



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legal

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Golden Valley City Council Meeting

July 7, 2026

Agenda Item

3E. Adopt Resolution No. 26-049 Regarding Counting Write-In Votes for Local Elective Offices

Prepared By

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Summary

At the June 9 work session, Council received the biennial elections update and provided direction to staff on several election-related items. Council directed staff to prepare a resolution authorizing the counting of municipal write-in votes only when those votes could affect the outcome of the election in order to reduce post-election administrative tasks and streamline the use of election resources. This option, authorized under state law, eliminates the need to review and tally write-in votes that cannot mathematically affect the election outcome while preserving the accuracy and integrity of election results.

In Golden Valley, write-in candidates typically account for less than 1% of votes cast in municipal elections.

Legal Considerations

Under state law, the City may only implement this change if the City Council adopts a resolution authorizing the change. The proposed resolution incorporates sample language provided by the county to ensure consistency with its election procedures. Upon adoption, staff will transmit the approved resolution to Hennepin County Elections to finalize implementation of the Council's decision.

Equity Considerations

Municipal write-in votes would continue to be counted whenever they could affect the outcome of an election, ensuring election results accurately reflect and respect the will of the voters. The change modifies only the post-election tabulation process.

Recommended Action

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 26-049 authorizing the counting of municipal write-in votes only when such votes could affect the outcome of the election.

Supporting Documents

- [Resolution No. 26-049 - Regarding Counting Write-In Votes for Local Elective Offices](#)