

Resolution to Exempt Local Elections from HAVA Requirements

Whereas, the Federal Government passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 in an effort to accommodate handicap voters in federal elections and the Minnesota Legislature extended the requirements of the HAVA law to state and local elections in 2004; and

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Whereas, while 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; 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 a temporary exemption until December 31, 2007;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town Board of Esther, Polk County 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 3-14-06

Gordon Fering
Supervisor

Kameron Hunted
Supervisor

Aerald Nelson
Supervisor

Attest: Yail Schnap
Clerk