

BAXTER TOWNSHIP
3612 170th Street
Boyd, MN 56218

December 11, 2005

State Auditor
525 Park St. Suite, 500
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Sir:

Baxter Township, Lac qui Parle County respectfully submits the enclosed resolution passed by the Baxter Township Board to exempt local elections from HAVA requirements.

Baxter Township is a small township of 131 registered voters. Our township hall is a one-room structure. which has served Baxter Township residents in all national, state and local elections since 1928. Like most rural township halls, Baxter's Township hall is heated only during meetings, and therefore does not accommodate storage of sensitive computer equipment.

The per capita start up cost for purchasing, programming and storing the voting equipment required by the HAVA regulation for Baxter Township is approximately \$66.00 per person. Consequently, the Baxter Township Board of Supervisors feels current balloting, voting, and counting procedures used by the small townships of under 200 voters is adequate and cost effective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Olson".

Richard Olson, Baxter Township Clerk

**BAXTER TOWNSHIP
LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2-2005**

**RESOLUTION TO EXEMPT LOCAL ELECTIONS FROM
HAVA REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, while there are state and federal funds available to assist in the purchase of assisted voting machines, optical scan vote tabulating equipment, and training and elections costs for the 2006 elections, this funding will not cover on-going costs to operate, store, maintain, and program the machines as well as the additional costs associated with publishing notices of and holding accuracy tests, and purchasing expensive ballots for the electronic machines; and

Whereas, programming costs alone are estimated to be several hundred dollars to over one thousand dollars per election, and whereas there may be other additional costs such as additional ballot printing that will significantly increase the expense for conducting elections; and

Whereas, the cost is prohibitive for most townships to use electronic machines for the Annual March Town Elections since the per capita cost of using electronic machines would be very high, and because of this, were given a temporary exemption until December 31, 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Baxter Township, Lac qui Parle requests that the state exempt local elections from the HAVA mandates and provide on-going funding to operate, store, maintain, and pay for programming costs for the machines for all future elections including the March Town Elections if not exempted.

Dated 12-6-05

Wayne Anderson
Supervisor

Eugene Masungu
Supervisor

Attest:

Michael Olson
Township Clerk

Gary Lee
Township Chairperson