

Resolution
of the City of Minneapolis
By Zerby

Urging the State of Minnesota to add ranked and cumulative ballot processing capability as a certification requirement for new voting equipment.

Whereas, the Federal government will send \$40 million in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to Minnesota, largely for new voting equipment; and

Whereas, this represents an historic opportunity to ensure that the state acquires voting equipment with the flexibility to process all ballot types used in the United States including ranked and cumulative ballots; and

Whereas, Minnesota's two main equipment vendors have already developed ranked ballot capacity for precinct-based optical scanners in other jurisdictions; and

Whereas, much of the development work has already been done; and

Whereas, this will reduce the cost of acquiring this technology; and

Whereas, the cost will be even less if acquired with the original purchase as opposed to acquiring it as an after-market add-on; and

Whereas, this heightens the urgency for this change to happen now, before the large HAVA appropriation is spent; and

Whereas, the technical change that would allow processing of alternative voting methods could also be used to enhance election security; and

Whereas; the ranked ballot firmware creates a data file that keeps track of the contents of each ballot. It essentially makes an electronic back up copy of each ballot that could be used to reconstruct an election in the event that paper ballots were lost or destroyed; and

Whereas, the benefits of this certification change could be realized immediately;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the Minneapolis City Council urges the State of Minnesota to add ranked and cumulative ballot processing capability as a certification requirement for new voting equipment.