

## CHAPTER 205

### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

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#### 205.07 CITY GENERAL ELECTION.

**Subdivision 1. Date.** The municipal general election in each statutory city shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and subject to the provisions of this section, the governing body of a statutory city may, by ordinance passed at a regular meeting held before September 1 of any year, elect to hold the election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year. A city which was a village on January 1, 1974 and before that date provided for a system of biennial elections in the odd-numbered year shall continue to hold its elections in that year until changed in accordance with this section. When a city changes its elections from one year to another, and does not provide for the expiration of terms by ordinance, the term of an incumbent expiring at a time when no municipal election is held in the months immediately prior to expiration is extended until the date for taking office following the next scheduled municipal election. If the change results in having three council members to be elected at a succeeding election, the two individuals receiving the highest vote shall serve for terms of four years and the individual receiving the third highest number of votes shall serve for a term of two years. To provide an orderly transition to the odd or even year election plan, the governing body of the city may adopt supplementary ordinances regulating initial elections and officers to be chosen at the elections and shortening or lengthening the terms of incumbents and those elected at the initial election so as to conform as soon as possible to the regular schedule provided in section 412.02, subdivision 1. Whenever the time of the municipal election is changed, the city clerk immediately shall notify in writing the county auditor and secretary of state of the change of date. Thereafter the municipal general election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered or even-numbered year until the ordinance is revoked and notification of the change is made.

**Subd. 3. Effect of ordinance; referendum.** An ordinance changing the year of the municipal election is effective 240 days after passage and publication or at a later date fixed in the ordinance. Within 180 days after passage and publication of the ordinance, a petition requesting a referendum on the ordinance may be filed with the city clerk. The petition shall be signed by eligible voters equal in number to ten percent of the total number of votes cast in the city at the last municipal general election. If the requisite petition is filed within the prescribed period, the ordinance shall not become effective until it is approved by a majority of the voters voting on the question at a general or special election held at least 60 days after submission of the petition. If the petition is filed, the governing body may reconsider its action in adopting the ordinance.

**History:** 1991 c 227 s 19,20

#### 205.16 NOTICE.

*[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1990]*

**Subd. 4. Notice to auditor.** At least 45 days prior to every municipal election, the municipal clerk shall provide a written notice to the county auditor, including the date of the election and the offices and questions to be voted on at the election.

**History:** 1991 c 227 s 21

**205.84 WARDS IN CERTAIN CITIES.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]*

**Subd. 2. Redefining ward boundaries.** The governing body of the city may by ordinance redefine ward boundaries after a municipal general election. The council shall hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance before its adoption. One week's published notice of the hearing shall be given. After the official certification of the federal decennial or special census, the governing body of the city shall either confirm the existing ward boundaries as conforming to the standards of subdivision 1 or redefine ward boundaries to conform to those standards as provided in section 204B.135, subdivision 1. If the governing body of the city fails to take either action within the time required, no further compensation shall be paid to the mayor or council member until the wards of the city are either reconfirmed or redefined as required by this section. An ordinance establishing new ward boundaries pursuant to section 204B.135, subdivision 1, becomes effective on the date of the state primary election in the year ending in two. Ward boundaries established at other times become effective 90 days after the adoption of the ordinance.

**History:** 1991 c 349 s 38