



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of the City Clerk

Date: February 27, 2013
To: Elections Committee
Subject: 2013 Municipal Election Update and Preparations

Recommendation:

- a) Receive and file the report, "2013 Municipal Election: Policy Recommendations and Preparations";
- b) Refer the multi-year funding proposal covering fiscal years 2014 to 2017, as submitted by the City Clerk, to the Ways & Means/Budget Committee for its consideration;
- c) Recommend the re-appropriation of 2012 year-end savings from the Office of the City Clerk totaling \$385,800 to the Fiscal Year 2013 budget for the Office of the City Clerk - Elections & Voter Services Unit for the planned 2013 Municipal Election;
- d) i. Direct staff to notify Hennepin County that the City of Minneapolis intends to participate in its Request for Proposals for the procurement of new voting systems and equipment;
ii. Request clarification from the Secretary of State on the potential impact of State-mandated certification requirements with respect to the processing and tabulation of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) ballots.
- e) i. Authorize the formation of a Polling Place Work Group to participate in a comprehensive evaluation of the City's polling places and the development of a Polling Place Assessment Guide.
ii. Direct staff to return in May 2013 with final recommendations for the Municipal Election, including whether or not the City should modify the number of precincts and/or polling places and other improvements that will enhance voter service.
- f) i. Direct staff to present details and final recommendations for the planned 2013 Voter Outreach & Education Campaign in May 2013;
ii. Direct staff to partner with appropriate language support providers to translate voting materials into alternate (non-English) languages; and
- g) Direct staff to draft appropriate amendments to Title 8.5, Chapter 167 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to *Elections: Municipal Elections: Rules of Conduct*, to be introduced by the March 29th Council Meeting.

Department Information

Submitted by: Casey Joe Carl
Presenters in Committee: Casey Joe Carl and Grace Wachlarowicz

Background Information

Extensive planning and preparation is well underway for the 2013 Municipal Election, Minneapolis' second election to be conducted utilizing the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) method. This report follows up on the report *2012 Presidential General Election: An analysis and recommendations* presented to the Elections Committee on December 3, 2012, which provided a precinct-by-precinct analysis of successes and challenges encountered on Election Day 2012, with recommendations for future improvements.

This report provides an update on several initiatives identified in December aimed at improving administrative processes connected with the planning and conduct of elections by the City of Minneapolis. Recommendations specific to RCV have also been developed after careful analysis and refinement of procedures following both the 2009 election and observation of the subsequent implementation of Ranked Voting by the City of Saint Paul. Where appropriate, staff is specifically requesting direction on the recommendations identified above.