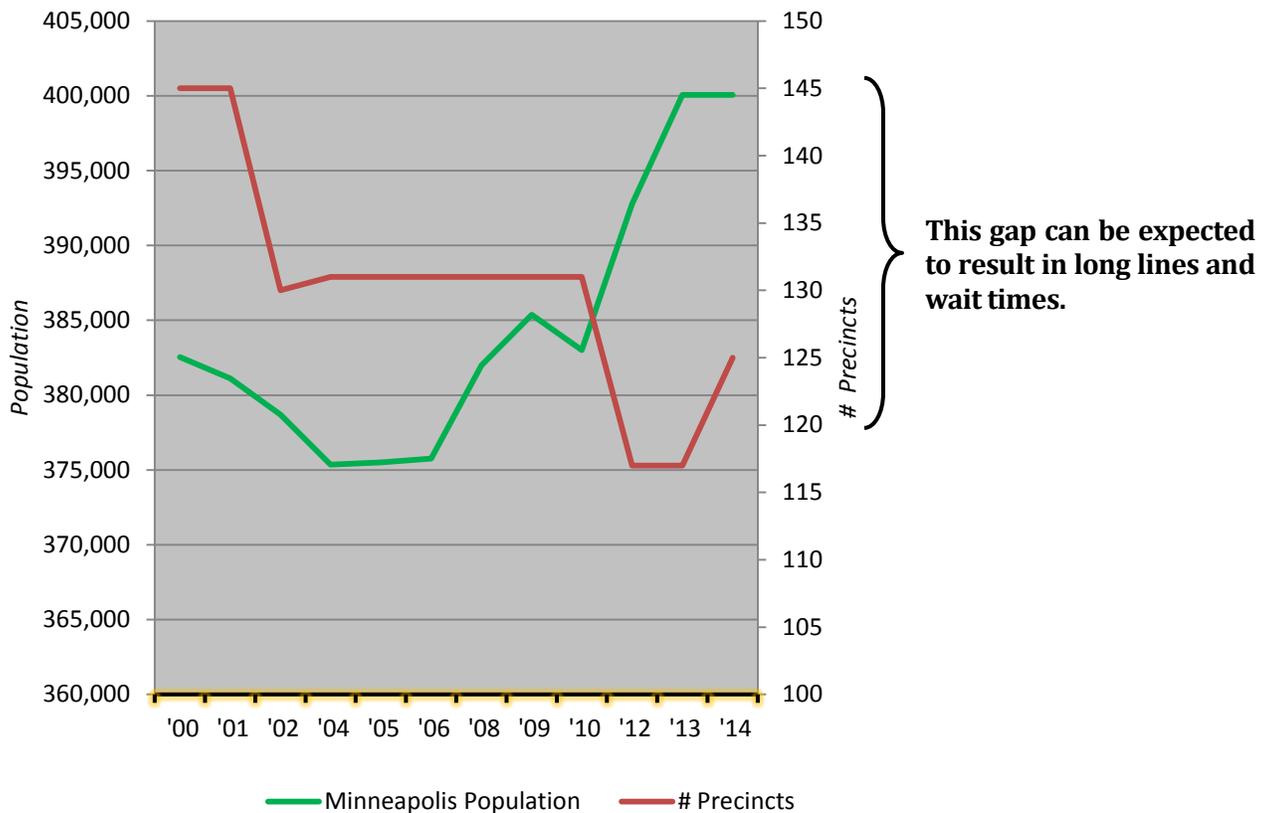
In the 2014 General Election, the vast majority of absentee ballot applications were collected by non-profit and political organizations through a range of get-out-the-vote initiatives. Several of these organizations sent volunteers door-to-door to specifically invite voters to complete absentee ballot applications. Applications collected through such efforts are delivered to the Minnesota Secretary of State where they are then sorted by county for distribution. Hennepin County’s Elections Division sorts and distributes these applications to each of its municipalities. Minneapolis received 648 of these applications for the primary, and 5,730 for the general election. It is of note, then, that the differential between the number of absentee ballots requested and the number of those ballots which were returned and accepted in 2014 was at a record level. In the 2012

¹¹ See the *Report and Analysis of the 2014 Gubernatorial Election*, available at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1Q-078388> for more detailed breakdowns of absentee voting figures, including by date and time of day.

Presidential Election, more absentee ballots were accepted and counted than in 2014; however, in the 2014 General Election, a greater number of applications were submitted and absentee ballots sent to voters than in 2012. VOE efforts in 2016 will include partnering with organizations and providing information about the absentee voting process to help those organizations which choose to incorporate absentee voting into their GOTV efforts ensure they are doing so in a manner that best supports voters to successfully cast ballots that will be accepted and counted.

B. Polling places

Minneapolis Population vs. Precincts 2000-2014



Over the past 20 years, the total number of precincts in Minneapolis has been reduced by budget cuts. In 1990, the City’s population was 368,383 and it had 172 precincts. By 1994, while population remained nearly constant, the number of precincts was reduced to 153. The City fell to a low of 117 precincts for the 2012 and 2013 elections, during a period of rapid population growth that is still continuing. The current 125 precincts is still near historic lows, and insufficient to serve the City’s growing population. This imbalance between the changes in the City’s population and its total number of precincts directly results in precincts that are too large, serving too many voters, and—if unaddressed—this can be expected to result in long lines and wait times for voters. Therefore, it is essential to add new precincts in 2016 to better balance population growth with projected voter turnout to meet the service expectations of voters.

After considering population growth and voter turnout figures, staff recommends adding seven new precincts in 2016, bringing the total number from 125 to 132, which is still well below the number of precincts that existed in 1994. Determining where to insert new precincts as well as where to locate polling sites within

precincts to best serve voters revolves around three criteria: (1) a history of high voter turnout combined with a large number of registered voters assigned to a site (2,000 – 2,500 or more, a maximum range suggested by the Secretary of State); (2) a polling place with challenges in terms of size or configuration in relation to the number of voters being served; and (3) sites which experienced difficulties related to long lines and wait times in the last election. Applying these criteria, the recommended changes proposed by staff include the addition of four new precincts at new polling locations, the reallocation of four existing precincts within one ward into seven precincts, and the relocation of seven polling locations.¹² The seven proposed new precincts will eliminate five current precincts that exceed 2,500 registered voters each.

The proposed new precincts with new polling locations are located in wards 2, 9, 10, and 12:

W2-P11 Longfellow School	portion of existing precinct W2-P1
W9-P9 Church of Gichitwaa Kateri	portion of existing precinct W9-P1
W10-P10 Spring House Ministry Center	portion of existing precinct W10-P8
W12-P13 Keewaydin School	portion of existing precinct W12-P5

Ward 13 is proposed to experience the greatest number of precinct changes, due to a concentration of precincts with high numbers of active voters. It is in this ward that four existing precincts would be divided into seven new precincts:

W13-P2 Lake Harriet School - Lower	W13-P2 St John’s Episcopal Church
W13-P3 Linden Hills Park*	W13-P3 Linden Hills Park*
W13-P4 Pershing Park	W13-P4 Church of St Thomas the Apostle
W13-P5 Mt Olivet Lutheran Church	W13-P5 Pershing Park
	W13-P11 Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
	W13-P12 Christ the King Church
	W13-P13 Mt Olivet Lutheran Church

**precinct boundary change; name & location remain the same*

The polling locations slated for relocation in 2016 include some which will be permanently relocated, while others will change only for 2016 due to construction issues:

W3-P5 Ukrainian Event Center (from St Maron Catholic Church)
W4-P7 St Austin Church (from Luther Memorial Church)
W5-P3 North Commons Park (from Rainbow Terrace)
W5-P5 Masjid An-Nur (from Lyndale Manor Highrise)
W6-P5 American Indian Center (from Phillips Community Center)^
W7-P9 Scottish Rite Temple (from Temple Israel)^
W9-P5 Walker Community Church (from Powderhorn Park)

^relocated only for 2016, due to construction

¹² As part of this work, a separate Request for Committee Action is being brought forward to the Elections & Rules Committee to request formal authorization to make these precinct and polling place changes, consistent with the requirements of state statute.

The final proposed change is to the precinct boundary between Ward 3-Precinct 8 and Ward 3-Precinct 12. The current dividing line between the precincts would be relocated from Hennepin Avenue to Washington Avenue. The polling place for W3-P8 will remain at the River Towers Condominium Building and the W3-P12 polling place will remain the Minneapolis Central Library. There are no planned changes to precincts or polls in wards 1, 8, or 11 for 2016.

A complete list of the 2016 proposed polling places together with a citywide map displaying proposed precinct lines are included as Exhibit B. If approved, all proposed precinct and polling place changes would become effective May 11, 2016, the final statutory deadline for making polling place changes for the 2016 primary and general election.

Repeated, widespread communication via multiple channels will be crucial to help minimize voter confusion related to these proposed changes. Hennepin County sends a postcard update to each affected address in any new or updated precinct. In addition to this county notice, EVS will collaborate with ward offices, neighborhood organizations, and others to help spread the word via community websites, social networks, community meetings and events, newsletters, mailings, and other means. Posters will be sent to all former polls to be posted at entrances to instruct voters of the new location and revised precinct boundaries. In addition, the proposed voter guide to be mailed to all households will include a sample ballot that notes the ward and precinct for that specific residential address. The simplest key message that will be reiterated in voter education efforts to all Minneapolis residents relating to voting on Election Day in 2016 is: CHECK YOUR POLLING PLACE.

❖ *New polling place signage*

In another effort to improve the voting experience, a partnership is underway with DesignWorks at the Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD) to overhaul signage used in all polling places. DesignWorks is an on-campus studio which utilizes full-time MCAD students to develop design solutions for both the college and outside clients.

Currently, there is a mix of signage in polling places, some of which has been created over a number of years by various staffers as well as other required signage provided by the Secretary of State. This patchwork of posted regulations, legal notices, instructions, and various forms are all presented with inconsistent sizes, colors, and fonts, resulting in a visual cacophony that can be confusing and easily dismissed by voters. In addition, way-finding signage is spotty, providing little help to voters in navigating polling place locations (both inside and outside).

Incorporating standards established by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) Design for Democracy, the new signage created by DesignWorks will provide a clean, cohesive, consistent, and easy-to-digest set of signs with uniform sizes, colors, fonts, and other design cues used in ways that quickly and easily identify each piece as informational, instructional, or way-finding in nature.¹³ Translated versions of the signs in Hmong, Somali, and Spanish will also be available, with some signs designed to incorporate multiple languages. Finally, the new signage will incorporate elements of the City's visual identity and be compatible with EVS branding. The production of this new polling place signage is on track to debut in polling places in time for the August 9 primary.

Following use in the 2016 primary and general election, EVS will assess the effectiveness of the new signage and, in conjunction with DesignWorks, refine the materials as needed. Throughout this process, the City and MCAD have engaged the Secretary of State, who has expressed interest in this project, with the potential of sharing the new signage with jurisdictions statewide via a creative commons license with the Secretary's Office.

¹³ See Exhibit C for preliminary samples of sign designs produced by MCAD.

❖ *Erase the Line project*

Long lines and extended wait times at polling places has grabbed national attention. Particularly in the aftermath of the 2012 Presidential Election when voters in some states were forced to endure wait times of more than 8 hours, election administrators in all jurisdictions are concerned about how to—in the words of President Obama—“fix that.”

The Presidential Commission on Election Administration has stated voters should not be made to wait more than 30 minutes to cast a ballot. This has created a potentially impossible goal, especially in a high-turnout election. A nearly endless list of contributing factors can impact wait times—many of them outside the direct control of election administrators; for example, voters who don’t prepare in advance, don’t know what is on the ballot, and, therefore, tie-up a voting booth while taking time to read the ballot for the first time, creating a backlog of voters in the queue.

Nevertheless, one of the primary objectives in 2016 is ensuring voters experience reasonable wait times at the polls on Election Day. To that end, EVS will work to quantify exactly how long voters do wait in polling places to better plan for and manage future elections. The Division is excited to be partnering with the D.C. Board of Elections (DCBOE) in its **Erase the Line** program to collect and evaluate data that will provide the City meaningful metrics that can be used to improve Election Day logistics.



The project is narrow in scope and methodology. On Election Day, data teams will be dispatched to select precincts. These teams will measure lines and wait times at different stations, as well as the time needed for election workers to complete different processes, such as checking

in a voter or issuing a ballot. For the data to be meaningful, clear standards and instructions on wait times must be utilized to ensure data recorded at one precinct can be consistently compared against wait times recorded in all selected precincts. Primary data points will include the wait time to get to an election judge station to the timing of the specific process per individual voter. Also the number of election judges working each station will be tracked. The data will impart a precise understanding of polling place operations and identify strengths and weaknesses. Over time, this information can reduce costs, eliminate wait times, build data sets for online tools, provide performance indicators, and improve voter service.

All collected data will be compiled into a post-election report which EVS can analyze to identify areas to alleviate delays and problems on Election Day. It will also identify choke points in the voting process before they become problematic. The DCBOE will send staff to select sites around the country participating in its **Erase the Line** program. Lester Bird from D.C. will be on site with EVS during the August 8 primary to learn about Minneapolis processes, observe data teams in Minneapolis polling places, and provide assistance to EVS staff.

III. EMPLOYMENT

The most important component of a successful election is having the right staff in place to provide capable assistance to voters. The face-to-face interactions between election judges and voters are crucial to fostering positive Election Day experiences. More importantly, EVS believes it is important for voters to encounter, interact with, and be served by election judges who are themselves a part of the community, just as policymakers have identified clear goals for diversifying the City's workforce to more closely resemble the communities it represents and serves. Progress on diversifying the composition of the corps of election judges has been made over the past few years, and those efforts will continue in 2016.

Importantly, the EVS Division presents significant opportunity for the City of Minneapolis to achieve meaningful differences in its goals of ensuring disparities are eliminated so that all residents can participate and prosper, particularly as it concerns workforce development and employment. By Election Day, EVS becomes the single largest department in the enterprise; during a presidential election year, it employs upwards of 2,500+ judges, seasonal staffers, and temporary workers to supplement the small team of permanent elections administrators. While the jobs are not permanent, they offer significant work experience, add to an individual's employment history, and provide good connections as well as on-the-job training and skill-building and networking opportunities. Seen through this lens, employment through EVS is an opportunity that could be better leveraged by the City to promote important community goals tied to employment, workforce development, and elimination of disparities.

A. Election judges

Recruiting an adequate number and diverse pool of election judges is an ongoing and critical challenge for EVS. Work to identify initial estimates for the total number of judges needed for both the primary and general election, including the need for judges with specific language skills, began in 2015 and continues. In total, the City anticipates needing to recruit, train, and deploy more than 2,500+ judges. That's more than half the size of the City's entire workforce (see description of opportunities tied to strategic goals above). Within these totals, a growing number of judges are needed who speak languages in addition to English; notably, Hmong, Oromo, Somali, Spanish, and American Sign Language. The EVS student election judge program will continue to be a source for election judges, having grown in the 2014 General Election to more than 200 students participating for the first time.

To diversify and ensure the ongoing sustainability of an expanded corps of judges, EVS has pursued collaborations with neighborhood organizations, local nonprofits, schools, and workforce centers to employ election judges whose demographics reflect the communities they serve. Recruitment is open throughout the year, and talking about the need for judges and opportunity for residents to serve in their community is an ongoing part of many VOE efforts. EVS is particularly excited about two new initiatives for 2016 to assist in recruitment.

❖ *Leveraging CORE partnerships, part 2*

As discussed on page 6, the former Adopt-A-Precinct program was updated, redesigned and given a new name to provide a clearer sense of its purpose and scope. Following work with the City Attorney's Office in 2015, Charitable Organizations Recruitment for Elections (CORE) is now a formalized program available to nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organizations.¹⁴ Through the CORE program, participating organizations qualify for compensation for recruiting election judges. All recruits must meet the statutory requirements for election judges, set forth in

¹⁴ See Exhibit D for an example of the CORE recruitment brochure.

Minn. Stat. § 204B.19, as well as City requirements, which includes completing a mandatory three-hour training session and abiding by the EVS code of conduct.

❖ *Intermedia Arts/Media Active campaign: #changetheroutine*

EVS has collaborated with the Media Active team from Intermedia Arts, a Minneapolis-based multidisciplinary arts organization, to develop a campaign focused on election judge recruitment. Media Active is a team of teen artists who work on professional-quality media projects, offering the young artists valuable real world experience and providing their clients high-quality results.

Media Active developed a compelling storyline featuring two relatable main characters going about their daily routines, which involve a good deal of community involvement and service. These two characters both choose to further **CHANGE THE ROUTINE** by becoming election judges, another form of community involvement and service, and meet up for the first time on Election Day.



To accompany the full-length video, Media Active has produced shorter versions, including excerpts suitable for mediums such as Instagram, as well as a series of still photos and other visuals optimized for sharing through multiple social media forums. As a result, EVS will have a coordinated visual campaign that can be carried through recruitment materials for election judges.¹⁵

B. Seasonal staffers

Given the small size of its full-time professional staff, EVS relies heavily upon a team of seasonal staffers for every election. EVS is fortunate that many of these seasonal staffers return year-after-year, bringing accumulated knowledge and experience that makes the entire operation more efficient and seamless. These seasonal staffers begin coming on-board as early as March to help with initial plans and preparations. As an election draws closer, the number of staffers grows dramatically. All aspects of working with election judges require additional staff support, from recruiting to scheduling, training, and paying them. Other staffers work at the warehouse to manage supplies, test equipment, and deploy and retrieve materials from polling places.

The single biggest need for seasonal staff is associated with absentee voting. For in-person absentee voting, the increased levels of turnout coupled with extended service hours and additional satellite locations will require a substantial commitment of personnel. Whether in-person or by mail, absentee voting requires a significant amount of processing for each ballot and its associated series of envelopes at multiple points in time. This translates into a need for adequate staffing to handle this time-sensitive and variable workload. It is important to recognize both the number of in-person absentee voters and absentee mail ballots being received increase substantially as Election Day approaches, placing further demands on staff to get all of the absentee ballots received both in-person and by mail processed and tabulated before Election Day.

Different teams are needed to handle each in-person voting location, to visit all health care facilities to serve residents, to process mailed ballots, to accept or reject returned ballots, to prepare and tabulate ballots, and to serve as absentee ballot runners on Election Day and for the general election throughout the absentee voting period.

¹⁵ See Exhibit E for additional materials from the #changetheroutine campaign.

IV. CONCLUSION

This report highlighted initial plans and preparations proposed by the Elections & Voter Services Division for the 2016 Presidential Election, grouped into three major categories: (1) registration; (2) access; and (3) employment. While most of these (and other) plans will continue to be refined and finalized in the weeks and months ahead, staff is specifically requesting two actions from the Elections & Rules Committee at this time:

- 1. Authorize the addition of new precincts and changes in polling places (as presented), to be effective May 11, 2016, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 204B.16, and direct staff to prepare the necessary resolution to effectuate this authorization for submission to the full City Council.**
- 2. Authorize the Property Services Director, or designee(s), to negotiate and approve facility use lease agreements not to exceed market rates for satellite voting locations to be used during the 46-day absentee voting period in advance of the 2016 Presidential General Election.**



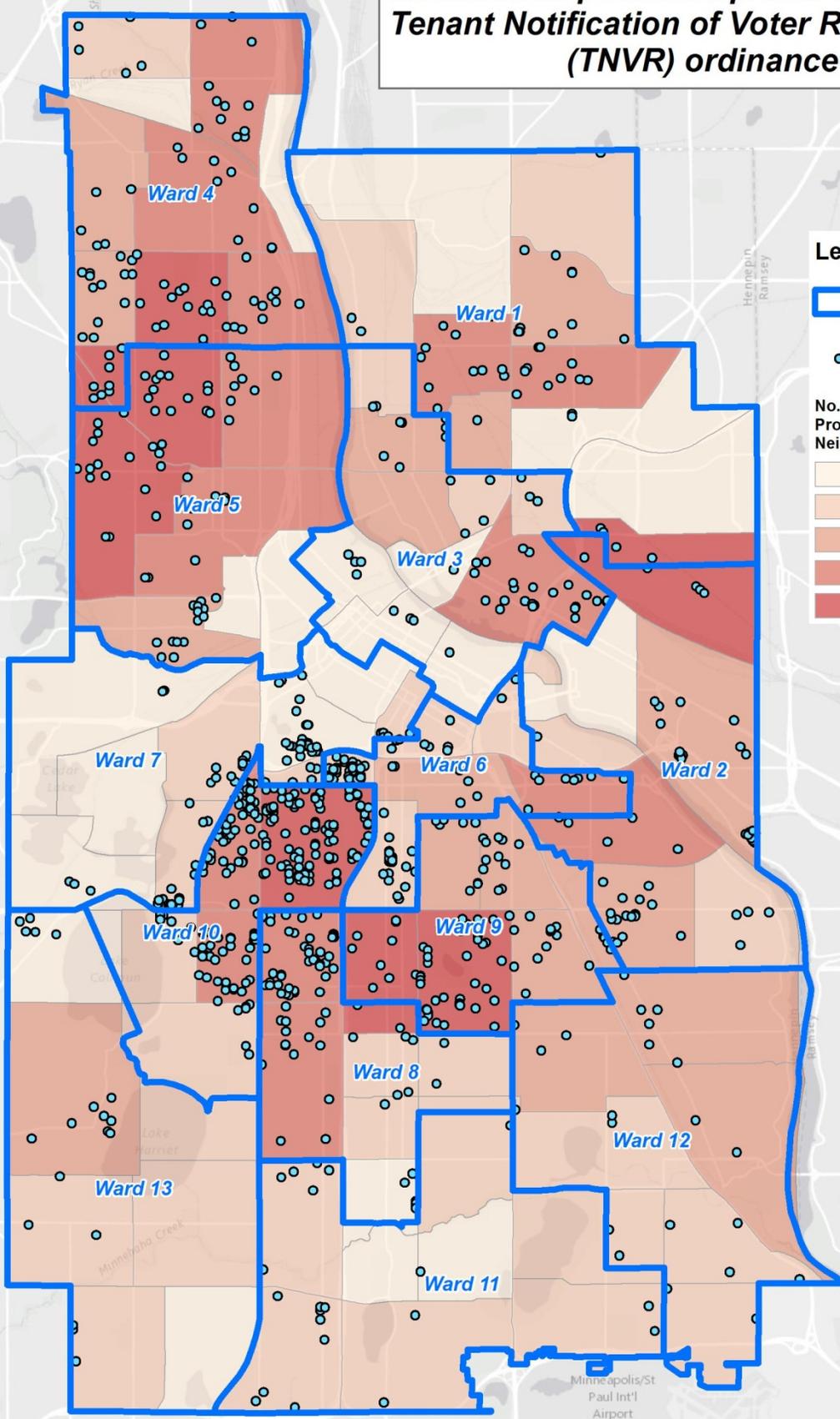
Report presented to:
Minneapolis City Council
Standing Committee on Elections & Rules – The Hon. Jacob Frey, Chair
Tuesday, March 29, 2016

Report prepared by:
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Tim Schwarz – Election Administrator Justin Adams – Election Administrator
Barbara Suci – Election Administrator

The Elections & Voter Services Division gratefully acknowledges the participation and contribution of several partners who are engaged in preparations for a successful 2016 Presidential Election:

- Minneapolis Election Judges & Seasonal Staff
- The Hon. Steve Simon, Secretary of State
- Secretary of State’s Office – Elections Division
- Hennepin County Elections Team
- Media Active, Intermedia Arts
- DesignWorks, Minneapolis College of Art & Design

**Information packet requests for the new
Tenant Notification of Voter Registration
(TNVR) ordinance**



Legend

- City Council Wards
- TNVR ordinance packet request locations

No. of Rental Properties by Neighborhood

	0 - 96
	97 - 208
	209 - 332
	333 - 525
	526 - 805

List of Polling Places 2016 - City of Minneapolis

FIRST WARD	SECOND WARD
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – River Village, 2919 Randolph St NE</p> <p>2 – Waite Park Recreation Center, 1810 34th Ave NE</p> <p>3 – Northeast Middle School, 2955 Hayes St NE (in Media Center)</p> <p>4 – Audubon Park Recreation Center, 1320 29th Ave NE</p> <p>5 – Windom Park NE Recreation Center, 2251 Hayes St NE</p> <p>6 – Parker Skyview Highrise, 1815 Central Ave NE</p> <p>7 – Van Cleve Park Recreation Center (Gym), 901 15th Ave SE</p> <p>8 – Holland Highrise, 1717 Washington St NE</p> <p>9 – Edison High School Gym, 2030 Monroe St NE</p> <p>10 – Columbia Manor/Golf Club, 3300 Central Ave NE</p>	<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 31st St E</p> <p>2 – Sullivan Community School, 3100 28th St E</p> <p>3 – Van Cleve Park Recreation Center (Multipurpose), 901 15th Ave SE</p> <p>4 – Weisman Art Museum, 333 River Parkway E</p> <p>5 – Pratt Community School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE</p> <p>6 – St. Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave SE</p> <p>7 – Augsburg College Christensen Center, 720 22nd Ave S</p> <p>8 – Brackett Park Recreation Center, 2728 39th Ave S</p> <p>9 – Augsburg College Oren Gateway Bldg, 610 22nd Ave S</p> <p>10 – Grace University Lutheran Church, 324 Harvard St SE</p> <p>11 – Longfellow High School, 3017 E 31st St *</p>
THIRD WARD	FOURTH WARD
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave SE</p> <p>2 – First Congregational Church of MN, 500 8th Ave SE</p> <p>3 – Marcy Open School, 415 4th Ave SE</p> <p>4 – Spring Manor Highrise, 828 Spring St NE</p> <p>5 – Ukrainian Event Center, 301 Main St NE #</p> <p>6 – East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St NE</p> <p>7 – Soltvå Apartments, 701 2nd St N</p> <p>8 – River Towers Condominiums, 15 1st St S</p> <p>9 – Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave S</p> <p>10 – National Guard Armory, 1025 Broadway St NE</p> <p>11 – 514 Studios, 514 3rd St N, Ste 101</p> <p>12 – Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall</p>	<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Creekview Park Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave N</p> <p>2 – Jenny Lind Elementary School, 5025 Bryant Ave N (park on Dupont Ave N side)</p> <p>3 – Cityview Community School, 3350 4th St N</p> <p>4 – Loring Community School, 2600 44th Ave N</p> <p>5 – Folwell Park Recreation Center, 1615 Dowling Ave N</p> <p>6 – Hamilton Manor Highrise, 1314 44th Ave N</p> <p>7 – St Austin Church, 4050 Upton Ave N #</p> <p>8 – Parkway United Church of Christ, 3120 Washburn Ave N</p>
FIFTH WARD	SIXTH WARD
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Urban Research & Outreach Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave N</p> <p>2 – North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N</p> <p>3 – North Commons Park Recreation Center, 1801 James Ave N #</p> <p>4 – North Point Health & Wellness Center, Inc., 1315 Penn Ave N</p> <p>5 – Masjid An-Nur, 1729 Lyndale Ave N #</p> <p>6C – Heritage Commons at Pond’s Edge, 350 Van White Memorial Blvd</p> <p>7 – Phyllis Wheatley Community Center – Bethune Park, 1301 10th Ave N</p> <p>8 – Farview Park Recreation Center, 621 29th Ave N</p> <p>9 – Harrison Park Recreation Center, 503 Irving Ave N</p>	<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Heltzer Manor Highrise, 2121 Minnehaha Ave</p> <p>2 – Seward Towers East, 2910 Franklin Ave E</p> <p>3 – Coyle Community Center, 420 15th Ave S</p> <p>4 – Elliot Park Recreation Center, 1000 14th St E</p> <p>5 – American Indian Center, 1530 Franklin Ave E ##</p> <p>6 – Peavey Park Recreation Center, 730 22nd St E</p> <p>7 – Ebenezer Towers, 2523 Portland Ave S</p> <p>8 – Ebenezer Park Apartments, 2700 Park Ave</p> <p>9 – Minnesota Church Center, 122 Franklin Ave W (Pillsbury Ave entrance)</p>
SEVENTH WARD	EIGHTH WARD
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1C – Bryn Mawr Community School, 252 Upton Ave S</p> <p>2D – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1917 Logan Ave S</p> <p>3 – First Unitarian Society, 900 Mount Curve Ave</p> <p>4D – Jones Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave</p> <p>5 – St Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove St</p> <p>6 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Ave</p> <p>7 – Bryn Mawr Community School, 252 Upton Ave S</p> <p>8 – Emerson Spanish Immersion School, 1421 Spruce Place</p> <p>9 – Scottish Rite, 2011 Dupont Ave S ###</p> <p>10 – Minnesota Church Center, 122 Franklin Ave W (Pillsbury Ave entrance)</p>	<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Horn Towers Highrise, 3121 Pillsbury Ave</p> <p>2 – Lyndale Community School, 312 34th St W</p> <p>3 – Sabathani Community Center, 310 38th St E</p> <p>4 – St. Joan of Arc, 4537 3rd Ave S</p> <p>5 – St. Joan of Arc, 4537 3rd Ave S</p> <p>6 – Martin Luther King Park (Multipurpose), 4055 Nicollet Ave</p> <p>7 – Martin Luther King Park (Gym), 4055 Nicollet Ave</p> <p>8 – Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S</p>

NINTH WARD	TENTH WARD
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Central Gym Park Recreation Center, 3450 4th Ave S (4th Ave S entrance)</p> <p>2 – Powderhorn Park Recreation Center (Gym), 3400 15th Ave S</p> <p>3 – Andersen School, 1098 Andersen Lane (use door #15 off 12th Ave at 27th St)</p> <p>4 – Little Earth of United Tribes NELC, 2438 18th Ave S</p> <p>5 – Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Ave S #</p> <p>6 – Corcoran Neighborhood Center, 3332 20th Ave S</p> <p>7 – Powderhorn Park Recreation Center (Multipurpose), 3400 15th Ave S</p> <p>8 – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 31st St E</p> <p>9 – Church of Gichitwaa Kateri, 3045 Park Ave *</p>	<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Jefferson Community School (Auditorium), 1200 26th St W</p> <p>2 – Jefferson Community School (Lower Gym), 1200 26th St W</p> <p>3A – St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S</p> <p>4 – Bryant Square Park, 3101 Bryant Ave S</p> <p>5A – Walker Methodist Home, 3737 Bryant Ave S</p> <p>6 – First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S</p> <p>7 – Whittier Park Recreation Center, 425 26th St W</p> <p>8 – Whittier International School, 315 26th St W</p> <p>9 – Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), 2501 Stevens Ave</p> <p>10-10 – Spring House Ministry Center, 610 W 28th St *</p>
ELEVENTH WARD	TWELFTH WARD
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Knox Presbyterian Church, 4747 Lyndale Ave S</p> <p>2 – Mayflower Church, 106 Diamond Lake Road E</p> <p>3 – Windom South Park Recreation Center, 5843 Wentworth Ave S</p> <p>4 – McRae Park Recreation Center, 906 47th St E</p> <p>5 – Pearl Park Recreation Center, 414 Diamond Lake Road E</p> <p>6 – Our Lady of Peace Church, 5426 12th Ave S</p> <p>7 – The Urban Refuge Church, 5501 Chicago Ave</p> <p>8 – Wenonah Campus-Lake Nokomis Community School, 5625 23rd Ave S</p> <p>9 – Keewaydin Park Recreation Center, 3030 53rd St E</p> <p>10 – Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave S</p>	<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Longfellow Park Recreation Center, 3435 36th Ave S</p> <p>2 – Dowling Urban Environmental School, 3900 River Parkway W</p> <p>3 – St. Peder’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4600 42nd St E</p> <p>4 – Hiawatha School Park Recreation Center, 4305 42nd St E</p> <p>5 – Nokomis Community Center, 2401 Minnehaha Parkway E</p> <p>6 – Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 50th St E</p> <p>7 – Minnesota Veterans Home, (Bldg #) 5101 Minnehaha Ave</p> <p>8 – Sibley Park Recreation Center, 1900 40th St E</p> <p>9 – St. Helena Catholic Church, 3201 43rd St E (use parking lot entrance)</p> <p>10 – Morris Park Recreation Center, 5531 39th Ave S</p> <p>11 – Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls, 5212 41st Ave S</p> <p>12 – Roosevelt High School (Gym), 4029 28th Ave S</p> <p>13 – Keewaydin Campus-Lake Nokomis Community School (Gym), 5209 30th Ave S *</p>
THIRTEENTH WARD	OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
<p>PRECINCT—</p> <p>1 – Bakken Museum, 3537 Zenith Ave S</p> <p>2 – St John’s Episcopal Church, 4201 Sheridan Ave S *</p> <p>3 – Linden Hills Park Recreation Center, 3100 43rd St W *</p> <p>4 – St Thomas the Apostle (Gym), 2914 W 44th St *</p> <p>5 – Pershing Park Recreation Center, 3523 48th St W *</p> <p>6 – Lynnhurst Park Recreation Center, 1345 Minnehaha Parkway W (use Parkway entrance)</p> <p>7 – Kenny Community School, 5720 Emerson Ave S</p> <p>8 – Armatage Park Recreation Center, 2500 57th St W</p> <p>9 – Anthony Middle School, 5757 Irving Ave S</p> <p>10 – St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 4557 Colfax Ave S</p> <p>11 – Lake Harriet Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S *</p> <p>12 – Christ the King Church, 5029 Zenith Ave S *</p> <p>13 – Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Ave S *</p>	<p>Elections & Voter Services Division</p> <p>350 South Fifth Street City Hall – Room 201 Minneapolis, MN 55415</p> <p>vote.minneapolismn.gov</p> <p>Call 311 or 612-673-3000 TTY 612-673-2157</p>

- denotes polling place change permanent

- denotes polling place change one-year only

* - denotes new precinct / change in precinct boundary (may be new polling place)



Voter's Bill of Rights

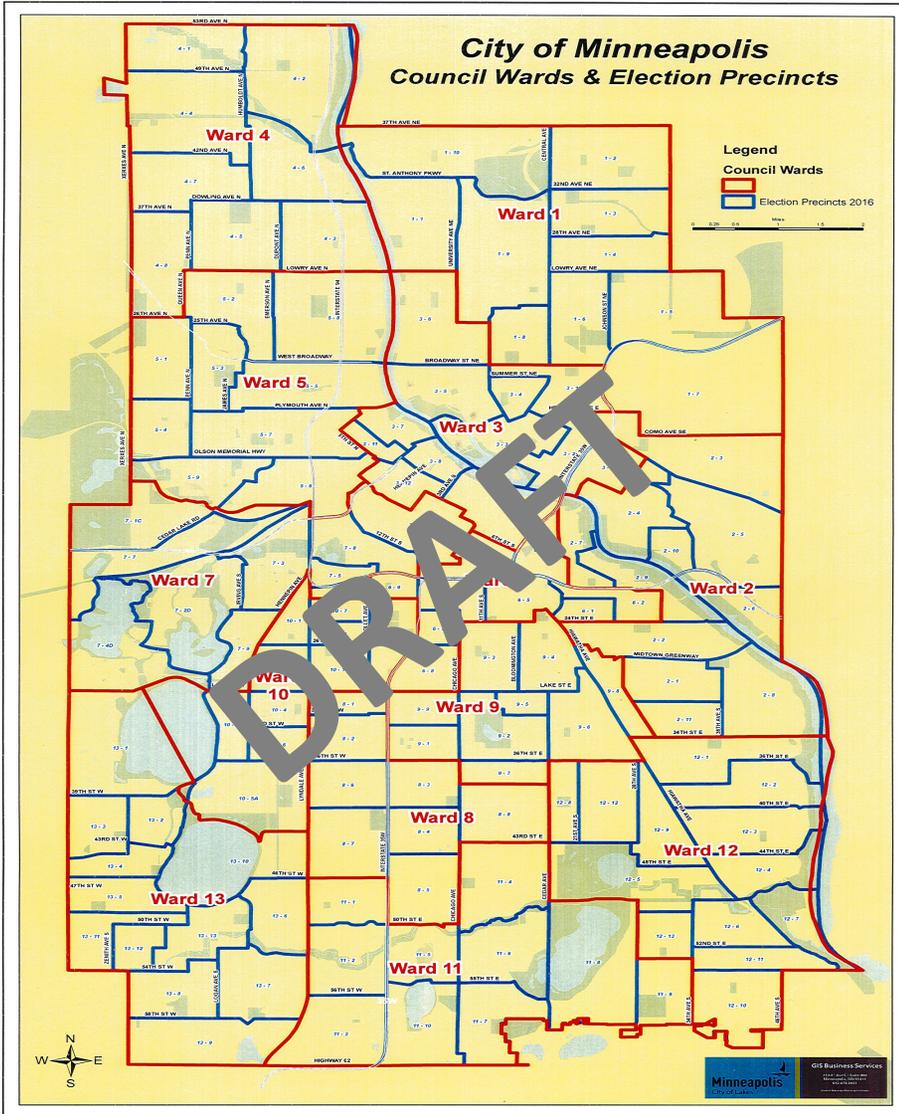
For all persons residing in this state who meet federal voting eligibility requirements:

- 1 You have the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting without reduction to your pay, personal leave or, vacation time on election day for the time necessary to appear at your polling place, cast a ballot, and return to work.
- 2 If you are in line at your polling place any time before 8:00 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- 3 If you can provide the required proof of residence, you have the right to register to vote and to vote on election day.
- 4 If you are unable to sign your name, you have the right to orally confirm your identity with an election judge and to direct another person to sign your name for you.
- 5 You have the right to request special assistance when voting.
- 6 If you need assistance, you may be accompanied into the voting booth by a person of your choice, except by an agent of your employer or union or a candidate.
- 7 You have the right to bring your minor children into the polling place and into the voting booth with you.
- 8 If you have been convicted of a felony but your felony sentence has expired (been completed) or you have been discharged from your sentence, you have the right to vote.
- 9 If you are under guardianship, you have the right to vote, unless the court order revokes your right to vote.
- 10 You have the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence your vote.
- 11 If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot before it is submitted, you have the right to receive a replacement ballot and vote.
- 12 You have the right to file a written complaint at your polling place if you are dissatisfied with the way an election is being run.
- 13 You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth with you.
- 14 You have the right to take a copy of this Voter's Bill of Rights into the voting booth with you.



How to Vote

- 1** All voters must be registered.
 - A)** If you already are registered to vote, go directly to the roster table.
 - B)** If you need to register or update your registration, go to the voter registration table. There you will complete a voter registration application and show proof of residence.
- 2** Sign in and receive a voter's receipt.
- 3** Go to the ballot table and turn in the voter's receipt. You will receive a ballot and instructions on how to mark the ballot.
- 4** Go to an empty voting booth as instructed by the election judge.
- 5** Mark your votes in one of the following ways:
 - A)** By filling in the oval next to the candidate of your choice.
 - B)** By using a ballot maker.
 - C)** Ask for assistance if needed
- 6** If you make a mistake, ask an election judge for a new ballot.
- 7** Place your ballot in the ballot box or ballot counter. Then promptly leave the polling place.



CORE

Charitable Organizations Recruitment for Elections

For more information regarding the CORE Program,
please contact Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services at:

350 South Fifth St., Rm 201
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1355
elections@minneapolismn.gov



MINNEAPOLIS
YourCity. YourVote.
vote.minneapolismn.gov

MINNEAPOLIS
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Definition of CORE

CORE stands for Charitable Organizations Recruitment for Elections. It is a community based volunteer election judge recruitment program that allows non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations to receive compensation for recruiting individuals to serve as volunteer election judges (VEJs).

Benefits to your organization

The CORE Program is an excellent fundraiser for your organization. In addition, there is personal gratification derived from participation in furthering the ideals of our democratic way of life.

Organization participation

The quickest way to get started in the CORE Program is to identify a member of your organization willing to serve as an Organization Point Person. This person will serve as a liaison between the organization and the Minneapolis CORE Coordinator. Every Organization Point Person must have:

- the ability to read, write and speak English
- access to online resources, phone and email;
- strong organizational skills
- ability to generate excitement for the CORE Program

Responsibilities of the Organization Point Person

Responsibilities include:

- respond to requests by the Minneapolis CORE Coordinator in a timely manner
- become familiar with the CORE Program and election judge requirements
- complete the CORE Partner Information form, provide a copy of the 501(c)(3) determination letter, and assist in completing the contract with the City of Minneapolis
- work with the Minneapolis CORE Coordinator to guide volunteer election judges through the application process, training, and scheduling for Election Day

State requirements for serving as an election judge:

- must be eligible to vote in Minnesota;
- must be able to read, write and speak English;
- must complete mandatory election judge training;
- must not be the spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, or stepsibling, of any election judge serving in the same precinct;
- must not be domiciled, either permanently or temporarily, with any candidate on the ballot at that election; and
- must not be a candidate at the election.

Minneapolis requirements:

- a strong understanding of, and commitment to, nonpartisanship
- strong communication skills
- enjoys assisting and serving diverse populations
- available to work long hours on Election Day
- strong demonstration to detail
- handles stressful situations calmly and professionally
- works as a member of a team and follows directions
- comfortable using technology

Compensation for the organization

The organization is required to recruit a minimum of 10 VEJs. The VEJs must attend all required training sessions. VEJs may work a half-shift, with hours determined by the City, and the half-shift will be equivalent of a .5 VEJ. Two .5 VEJs can be combined to be the equivalent of one VEJ.

The organization will receive compensation approximately four weeks after each election.

CORE Compensation 2016	VEJ services for Election Day and training Min. 10 VEJs	VEJ services for Election Day and training
Primary & General Election	\$1,300	Add'l \$130 per election judge

Sample materials and graphics created as part of the #changetheroutine campaign for election judge recruitment

Front and back of printable mini-business cards.



Facebook banner image:



Multiple images were captured for use in a variety of formats as part of the campaign. This photo is just one example.

Minneapolis needs you. Apply today!

Apply online at vote.minneapolismn.gov or complete the information below and return it to Elections and Voter Services.

Have you been an election judge in Minneapolis before?

Yes No

Election judges must meet:

Minnesota state requirements. *(listed inside)*

Yes I meet these requirements

Minneapolis requirements. *(listed inside)*

Yes I meet these requirements

Additional language skills:

Somali Spanish Hmong ASL

Other (list - _____)

Full name as shown on social security card

Address

City

State

Zip code

Email

Home phone

Cell phone

Political party preference:

Democratic Republican

Location preference:

Home precinct Any precinct

Work hours: Full day 6 a.m.-2 p.m. 2 p.m.-close

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Return to:

Elections and Voter Services

350 S. Fifth St., Room 201

Minneapolis MN 55415

elections@minneapolismn.gov

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please call 311 or 612-673-3000. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700, Rau kev pab 612-673-2800. Hadli aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

Stay updated on the election
Website - vote.minneapolismn.gov
Twitter - [Twitter.com/votempls](https://twitter.com/votempls)
Facebook - facebook.com/votempls

311 or 612.673.3000
Elections and Voter Services
350 S. Fifth St., Room 201
Minneapolis, MN 55415



Serve as an Election Judge

Enjoy people and serving your community?
Minneapolis needs you!



Elections and Voter Services
vote.minneapolismn.gov

Election judges are essential to our democracy. They are the officials that serve the voters in the local polling places, administer election procedures, and ensure the rights of voters are protected on Election Day. Serving as an election judge provides the opportunity to learn about the election process and is an important service to our community.

Serve as an election judge

When August 9, 2016 (Primary)
November 8, 2016 (General Election)

Where Our goal is to place you in a polling place close to where you live. However, based on coverage requirements, you may be placed elsewhere in the city.

With Other election judges including an experienced leadership team.

Time off from employment to serve

Employers must give you paid time off to serve as an election judge. To qualify, you must provide your employer with written notice at least 20 days before the election and let them know the pay rate you will receive to serve as an election judge.

Your employer may:

- Reduce your salary or wages by the amount you are paid as an election judge during the time you are away from work.
- Restrict the number of its employees serving as election judges to no more than 20 percent at a single work site.

Election judges can choose to volunteer or be paid to serve.

State requirements

- Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota;
- Must be able to read, write, and speak English;
- Must complete mandatory election judge training;
- Must not be the spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, or stepsibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct or of any candidate in that election;
- Must not live, either permanently or temporarily, with any candidate on the ballot at that election; and
- Must not be a candidate in the election.

City of Minneapolis requirements

- Strong understanding of and commitment to nonpartisanship;
- Ability to communicate clearly with voters;
- Enjoy assisting and serving diverse populations;
- Available to work long hours on Election Day;
- Handle stressful situations calmly and professionally;
- Demonstrate attention to detail;
- Work as a team member and follow directions; and
- Comfortable using technology.

Fluency in Somali, Spanish or Hmong desired.

Student election judges

High school students who meet the following requirements can work as student election judges:

- Age 16 or older on or before Election Day;
- U.S. citizen in good academic standing at a Minnesota high school (*or home schooled*);
- Obtain school and parental permission; and
- Attend election judge training.

Student election judges are assigned the same duties as other election judges, with the exception of tasks requiring party affiliation. Students do not designate party affiliation, and cannot work past 10 p.m. on Election Day. Students must complete the same training as other election judges.

[#changetheroutine](#)

Be a proud member of the largest one-day team in the nation!