



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of the City Clerk

Date: October 1, 2009

To: Elections Committee

Subject: Elections Ordinance

Recommendation: Approval of an ordinance amending Title 8.5, Chapter 167 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to *Elections: Municipal Elections: Rules of Conduct*, clarifying definitions and steps to be taken in the counting process and to change typographical errors.

Prepared by: Patrick O'Connor, Interim, Director of Elections
Approved by: Steven Ristuben, City Clerk

Financial Impact: No financial impact

Background/Supporting Information

On April 18, 2008, an ordinance amendment was approved by the City Council amending Title 8.5 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Elections by adding a new Chapter 167 relating to *Municipal Elections; Rules of Conduct*, establishing rules for counting ranked choice voting elections.

A test election was held May 6 - 8, 2009. The event was an opportunity for staff to put the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) process to the test, to learn what processes work and what needed to be changed or refined. It further provided the opportunity to see the need to clarify the language in the ordinance to better align it with the processes.

Overview of Proposed Revisions

Chapter 167. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: RULES OF CONDUCT

Elections staff recommends making *the fewest changes possible*. Therefore, only housekeeping changes that are *absolutely necessary* for ordinance clarity are recommended.

Types of recommended revisions

- Correcting typographical errors
- Standardizing language across different sections of the ordinance
- Renumbering some sections

- Removing unnecessary language that duplicates another part of the ordinance
- Clarifications
 - General clarifications – making sure the language is as plain and explanatory as possible
 - Clarifying the exact step in which candidates are officially declared elected
 - Clarifying when “rounds” of counting begin and end, and the order of steps in a round
- Necessary additions
 - Allowing the Director of Elections to name a designee in case he or she is unavailable to perform necessary duties
 - Allowing mathematical elimination to work as intended; *all* candidates with no mathematical possibility of winning defeated simultaneously “from the bottom up”, not just *some* defeated (potentially from the middle)
 - Stipulating the rules for rounding.