

Why do we want to move our Local elections to November?

At the 2006 Annual Meeting you as voters will be asked the Question

“Town Question 1. Whether to Move the Town Election to November?”

Shall the First Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even numbered year beginning in 2008 be designated as the general election day for Guthrie Township eliminating the second Tuesday in March Township election effective 2007?

Basically, this means we as a Township WOULD NOT have elections each year but would adopt the practice of voting every two years as we do Nationally now.

WHY?

Simply, Money!

Currently we vote for our local officials on the day of our Annual meeting (Second Tuesday in March). This involves printing up ballots and employing election judges just for our local elections. In the future, its very likely that we there will be a change in the way we vote. The country is moving to a more electronic means of voting. The ballots will still be on paper but there is currently a requirement to have a voting device that will allow the disabled to vote independently without assistance. That means an electronic device will be implemented. The other voters will still mark a paper ballot but then feed it into an “Electronic Counter” (with no hanging chads). In order for these counters to work properly, they must be “programmed” to read a current valid ballot. The programming of these units is also an expense to the Township. By moving our local elections to November we can combine our voting with the national election and thus only one programming charge every two years. Minnesota statute 205.075 allows provisions for doing so. What may seem odd however is the initial change. The town board needs to extend the terms of some of the local officials in order to get into the two year rotation that the national system is on now. That means the Supervisor term will expand from three to four years and the Clerk and Treasurer from Two years to four years. The Town Board Passed Resolution number 05-2005 to enact the term changes based on the outcome of the voters of Guthrie Township

More information: HAVA for Townships a good article by a Minnesota Association Township Attorney is located at

Below is a chart of the proposed change in terms of your local officials. If you have any questions, please call. Russ Nickerson