



Organizational Meeting Date: 1/3/2023

TITLE: Process Overview of City/School District Board Election Partnership Process

TYPE: Discussion

PRESENTER(S): Governance Committee

BACKGROUND: At the board's 12/12 work session, the City of Edina and Edina School District agreed it would be beneficial to have further meetings to come up with a mutually beneficial solution. The school board agreed to have the governance committee propose a process to accomplish this goal. The governance committee met after the 12/12 work session and is recommending the attached process to identify how the board and city will work towards a partnership on school district voting processes.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss and bring questions regarding proposed process and timing.

PRIMARY ISSUE(S) TO CONSIDER: Proposed process

ATTACHMENTS: Edina School District Election Proposed Process Document

Edina School District Election

Background Information

In an effort to avoid any alignment with partisan politics, Minnesota historically held school board elections in the Springtime. In the 1980's the Minnesota legislature required that school board elections be held on election day in November, but allowed districts to hold board elections on off-years over the continued concerns of having partisan influences in school board races.

Since the 1980's, the City of Edina and Edina School District have had a division of labor resolution where the City of Edina will perform the election duties for the Edina School District so they may hold their elections on off-cycle election years. This system was developed in an effort to avoid partisanship in school board elections, capitalize upon the integrity of elections conducted by the city and to utilize the city's superior elections systems.

In April 2022, the City of Edina expressed a desire to analyze current election processes to come up with a new partnership that is beneficial for both governmental entities and our stakeholders, the voters of Edina. Both the City of Edina and School Board of Edina Public schools have expressed similar interests in running our city-wide elections with the utmost integrity. As such, the following process is being recommended to renew the city and district election partnership while honoring stakeholder and governing body priorities. Below are some examples of these: security of students and staff in school buildings, election integrity, workload distribution, cost and a continued effort to respect the non-partisan nature of school board races and safety.

Process Overview

The governance committee is recommending the following process to identify how the board and city will work towards a partnership on school district voting processes.

- **Blue means overarching process.**
- **Purple is process for 2023 election resolution only.**

Date	Who	Intended Outcomes
12/21/23	District's governance committee meets	Finalize a process outline to share with the board; agreement on making a recommendation for research.
1/3/23	Board discussion on recommended process	Consensus on process; agreement on research project.
1/4/23	Board's governance committee	Meets to discuss resolution and district legal counsel recommendations; Resolution ready for discussion at 1/9 board meeting.

1/9/23	Full board discussion on 2023 election resolution.	Gathering of board comments for intended board approval 2/13.
Week of 1/16/23	City/school committee meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Discuss key priorities/common goals for city and district (2) Brainstorm preliminary election plan and resolution requirements
1/24/23	Board work session	Discussion of preliminary election plan and resolution requirements to get feedback from the board.
2/13/23	Board action on 2023 election resolution.	Board approval of 2023 election resolution.
2/20/23	City/board committee meeting	Second meeting to review feedback from full governing bodies; revisions made.
2/28/23	Board work session	Discussion of final revisions and recommendations for election plan and resolution.
3/13/23	Board regular meeting	Board discussion of election plan and resolution at regular meeting.
4/17/23	Board regular meeting	Board action of election plan and resolution at regular meeting.