



**Overview of the Proposed Revisions to
Chapter 167 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS RULES OF CONDUCT**

**Presentation to the Standing Committee on Elections
May 20, 2013**

* DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON LINE

Elections and Voter Services:

www.minneapolismn.gov/elections Under Reports to the Election Committee.

- An overview of the proposed revisions to chapter 167
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS RULES OF CONDUCT
- Ordinance changes including deletions or strikeouts
and additions or underlines
- An ordinance chart describing each recommendation
- Voter Intent Chart
- Glossary of RCV and election related terms
- PowerPoint presentation

- * Enhancements that would streamline the tabulation process to produce results in a timely fashion,
- * Incorporate current processes relative to the capabilities of the new voting system purchase by Hennepin County in 2013,
- * Clarify language to ensure the election process is consistent and comparable to the conduct of elections for the state of Minnesota, and
- * Review and compare processes with our sister city St. Paul, who conducted their 1st RCV election in 2011 and determine areas comparable to move towards consistent best practices between the 2 cities as applicable.

* BASIS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES

Three proposed enhancements to address:

1. Voter Intent
2. Election Night Results
3. Write-in Candidates

And

Administrative/Housekeeping Changes

***PROPOSED REVISIONS**

*When an overvote, repeat candidate, skipped ranking, or undervote is encountered, the ballot's next highest ranked continuing candidate will be used.

***VOTER INTENT**

“A ballot should not be rejected for a technical error that does not make it impossible to determine the voter’s intent”

***Minnesota Statute
204C.22**

- * Voter intent application is used if the precinct ballot counter cannot notify voters of errors specific to ranking such a skipped ranking, undervote, overvote, or repeat candidate ranking.
- * The election equipment used in 2009 as well as the new equipment purchased is unable to provide this notice for all these scenarios.
- * Voter intent application is also used in hand count process.

* VOTER INTENT SPECIFIC TO RCV

- * **Overvote:** The voter selects two different candidates for the same rank choice or column.
- * **Repeat Candidate:** The voter selects the same candidate in more than one ranking or column
- * **Skipped Ranking:** The voter does not choose a candidate for a ranking followed by a candidate chosen in a subsequent ranking.
- * **Undervote:** The voter does not vote or rank a candidate for a particular office.

* DEFINITIONS

Allow the use of election night machine totals to determine winners in cases where the winner can be determined from the first ranked choice only.

If a winner is declared, the tabulation is complete.

*ELECTION NIGHT RESULTS

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE THRESHOLD

Based on the number of ballots cast in a race not the number of votes cast.

First Choice:
14 ballots cast
9 votes cast

| Ballot | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1st Choice | 2nd Choice | 3rd Choice |
| A/B | C | D |
| A | B/C | D |
| A | B | C/D |
| A | A | B |
| A | B | A |
| A | B | B |
| A | A | A |
| Blank | A | B |
| A | Blank | B |
| A | B | Blank |
| Blank | Blank | A |
| Blank | A | Blank |
| A | Blank | Blank |
| Blank | Blank | Blank |

- * A write-in candidate who wants the write-in votes to be individually recorded for the candidate must file a written request with the chief election official no later than seven days before the general or special election.
- * The tabulation process: write-in total votes as an aggregate

*WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

| Office | First ranking | Second Ranking | Third Ranking | Total |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Mayor | 215 | 186 | 234 | 635 |
| Board of Estimate & Taxation | 225 | 111 | 158 | 494 |
| Park Board At Large | 193 | 107 | 111 | 411 |
| City Council (13 races combined) | 130 | 255 | 401 | 786 |
| Park Board District (6 races combined) | 313 | 274 | 308 | 895 |
| Totals | 1,076 | 933 | 1,212 | 3,221 |

***WRITE-INS RECORDED
IN 2009**

- * Clarify language such as Section 167.130 Post-Election Review Audits: When a post-election audit is needed and the steps to implement.
- * Standardize language throughout the ordinance such as the tabulation process for single-seat and multiple-seat offices. Specifically, the same application for the final round of tabulation regarding when candidate(s) defeated in the final round must have their votes transferred.
- * Consistent language relative to the City Charter and state statute.
- * Renumber applicable sections.

* ADMINISTRATIVE OR HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES