



## Request for Committee Action From the Office of City Clerk

WALK-ON ITEM – NEW BUSINESS #1

**Date:** June 28, 2013

**To:** Honorable Cam Gordon, Chair  
Elections Committee

**Subject:** Authorize execution of a one-year contract, with the possibility of extending the contract for up to three years, with Freeman, Craft, McGregor Group, Inc., to conduct an audit of the hardware, firmware, software, and processes to be used for the 2013 Ranked-Choice Voting Municipal Election.

**Recommendation:** Authorize the contract with Freeman, Craft, McGregor Group, Inc.

<b>Prepared by:</b> Casey Joe Carol, City Clerk
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**Background Information:** The regular general municipal election is scheduled for November 5, 2013. This will be the second time that Minneapolis voters use the alternative Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) methodology to vote. On April 23, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to Election Systems and Software (ES&S) for a new election system and equipment, ES&S's *ElectionWare* Version 5.1. This version is an enhancement to the base platform, *ElectionWare* Version 5.0., and includes the same operating system and components. Additionally, this upgraded version includes an export utility that streamlines unique RCV processing and tabulation requirements, an option designed specifically for the City of Minneapolis. The base platform—*ElectionWare*—has been certified at both federal and state levels, as required pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 206.57. Because neither federal nor state standards address alternative voting methods, it is not possible for the new export utility to be certified as part of the overall system at the federal or state level.

Consequently, staff recommends that the City secure professional services to audit the new election system, *ElectionWare* Version 5.1., including the export utility. A provision to accommodate this additional level of scrutiny was included in the County's contract with ES&S. It will be a three-party contract involving the City, County, and selected vendor. Staff recommends the City authorize the contract with the Freeman, Craft, McGregor Group, Incorporated. Under the terms of the proposed contract, the vendor will be responsible for evaluating the accuracy, reliability, and usability of ES&S's *ElectionWare*, Version 5.1., as well as the City's procedures for conducting an RCV election in order to provide reasonable assurance that the voting system functions as designed and to mitigate and resolve any potential weaknesses. A copy of the draft contract (not in final form) is attached for reference.

**Attachments:** DRAFT Contract with Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, and the Freeman, Craft, McGregor Group, Inc., for election audit services.