
Sponsor: Property Tax, Records & Election Services

Meeting Date: 7/9/2024

Title: Special Election for Ramsey County Commissioner District 3

File Number: 2024-305

Background and Rationale:

On June 20, 2024, Ramsey County Commissioner for District 3, Trista Martinson, announced that she accepted a new leadership role as the Executive Director with the Ramsey/Washington County Recycling and Energy (R&E). Commissioner Martinson's last day at Ramsey County will be August 1, 2024.

Minnesota Statutes 351.055 provides, in part, that if a prospective vacancy will occur as a result of a resignation, preparations for the Special Election may begin immediately after the written resignation is received by the board. This resignation was accepted by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners at its meeting held on July 2, 2024.

Since more than two years remain on the unexpired term, Minnesota Statute 375.101 requires that a Special Election be held to fill the vacancy. Under uniform election dates, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 205.10, subd. 3a, the next two available election dates are November 5, 2024, and February 11, 2025.

Action is needed to declare the vacancy in office and to set the schedule for the Special Election to fill that vacancy. The recommended schedule uses the next available election dates and meets statutory timeline requirements for conducting a Special Election.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Declare that a Special Election is needed to fill a vacancy in Ramsey County Commissioner District 3.
2. Approve the following Special Election schedule:
 - July 30, 2024 - First day to file affidavits of candidacy.
 - August 13, 2024 - Last day to file affidavits of candidacy.
 - August 15, 2024 - Last day to withdraw an affidavit of candidacy.
 - November 5, 2024 - Primary for Special Election (only needed if more than two candidates file for office).
 - November 13, 2024 - Canvass of results for the Special Election Primary, if needed.
 - February 11, 2025 - General Election Day for the Special Election.
 - February 14, 2025 - Canvass of results for the Special Election.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Frethem, Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: Mee Cheng
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board