

Minneapolis Elections and Voter Registration

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Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Date: February 3, 2010
To: Minneapolis Charter Commission
From: Judy Schwartau – City of Minneapolis Election Specialist, CERA
RE: Moving the Primary earlier will could affect deadlines for Charter questions

The Federal Military and Overseas Empowerment (MOVE) Act may require Minnesota to move our Primary to August or earlier to provide for a 45-day absentee balloting period. This change will require other dates be changed to allow ballot production for the required 45-day absentee voting period, for example

- Candidate Filing
- Deadline for notifying the county about holding a local election (a Ballot Question or a Special Election) in conjunction with General Election

Changes in these deadlines could also require a review of a deadline in [MS 410.12](#), which governs City Charter Amendments. Currently the deadlines are

- Subd 1 Deadline to submit a petition is 12 weeks before General = August 10, 2010
 - Note: This formula deadline of 12 weeks before the General Election put this deadline approximately 5 weeks before the Primary which allowed this entire Charter petition process to be completed before the Primary
- Subd 3 Clerk has 10 days to validate signatures; petitioner has additional 10 days to get additional signatures if short; clerk has additional 5 days to validate those new signatures = In 2010, this could go from August 10 to September 4

Problems with this timing

- It conflicts with proposed date changes that would guarantee a 45-day absentee balloting period for the General Election and could delay ballot production schedules
- This could allow a petition to be delivered to a City Clerk as late as Primary Day and require signature verification on Primary Day, and up to 15 of the next 25 days simultaneous to preparing Primary Canvass results and possibly conducting Primary recounts
- The timing of this process in the past yielded a completion of this signature validation and delivering the ballot question to the county elections office prior to the Primary rather than after the Primary

We are working with our election partners to address these deadlines. There are 107 Charter cities within Minnesota.

On February 5, the Senate Committee on State and Local Government Operations and Oversight will hear the bill proposing the Primary change, and other dates that also need to be changed to allow ballot production for the new federally required 45-day absentee voting period. The House will hear the bill the following Tuesday. Any decision along these lines is the responsibility of the legislature.

