

CHAPTER 447

HOSPITALS, WELFARE ACTIVITIES

447.32 Officers and elections.

447.49 Miscellaneous provisions.

447.32 OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS.*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]*

Subd. 2. Elections. Except as provided in this chapter, the Minnesota election law applies to hospital district elections, as far as practicable. Regular elections must be held in each hospital district at the same time, in the same election precincts, and at the same polling places as general elections of state and county officers. It may establish the whole district as a single election precinct or establish two or more different election precincts and polling places for the elections. If there is more than one precinct, the boundaries of the election precincts and the locations of the polling places must be defined in the notice of election, either in full or by reference to a description or map on file in the office of the clerk.

Special elections may be called by the hospital board to vote on any matter required by law to be submitted to the voters. A special election may not be conducted either during the 30 days before and the 30 days after the state primary or state general election, or during the 20 days before and the 20 days after the regularly scheduled election of any municipality wholly or partially within the hospital district. Special elections must be held within the election precinct or precincts and at the polling place or places designated by the board. In the case of the first election of officers of a new district, precincts and polling places must be set by the governing body of the most populous city or town included in the district.

Advisory ballots may be submitted by the hospital board on any question it wishes, concerning the affairs of the district, but only at a regular election or at a special election required for another purpose.

Subd. 3. Election notices. At least two weeks before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy, the clerk of the district shall publish a notice stating the first and last day on which affidavits of candidacy may be filed, the places for filing the affidavits and the closing time of the last day for filing. The clerk shall post a similar notice in at least one conspicuous place in each city and town in the district at least ten days before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy.

The notice of each election must be posted in at least one public and conspicuous place within each city and town included in the district at least ten days before the election. It must be published in the official newspaper of the district or, if a paper has not been designated, in a legal newspaper having general circulation within the district, at least two weeks before the election. Failure to give notice does not invalidate the election of an officer of the district. A voter may contest a hospital district election in accordance with chapter 209. Chapter 209 applies to hospital district elections.

Subd. 4. Candidates; ballots; certifying election. A person who wants to be a candidate for the hospital board shall file an affidavit of candidacy for the election either as member at large or as a member representing the city or town where the candidate resides. The affidavit of candidacy must be filed with the city or town clerk not more than ten weeks nor less than eight weeks before the election. The city or town clerk must forward the affidavits of candidacy to the clerk of the hospital district or, for the first election, the clerk of the most populous city or town immediately after the last day of the filing period. A candidate may withdraw from the election by filing an affidavit of withdrawal with the clerk of the district no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day after the last day to file affidavits of candidacy.

Voting must be by secret ballot. The clerk shall prepare, at the expense of the dis-

trict, necessary ballots for the election of officers. Ballots must contain the names of the proposed candidates for each office, the length of the term of each office, and an additional blank space for the insertion of another name by the voter. The ballots must be marked and initialed by at least two judges as official ballots and used exclusively at the election. Any proposition to be voted on may be printed on the ballot provided for the election of officers or on a different ballot. The hospital board may also authorize the use of voting machines subject to chapter 206. Enough election judges may be appointed to receive the votes at each polling place. They may be paid by the district at a rate set by the board. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast, and submit them to the board for canvass.

After canvassing the election, the board shall issue a certificate of election to the candidate who received the largest number of votes cast for each office. The clerk shall deliver the certificate to the person entitled to it in person or by certified mail. Each person certified shall file an acceptance and oath of office in writing with the clerk within 30 days after the date of delivery or mailing of the certificate. The board may fill any office as provided in subdivision 1 if the person elected fails to qualify within 30 days, but qualification is effective if made before the board acts to fill the vacancy.

[For text of subs 5 to 9, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 227 s 25-27

447.49 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Bonds issued under sections 447.45 to 447.50 must be issued and sold as provided in chapter 475. If the bonds do not pledge the credit of the county, city, or hospital district as provided in section 447.48, the governing body may negotiate their sale without advertisement for bids. They shall not be included in the net debt of any municipality, and are not subject to interest rate limitations, as defined or referred to in sections 475.51 and 475.55. If the bonds do not pledge the credit of the county, city, or hospital district as provided in section 447.48 and are payable from rental payments to be made under a lease agreement entered into pursuant to section 447.47, the county, city, or hospital district may invest or deposit, or authorize a trustee to invest or deposit, any proceeds of the bonds, rental payments, and income from the investment of them, in any manner and upon any terms and conditions agreed to by the lessee under the lease agreement, resolution, or indenture, notwithstanding chapter 118 or section 471.56 or 475.66, but subject to any statutory provisions that govern the deposit and investment of funds of a lessee which is itself a governmental subdivision or agency.

History: 1991 c 342 s 9