



**CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

**February 21, 2024
5:30 – 6:30pm**

- 1) Call to Order**
- 2) Communications from 2023 Road Projects***
- 3) Counting Write-In Votes for Local Elective Office**
- 4) Closed session*- pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege relating to commencing a legal action related to business operations on the property located at 1195 and 1205 Sunnyfield Road, Minnetrista**
- 5) Adjourn**

**There are no materials for these items*

CITY OF MINNETRISTA



WORKSESSION ITEM

Subject: **Counting Write-In Votes for Local Elective Office**
Prepared By: **Ann Meyerhoff, City Clerk**
Meeting Date: **February 21, 2024**

Background:

During the 2023 legislative session, several election administration laws were changed. The City Council discussed the write-in votes change briefly at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting and directed staff to bring the item back for discussion.

Overview:

Minnesota Statute 204B.09, subdivision 3 allows for a governing body of a statutory or home rule charter city to adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. See attachment A for the statute.

The change allows election officials to count only registered write-in candidates on election night, aligning with the write-in recording process with Federal, State and County offices. This would mean for the 2024 General Election, election judges would not have to count non-registered write-in votes for the two City Council seats and one Mayor seat. The current write-in vote counting process is overly time consuming and creates additional work for election judges on election night following a long election day.

This would only pertain to the General Election in November. Candidates who would like to be counted as a write-in would be required to register with the local election official. In 2020 there were 49 write-in votes, and in 2022 there were 32 write in votes counted.

Recommended City Council Action: Staff is seeking direction if the Council would like to move forward with this in a form of a resolution.

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

204B.09 TIME AND PLACE OF FILING AFFIDAVITS AND PETITIONS.

Subd. 3. Write-in candidates.

(a) A candidate for county, state, or federal office who wants write-in votes for the candidate to be counted must file a written request with the filing office for the office sought not more than 84 days before the primary and no later than the seventh day before the general election. The filing officer shall provide copies of the form to make the request. The filing officer shall not accept a written request later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing a written request.

(b) The governing body of a statutory or home rule charter city may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. The resolution may:

(1) require the candidate to file a written request with the chief election official no later than the seventh day before the city election if the candidate wants to have the candidate's write-in votes individually recorded; or

(2) require that write-in votes for an individual candidate only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate.

If the governing body of the statutory or home rule charter city adopts a resolution authorized by this paragraph, the resolution must be adopted before the first day of filing for office. A resolution adopted under this paragraph remains in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the governing body of the statutory or home rule charter city.