

Resolution to Exempt Local Elections from HAVA Requirements

Whereas, the Federal Government passes the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002 to accommodate handicapped voters in Federal elections; and

Whereas, in 2004 the Minnesota Legislature extended the HAVA requirements to state and local elections; and

Whereas, there are state and federal funds available to assist in the purchase of assisted voter machines, optical scan vote tabulating equipment, and training and election costs for the 2006 election, 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, it would be highly illogical for Bear Creek Township to use electronic voting machines for the March Township elections; and

Whereas, programming costs alone are estimated to be several hundred to over a 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, it is cost 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 temporary exemption until December 31, 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of Bear Creek Township, Clearwater County, Minnesota does not support the HAVA requirement that every polling precinct in Minnesota be required to use electronic voting equipment as proposed in House File 1703;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the town board of Bear Creek Township, Clearwater County, Minnesota supports the concept that all Minnesota townships be exempt from HAVA requirements for the March township elections indefinitely.

Date: 2-21-06

Attest: Laura Thompson
Clerk

Signatures: Paul Jenson
Supervisor

Benny Soren
Supervisor

[Signature]
Supervisor