

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-30  
CITY OF EDINA  
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING  
AN EARLY VOTING PROCESS FOR VOTERS IN MINNESOTA**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota law currently provides for no-excuse absentee voting by mail and in-person; and

**WHEREAS**, with in-person absentee voting, the voter must place their voted ballot in a series of envelopes that is processed at a later date by election officials; and

**WHEREAS**, early voting would allow a voter to place their voted ballot directly into the ballot tabulator, thereby reducing the risk of voter errors and reducing the administrative costs involved with in-person absentee voting; and

**WHEREAS**, a process will still be provided for voters to request and submit an absentee ballot by mail;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Edina hereby supports legislation establishing an early voting process for the voters in the State of Minnesota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that by establishing an early voting process, taxpayer dollars will be saved and a better service will be provided to Minnesota voters.

Adopted March 3, 2015

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra A. Mangen, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
James B. Hovland, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) SS  
CITY OF EDINA )  
CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, the undersigned duly appointed and acting City Clerk for the City of Edina do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Edina City Council at its Regular Meeting of February 17, 2015, and as recorded in the Minutes of said Regular Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

# February ACT

Prepared for the League of Minnesota Cities Board of Directors  
--February 19, 2015--

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Topic: SF 414 would establish a true early voting system for elections held on or after Aug. 1, 2015.

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Summary: The bill would establish early voting 15 days prior to Election Day through 5 p.m. on the third day before the election. Pending certification of statewide systems and voting equipment to administer early voting by the secretary of state, the law would be effective for elections held on or after Aug. 1, 2015.

Read more here: <http://lmc.org/page/1/15ma-EarlyVoting.jsp>

## Action

- Consider discussing and adopting the *model resolution* as a city. Be sure to send a copy to your legislators and League staff.
- Gather input from your city clerk and/or elections administrators to share information on the talking points below with legislators.

## Contact

- The bill will be heard today in the Senate Subcommittee on Elections today at 2 p.m. and likely be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus elections bill.
- In the House, a bill would need to be heard in the Government Operations & Elections Committee. Members are encourage to contact members of the committee, especially if they are your legislators, to inform them about early voting and encourage a hearing.

## Talking Points

It is important for legislators to here from cities about the difference between in-person absentee balloting and a true early voting system, including:

- The impact that the existing system has on voters' experience when submitting a no-excuse absentee ballot in-person to be processed after the voter has left. With early voting, the voter puts the ballot into the tabulator and can correct any voter errors if needed; and
- how a true early voting system would make the process more efficient for both the voters and administrators.
- Utilize the included letter for additional talking points.

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League Staff Contact:

Ann Lindstrom [alindstrom@lmc.org](mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1261 or

Heather Corcoran [hcorcoran@lmc.org](mailto:hcorcoran@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1256



## 2015 LMC City Policies Early Voting

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**Issue:** Minnesota now allows no-excuse absentee voting by mail and in-person and many Minnesotans consider the current in-person absentee voting system "early voting" though there are significant administrative differences between the two voting systems. After the voter has completed their absentee ballot, it is placed in a sealed envelope to be processed by elections administrators after the voter has left. Early voting allows the in-person voter the same experience as voting in their polling place on Election Day by inserting their ballot into a ballot tabulator. If necessary, the voter is then able to correct mistakes made by the voter when marking the ballot such as party cross-over voting in a primary election or over-voting. These mistakes can be discovered by the ballot tabulator, the same as on Election Day. Election results are not known until the polls close on Election Day.

Additionally, no-excuse absentee voting has led to a significant increase in in-person absentee balloting forcing cities administering in-person absentee balloting to operate city halls as polling places beginning 46 days before Election Day, though the absentee ballots cannot be processed until seven days before Election Day. An early voting system eliminates many of the administrative costs of the current absentee ballot procedures. Many states have implemented actual early voting procedures for in-person voting and found them to be a cost-effective and efficient method to serve the voters.

**Response:** The League of Minnesota Cities supports the adoption of legislation establishing an early voting process.

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*Questions? Contact Ann Lindstrom at [alindstrom@lmc.org](mailto:alindstrom@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1261.*