

**Marysland Township, Swift County, Minnesota**

**Resolution Proposing Reform to State Mandate in Connection with HAVA law**

Whereas, the Federal Government has passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 in an effort to improve the elections administration throughout the nation; and

Whereas, HAVA provides funding to individual states for election administration and Minnesota's share is estimated to equal roughly \$39 million; and

Whereas, the Counties, Cities, and Townships in Minnesota are given the authority of providing the election administration on behalf of the State of Minnesota and fund the majority of election costs in Minnesota; and

Whereas, the HAVA law requires the use of an assisted voting technology machine that allows disabled voters to cast their votes in private; and

Whereas, the HAVA law requires that a voter be given the opportunity to correct a spoiled ballot prior to casting and outlines a number of ways a local jurisdiction can meet this requirement; and

Whereas, the federal HAVA funds should be used to meet the federal requirements in an efficient and effective manner that does not obligate any local unit of government to significant on-going capital or operational costs after the federal funds are used; and

Whereas, any bill that appropriates the federal funding should conform to the following criteria;

(a) Local governments should retain authority over decisions on how to meet the federal requirements in the most efficient way in its jurisdiction.


(b) Purchasing of equipment from vendors who can provide certified equipment should be allowed.

(c) Federal funds should be made available to all counties for both the purchase of equipment and for the substantial costs in order to operate, store, maintain, train, and program ballots for use with the purchased equipment.

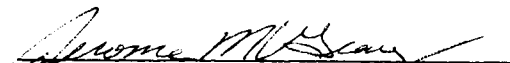
The mandate for holding local elections with federal and state elections in November and having to use election machines for local elections would be a hardship on budget for the town of Marysland and be inconvenient for its voters. Current cost of elections with paper ballots is \$90 for judges and another \$5 for printing of ballots. Marysland township has been told that an estimated cost for programming election machines would be \$600. The number of eligible voters in Marysland township averages 60 per year. Cost of \$1.58 per voter with paper ballots to \$11.50 per voter with election machines. To keep cost down, Marysland would need to share voting place with two other precincts - especially for federal & state elections held in November. Marysland township holds its annual meeting same day as local elections - after polls close and counting is done on second Tuesday in March. Voters are more likely to attend the annual meeting if they can wait in their vehicles until counting is done. It would be impossible to hold the meeting at same time as election if sharing voting place with other townships.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the town of Marysland, Swift county, hereby requests a waiver from the mandate that local elections be held in November and that election machines must be used as proposed by House File 1703.

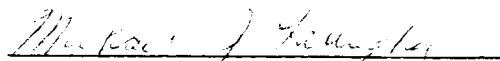
Adopted this 6th Day of December, 2005

  
Town Chair

  
Town Clerk

  
Supervisor

Date: 12-31-2005

  
Supervisor