



Why is the Hastings School Board considering moving to even-numbered year elections?

The Problem:

- Since 2005, ISD 200 has paid \$226,994.40 in election-related costs.
- The District pays 100% of the costs associated with having odd-numbered year elections.
- The money spent on elections could instead be spent in the classrooms.
- The Election Clerk (Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent) is responsible for all election-related activities. During the 2-month election season this employee spends roughly 90% of their time dealing with election related activities (this is nearly one Full Time District Employee for 2 months). This cost is not included in the election costs in bullet one.
- Around 25% of registered voters turn out to vote in odd-numbered year elections.
- Limited/combined polling places creates the perception of voter suppression and is confusing for voters as their polling location changes from year to year.
 - If polling locations were not combined, the average district cost would be \$57,000.00.

Background of Minnesota School Board Elections:

(Source: Minnesota School Board Association)

- In 2005, the costs of odd-numbered year school board elections shifted to school districts.
- In 2005, 168 out of 331 school districts in Minnesota held odd-numbered year elections.
- In 2023, 29 out of 331 school districts in Minnesota held odd-numbered year elections.
- 90% of the school districts that have moved to even-numbered year elections have done so by extending the terms of school board members by one year.
- Hastings is 1 of 7 (out of 29) school districts considering moving to even-numbered year elections right now.

The Solution:

- MN Statute 205A.04 (subd. 3) Change in year of general election. The school board may, by resolution, change the year in which the school district general election will be held. The terms of school board members may be lengthened or shortened by one year as a part of the transition process.
- The county pays 100% of election-related costs in even-numbered year elections.

- It costs taxpayers less overall by combining elections.
- The County Clerk is responsible for all election-related activities.
- Around 70% of registered voters turn out to vote in even-numbered year elections (versus 25%).
- All polling locations are open in even-numbered year elections. We have 27 in our district.

(Source: Minnesota Secretary of State website and the district's Election Clerk)

Year	# of Polling Places	Registered Voters	Voter Turnout	District cost for Election
2023	5	22,668	6,335	\$14,944.41
2022	27	20,325	14,524	\$0
2021	5	20,153	5,796	\$10,493.35
2019	5	19,205	2,114	\$11,944.41
2017	5	19,707	3,062	\$32,628.37
2015	6	18,992	958	\$10,595.75
2013	10	19,022	3,436	\$30,790.46
2011	10	17,832	3,638	\$31,477.24
2009	10	18,213	3,867	\$19,896.86
2007	10	19,136	4,594	\$35,557.74
2005	9	18,982	5,777	\$29,442.86