S.F. No. 634 – Local Elections In Even-Numbered Years

Author: Senator Calvin K. Bahr

Prepared by: Alexis C. Stangl, Director (alexis.stangl@mnsenate.gov)

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S.F. 634 requires all cities, except cities of the first class, towns, and school districts to hold elections in even-numbered years. Except cities of the first class, local governments with odd-year elections are required to transition to elections in even-numbered years.

Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 05.07, subd. 1; Date of election] narrows the current law that allows all cities to choose to hold elections in odd-numbered years so that it applies just to cities of the first class. (There are four cities of the first class: Duluth, Minneapolis, Rochester, and St. Paul.)

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 205.07, subd. 3; Effect of ordinance; referendum] strikes references to odd-numbered year elections in a statute relating to city elections.

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 205.075, subd. 2; Alternate date] requires towns to hold town general elections in even-numbered years. Under current law, a town may choose to hold an election in either an even- or odd-numbered year.

Section 4 [Minn. Stat. 205A.03, subd. 1; Resolution requiring primary in certain circumstances] requires that if a school district adopts a resolution to choose nominees by a primary election, the resolution must be adopted in an even-numbered year.

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 205A.03, subd. 2; Date] strikes a reference to the postponement of school district primaries that are held in an odd-numbered.

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 205A.04, subd. 1; School district general election] strikes the option to hold school district elections in an odd-numbered year. Strikes a reference to postponing elections in odd-numbered years due to inclement weather.

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 205A.055, subd. 1] makes conforming changes in the law related to postponement of school district elections due to inclement weather.

Section 8 [Repealer] repeals Minn. Stat. 205A.04, subd. 3, which allows a school board to change the year in which the school district general election will be held.

Section 9 [Effective date; transition] provides that this act is effective July 1, 2025, and applies to elections conducted on or after January 1, 2026. By January 1, 2026, a city, town, or school district with odd-year elections must adopt a plan for an orderly transition to even-numbered year elections as required by this act. The terms of elected officials may be lengthened or shortened by one year as part of the transition plan.