

Request for Committee Action

To: Elections & Rules
Date: 7/22/2015
From: City Clerk's Office
Prepared by: Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk
Presented by: Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk
File type: Receive & File
Subcategory: Report

Subject:

2014 Gubernatorial Election Report.

Description:

Receiving the 2014 Gubernatorial Election Report with analysis, summary of recommendations for future process improvements, and related matters.

Previous Directives:

None.

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

All Wards

Background/Analysis:

The City of Minneapolis achieved a 55.55 percent turnout for the 2014 Gubernatorial (general) Election, bucking state and national trends that reflected the lowest turnout since World War II. Still, this turnout rate was on par with previous mid-term elections in Minneapolis. This was the first election since adoption of “no-excuse” absentee balloting in Minnesota, and new participation records for absentee voters were set in 2014, both in-person (primary) and by mail (general), jumping almost 92 percent over the 2010 mid-term election. Despite adding 8 new precincts in 2014, there remain more than 50 precincts that serve a registered population of 2,000+ voters, exceeding state-recommended guidelines. If unchecked, this can be expected to result in long lines, significant wait times, delays, and potential claims of disenfranchisement. Greater attention to outreach, education, and engagement are required, particularly for those communities that have historically been under-represented; for example, young/first-time voters (including new citizens); communities of color; residents of shelters, the homeless, and those in transition, etc. National research shows that obstacles to registration are the primary reasons that eligible voters are denied the opportunity to participate, and staff recommends several strategies aimed at supporting registration efforts. A number of process improvements have been highlighted throughout the report based on lessons learned and experiences from the 2014 Gubernatorial Election, which are summarized for reference on page 42.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. 2014 Gubernatorial Election Report: Analysis & Recommendations