



Request for Committee Action Office of City Clerk – Elections & Voter Services Division

Date: April 23, 2014

To: The Honorable Jacob Frey
Chair, Elections & Rules Committee

Subject: Requesting authorization to add eight (8) new precincts and change locations for four (4) existing polling places, to become effective with the regularly scheduled 2014 Gubernatorial Election.

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution that:

- (a) Approves revised precinct boundaries, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 204B.14, subd. 4, to become effective with the 2014 Gubernatorial Election;
- (b) Authorizes an additional eight (8) precincts, generally located in Wards 1, 3, 5, 12, and 13, thereby increasing the total number of precincts in the City of Minneapolis to 127;
- (c) Approves the designation of polling places, to become effective with the 2014 Gubernatorial Election; and
- (d) Authorizes changes in four (4) polling place locations in Wards 3, 7, 11, and 12.

Prepared by:	Tim Schwarz, phone: 612.673.3136 Elections & Voter Services Division
Approved by:	Grace L. Wachlarowicz, Assistant City Clerk
Presenters in Committee:	Grace Wachlarowicz and Tim Schwarz

Background Information: Following the 2012 Presidential Election, a comprehensive assessment of all polling places was conducted. This assessment revealed 28 sites now serve populations of more than 2,500 voters, which exceeds the maximum voter-to-precinct ratio recommended by the Secretary of State. Consequently, staff recommends increasing the total number of precincts to better serve voters. Staff also recommends changes in a few polling place locations to enhance capacity in terms of available space and accessibility. As Minneapolis continues to promote and fuel growth, the ability to serve an increasing population while meeting the specific needs of changing community demographics must be addressed. Approving the additions and changes outlined in the draft resolution will put the City in a positive position with respect to serving its voters in 2014 and beyond.

Financial Impact: Staff estimates a fiscal impact of up to \$59,200 on an annual go-forward basis for the increase in precincts and polling place changes based upon an average cost of approximately \$7,400 per precinct. This estimate includes costs for ballot production; staffing; supplies and materials; facility rental and related issues; and a variety of mailings. It does not include one-time costs to acquire new voting equipment for each new precinct. Funding was not allocated in the FY 2014 budget; therefore, staff will work with the Finance & Property Services Department to address the financing of these new precincts, either within existing budgeted funds or a request for contingency funding if deemed necessary.

Attached: Draft Resolution
Map illustrating new precinct boundaries