

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024
6:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

Pursuant to due notice and call, the City Council will hold a special meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in City Hall for the purpose of discussing the possibility of the City conducting all elections and administration of absentee voting at the local level, including the establishment of an absentee ballot board.

Charlene Nelson
City Clerk

City of Crosslake
RESOLUTION _____

DECLARING THE CITY OF CROSSLAKE WILL ADMINISTER ABSENTEE VOTING AND ESTABLISH
A BALLOT BOARD BEGINNING WITH THE AUGUST 13, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION
Dated FEBRUARY 12, 2024

WHEREAS, MN Statute 203B.05 DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS TO ADMINISTER ABSENTEE VOTING LAWS says:

Subdivision 1. Generally.

The full-time clerk of any city or town shall administer the provisions of sections 203B.04 to 203B.15 and 203B.30 if:

- (1) the county auditor of that county has designated the clerk to administer them; or
- (2) the clerk has given the county auditor of that county notice of intention to administer them , and

WHEREAS, MN Statute 203B.121 Subd1(a) "BALLOT BOARDS" states

The governing body of each county, municipality, and school district with responsibility to accept and reject absentee ballots or to administer early voting must, by ordinance or resolution, establish a ballot board, and

WHEREAS, MN Statute 201.022 "STATEWIDE REGISTRATION SYSTEM" provides that "The secretary of state shall maintain a statewide voter registration system to facilitate voter registration and to provide a central database containing voter registration information from around the state" and must also "(1) provide access to municipal clerks to use the system", and

WHEREAS, MN Statute 201.071 REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS requires voter registration forms to include "a box to indicate a voter's preference to join the permanent absentee voter list" which will likely increase the numbers of voters that will vote by absentee ballot, and

WHEREAS, an increasingly higher percentage of Crosslake voters are voting early or by absentee ballot through the county which weakens the city council's ability to confidently fulfill its statutory canvassing board duties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Crosslake that the Crosslake City Clerk is hereby directed to provide the Crow Wing County Administrative Services Director, and Crow Wing County Auditor, with notice via the Crow Wing County Administrator, that the Crosslake City Clerk will be administering absentee voting, and also will be responsible for the administration of a ballot board for the City of Crosslake, beginning with the August 13, 2024 primary election.

Passed on this 12th day of February, 2024.

David Nevin
Mayor

ATTEST _____
Michael R. Lyonais
City Administrator (SEAL)

Crosslake Ballot Local Control Resolution

There are three important reasons why we are seeking to secure custody of all Crosslake voter ballots:

1. Security and Preparedness for voting systems and voter rolls,
2. Trust and Transparency
3. City Council is the official canvassing board.

Security and preparedness

- Emergency Preparedness will be more manageable in a smaller scope.
- Currently, Crosslake is not engaged in the emergency voting plan, this is an opportunity to develop and ensure preparedness locally. (cyber security, or machines go down)
- Voter Registration management – local management
- New Laws from 2023 Legislation:
 - *16 yr. olds can preregister to vote
 - *Automatic voter registration
 - *non-citizens with driver's licenses W/O citizenship identification
 - *Non-citizens with social security cards (although not necessary for voting)
 - *Permanent Absentee Voters
 - *Early voting 18 days - More time for residents to vote local
 - *Absentee voting allowed for 46 days – hoping to have more residents to vote due to being local.

Trust and Transparency

- Count all ballots locally – This used to be the practice.
- County currently Manages = Mail In (M) and Absentee (A)
- The county, not local precincts, processes 60% of ballots county-wide.
- These figures are before the new laws have taken affect, which will increase early and absentee voting.
- New law takes away past audit reports from machines. (Cast vote record -CVR)
- New law mandates continued use of machines.
- 45% of Crosslake voters had no contact with city election officials in 2020.

Crosslake Ballot Local Control Resolution

PrecinctName20231015	Voting Method 2018	2018 Counted Votes	2020 Counted Votes	2022 Counted Votes	Average County Managed
BREEZY POINT CITY	A	252	653	245	
	M	19	52	2	
	P	1161	1145	1321	
BREEZY POINT CITY Total		1432	1850	1568	25.22%
CROSSLAKE CITY	A	385	828	383	
	M	26	35	2	
	P	1156	1044	1258	
CROSSLAKE CITY Total		1567	1907	1643	32.42%
NISSWA CITY	A	235	644	261	
	M	8	30	1	
	P	998	822	1035	
NISSWA CITY Total		1241	1496	1297	29.23%
PEQUOT LAKES CITY	A	149	534	155	
	M	24	31	5	
	P	853	805	977	
PEQUOT LAKES CITY Total		1026	1370	1137	25.42%

Crow Wing County - Percentage of the Election managed locally vs. centrally at the County

Row Labels	2018 Gen	2020 Gen.	2022 Gen
A	10,692	14,474	11,094
M	7,071	8,878	7,302
P	11,457	16,116	12,046
Grand Total	29,220	39,468	30,442
County %	60.8%	59.2%	60.4%
Local %	39.2%	40.8%	39.6%

City council Serves as Canvassing Board

The city council, have statutory duties to serve as the City's official canvassing board. More internal controls for voter registrations and tallying the votes will give you confidence that you will be able to perform your mandated duties with conviction.

Crosslake Ballot Local Control Resolution

Outstanding items:

- 1.** Estimated cost was anticipated to be about \$16,000.
- 2.** Training for clerk (s)
- 3.** Technology preparation for State Voter Registration System
- 4.** Process and procedures development and implementation with proper internal controls
- 5.** Ensure balanced ballot board.
- 6.** Continued Stakeholder (voter) engagement

Cost of Hardware for Absentee Voting/Mailings

Brother Dymo Label Printer	230.00
Labels	114.00
Adobe	300.00
Office 365	300.00
Laser Printer	200.00
Tabulator	7,238.00 (used, refurbished) (cost for new is 10,772 and takes months for delivery)
Annual Preventative Maint	638.00
Postage x 2	800.00
Preprinted Envelopes	525.00 (includes mailing, secrecy, and signature envelopes)
Ballots	290.00
Tabulator Programming	725.00
Battery Replacement	235.00 (every four years)
Labor	27,876.26 (does not include ballot board costs)
Designated Computer	<u>1,375.00</u>
	41,846.26