

Memorandum

To: Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Date: August 19, 2009

Subject: NRP Representative Election
Technical Revisions to the Election Rules

Over the past few years, NRP has reduced its Neighborhood Representative Election costs by assuming more and more responsibility for conducting this election. As a cost saving measure, money for the support given by the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis was eliminated from the 2009 budget.

Since the Election Rules, adopted by the Policy Board, specify the League of Women Voters' participation, a technical revision to these rules to broaden the language to read "NRP or its designee" rather than specifying the League of Women Voters is needed.

In addition, a clarification specifying one ballot for elections with three or fewer candidates has been added. This follows the practice already used by the League of Women Voters in past elections.

I do not see these technical revisions as controversial, but they should be made to be in effect for this year's election. I have attached two copies of the rules; one highlighting the changes and a copy with the revisions incorporated.

I recommend that the NRP Policy Board adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board hereby adopts technical revisions to the Neighborhood Representative Election Rules to be in compliance with current practice; and,

RESOLVED FURTHER: That these revisions are to be applied to the Neighborhood Representative Election scheduled for November 19, 2009.

NRP POLICY BOARD ELECTION RULES
for representative-based election process (revised as of July 26, 1999 and August 24, 2009)

Election rules are to be published and distributed before the election. Four Neighborhood Representatives and four alternates will be elected to serve one-year terms on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board.

- Candidates must be a resident of their neighborhood type (i.e. protection, revitalization, redirection) for a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the election.
- Candidates must be 21 years of age or older as of the date their term of office begins and must declare their intent to run for neighborhood representative 60 days in advance of the election. This candidate-filing deadline is to be established annually.
- Members of underrepresented groups (such as people of color, the physically disadvantaged, gays and lesbians, renters, etc.) will be encouraged to run for the Board.
- To participate in the candidate forums and to be included in the Voter's Guide, a candidate must agree that they will not:
 - Raise money or use personal funds to promote their candidacy.
 - Create or distribute literature, lawn signs, buttons or other campaign materials promoting their candidacy.
 - Create radio or television commercials or web pages to promote their candidacy.
 - Organize a phone bank to promote their candidacy.(Candidates will be asked to sign a pledge that they will not engage in the above activities if they wish to participate in the forums and be included in the Voter's Guide.)
- The filing form will include a candidate questionnaire. The completed application must be received by the ~~League of Women Voters of Minneapolis~~ NRP or its designee no later than noon on the filing deadline date.
- The ~~League of Women Voters~~ NRP or its designee will facilitate four candidate forums prior to the election. One forum will be held in each category--at-large, redirection, revitalization, and protection.
- Electors must be Minneapolis residents and be 18 years of age or older, as of the date of the election.
- To vote, electors must present either a valid Minnesota ID or Minnesota Drivers License on the night of the election, or be accompanied by a person with a valid Minnesota ID or Minnesota Drivers License.
- The NRP office will encourage all neighborhood organizations to select alternates for each of their electors and to make the names of these alternates available to the elector(s) and vice versa.
- Elector information will be submitted by the neighborhood organizations to the ~~League of Women Voters of Minneapolis~~ NRP office or its designee.
- For neighborhood organizations representing two or more neighborhoods (i.e. Hale-Page-Diamond Lake), only residents of the individual neighborhood (clarification: membership participation) may vote for the elector/alternate of that neighborhood.

- Nominations from the floor or write-in nominations will not be allowed.
- Endorsements or Testimonials will not be allowed.
- Absentee ballots will not be allowed.
- All candidates are on the first ballot.

~~—If there are more than three candidates for the position, T~~he three candidates to receive the most votes win a place on the second ballot.

~~—If there is a tie for third place on the first ballot, all candidates tied for third place are included on the second ballot.~~

- On the second ballot, the candidate with the highest number of votes is the representative and the candidate with the second highest number of votes is the alternate.
- ~~In case of a tie on the second ballot, there is a run-off ballot between the tied candidates (either representative or alternate).~~
- If there are three or fewer candidates on the first ballot, the candidate with the highest number of votes is the representative and the candidate with the second highest number of votes is the alternate.
- Ties will be settled by a run-off ballot between the tied candidates (either representative or alternate)
- ~~NRP or its designee, with the assistance of the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis,~~ will produce and arrange for distribution of a Voter's Guide to each neighborhood organization, each elector, and each alternate.
- No more than 500 copies of the Voter's Guide will be printed.
- The Voter's Guide will include candidate phone numbers, if authorized by the candidate, in order to facilitate communication between residents/electors and candidates.
- Daycare arrangements will be made for candidate forums and the election if requested in advance.
- All costs for conducting the election will be paid by NRP.
- Appropriate translation and/or transcription services for candidates or voters will be provided by NRP if requested in advance of the election and/or forums.
- A range of sites will be examined for the NRP Neighborhood Representative election. Site selection will be based on: cost, accessibility to persons with disabilities, proximity to public transportation, available parking and space availability.

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