

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: David Chanski, City Administrator
RE: VOTER Account Agreement with CWC
DATE: October 2, 2023



Background

The Minnesota State Legislature created an annual statewide \$1.25 million appropriation for the Voting Operations, Technology, & Elections Resources (VOTER) account as part of the most recent legislative session. 20% of these funds will be distributed equally between all 88 counties in Minnesota (roughly \$2,800 per county). The remaining 80% will be distributed based on proportion of registered voters, which would result in Crow Wing County receiving roughly \$15,600.

By default, the \$15,600 received by Crow Wing County must be allocated 50% for county use, 25% for each unit administering absentee voting, and 25% to each municipality based on proportion of registered voters. Crow Wing County will automatically retain 75% of the funds as they administer all absentee voting within the county. The remaining 25% would equate to an allocation of approximately \$76.89 per precinct (Breezy Point has only one precinct).

County Request

Crow Wing County is requesting that municipalities enter into an agreement with them to allow the County to retain the entire \$15,600 VOTER account allotment (see attached letter from Crow Wing County Administrative Services Director Debby Erickson). The reasoning behind this request is the County currently absorbs all costs associated with the purchase and maintenance of all election related equipment and supplies (e.g. poll pads, tabulators, ballots, stickers, etc.) for every precinct within the county.

Council Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached agreement with Crow Wing County for the County to retain the City's VOTER account allocation for qualifying election related expenditures.