

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Elections & Rules  
**Date:** 2/23/2016  
**From:** City Clerk's Office  
**Prepared by:** Casey Joe Carl  
**Presented by:** Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk  
**File type:** Receive & File  
**Subcategory:** Report

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**Subject:**

Tenant Notice of Voter Registration program status report

**Description:**

Receiving a status report on implementation of the Tenant Notice of Voter Registration (TNVR) program.

**Previous Actions:**

On Sept. 25, 2015, City Council enacted ordinance 2015-Or-080 which established the Tenant Notice of Voter Registration program; for details, see [File No. 15-00855](#).

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**Ward/Address:**

Not Applicable

**Background/Analysis:**

Registration is the first in a two-step process required to participate in elections in the United States. This can present obstacles to full participation, and presents a disproportionate burden on specific communities, including:

- Young/first-time voters, which includes new citizens;
- Low-income voters;
- Highly-mobile populations, such as students, military families, and those in transition; and
- People of color.

A common thread uniting these groups is that they tend to be more mobile than the “average voter.” Unfortunately, registrations are not portable and do not move with the voter. As a consequence, voters who change residency risk being prevented from voting if the mandatory first step— registration—is incomplete or inaccurate. Given the increasing diversity of Minneapolis, combined with the fact that more than half of all residents are renters, a program specifically targeting renters to provide notice about the need to register (or re-register) is a critical component of a well-rounded Voter Outreach & Education program.

The Tenant Notice of Voter Registration (TNVR) program requires that property owners/managers provide all voting-eligible tenants with a packet of information upon first occupancy beginning March 1, 2016, and continuing thereafter. The program does not place any additional burdens or requirements on property owners/managers in terms of actually registering or collecting registration forms from tenants or for taking steps to ensure that tenants are registered or become registered or participate in elections. It merely requires the provision of information as part of the initial transaction when a new tenant moves in to give that potential voter information about the registration requirement and how to do it. Registration remains the responsibility of the individual voter (tenant).

The City's Elections & Voter Services (EVS) Division, in collaboration with the Secretary of State and Hennepin County, have developed the information packet that must be provided to all eligible tenants beginning March 1, 2016. It can be provided either in print or electronic formats and in multiple language options. The EVS Division will be responsible for providing sufficient quantities of material to Minneapolis property owners/managers. The City's Regulatory Services Department will monitor, track, and enforce the notice regulation, consistent with similar requirements which exist under the Code.

**Financial Review:**

**No financial impact.**

**Attachments:**

1. PowerPoint presentation: TNVR Status Report