



Request for Committee Action Office of City Clerk

- Date:** June 12, 2013
- To:** Honorable Cam Gordon, Chair
Elections Committee
- Subject:** Preparations for the 2013 Municipal Election and designation of official polling places
- Recommendation:**
- a) Receive and file report on plans and preparations for the 2013 Municipal Election;
 - b) Authorize and direct staff to make adjustments in polling place locations to be effective for the 2013 Municipal Election as follows:
 - *For Ward 2-Precinct 4, from Coffman Union to the Weisman Museum;*
 - *For Ward 2-Precinct 9, from Seward Towers East to Augsburg College Oren Gateway Building;*
 - *For Ward 6-Precinct 2, from Seward Square Apartments to Seward Towers East;*
 - *For Ward 8-Precinct 5, from Watershed High School to St. Joan of Arc Church; and*
 - *For Ward 10-Precinct 2, from the Ballentine VFW to Jefferson School.*Furthermore, in advance of the 2014 Gubernatorial Election, staff is directed to identify additional adjustments or changes in precincts and/or polling places deemed necessary to serve the interests of voters, and to submit those recommendations to the Elections Committee by no later than February 2014; and
 - c) Adopt a resolution designating official polling places for the 2013 General Municipal Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2013.
- Prior Directives:**
- a) Authorize formation of a Polling Place Work Group to participate in a comprehensive evaluation of polling places and development of a Polling Place Assessment Guide.
 - b) Direct staff to return with final recommendations for the 2013 Municipal Election, including whether or not the number of precincts and/or polling places should be modified and other improvements that will enhance voter service.
 - c) Direct staff to present details and final recommendations for the planned 2013 Voter Outreach & Education Plan.
 - d) Direct staff to partner with appropriate language support providers to translate voting materials into alternate (non-English) languages.
 - e) Direct staff to report on plans to target outreach resources to precincts with historically lower-than-average voter turnout, high percentages of communities of color, and that had a larger-than-average number of ballots which required normalization in the 2009 Municipal Election. Further, direct staff to establish a plan for engaging outside stakeholders in targeted outreach and education efforts, including reviewing models of engagement utilized in the 2010 Census participation efforts.

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Approved by:	Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk	

Background Information: The general election for Minneapolis’s municipal offices is scheduled for November 5, 2013. This year marks the second time the City will use the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) methodology to conduct its municipal election. In preparation for the election, staff partnered with the Hennepin County Election Office on the purchase of a new election system and equipment from Election Systems & Software (ES&S), which is pending state certification at this time. Staff anticipates the Secretary of State will certify ES&S new system—ElectionWare Version 5.1—by mid-June. The new system features an export utility capable of producing a report that will streamline the administrative processing and tabulation of voter rankings for each race on the ballot. This report provides an update on the status of the procurement of the new election system and equipment as well as associated improvements approved by the City Council to the Ranked Choice Voting ordinance (No. OR-055).

In response to prior Council directives, the Elections & Voter Services Unit has concurrently undertaken plans for a number of outreach and education initiatives within the community. These plans engage internal and external partners, and are intended to meet the objectives of engaging targeted populations who have historically been underrepresented in overall turnout. Additionally, because this is the second experience with RCV, much of the planned education strategies focus on providing voters with information about how to cast an RCV ballot.

Finally, staff recommends changes in polling place locations in a small number of existing precincts for the 2013 Municipal Election. Staff further recommends that additional work be done to determine whether additional precincts and alternate polling place locations are needed prior the planned 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

A list of the recommended polling places to be approved by resolution of the City Council for the 2013 Municipal Election is attached. Also attached is a list that identifies the five polling place locations (by ward and precinct) that staff recommends by changed, showing the new site and address.

Under Minnesota Statutes § 204B.16, subd. 3, polling places must be established by no later than ninety days before the scheduled election, and notice must be provided to all affected voters of the location of the polling places. Staff recommend the adoption of a resolution designating the official polling places for the 2013 Municipal Election so that proper notice can be distributed to all voters with sufficient time.

Attachments: List of All Proposed 2013 Municipal Election Polling Places – Attachment A
List of Polling Places Changes – Attachment B
REPORT – *Status Report on Plans & Preparations for the 2013 Municipal Election*
Report Exhibits:

- Exhibit A – Polling Place Assessment Guide
- Exhibit B – Polling Place Layout Example
- Exhibit C – High Election Day Registrations & Registered Voters Map
- Exhibit D – 2013 & 2014 Polling site Recommendations
- Exhibit E – Proposed List of 2013 Polling Places
- Exhibit F – Polling Place Work Group’s Findings
- Exhibit G – High Percentage Hmong, Somali, and Spanish Speaking Populations Map
- Exhibit H – 2013 Minneapolis Voter Outreach & Education Plan
- Exhibit I – Election’s Twitter Page
- Exhibit J – Election’s Facebook Page