



CITY OF
LONG LAKE

City Council Agenda Report

City of Long Lake

450 Virginia Avenue, PO Box 606
Long Lake, MN 55356

MEETING DATE / January 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Resolution Regarding the Tally of Write-In Votes for Municipal Elections

Prepared By: Jeanette Moeller, City Clerk

Report Date: 1/13/2026

Recommended City Council Action

Staff recommends the following:

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-05 governing the tally of write-in votes for City offices in municipal elections.

Overview / Background

In 2023, Minnesota Statute 204B.09, subd. 3(b)(2) was amended to allow statutory cities to adopt a Resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local elective office. The options to change the tallying of write-in votes are:

- (1) To require that write-in votes for an office only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate; or
- (2) To require candidates to file a written request by no later than the 19th day before the City election for their write-in votes to be individually recorded (required of candidates for County, State and Federal offices).

As the Council is aware, often write-in votes are cast for fictional characters or candidates not eligible to service in local office (i.e. 'Bart Simpson', 'Anyone Else'). Voters also frequently cast write-in votes for themselves or someone they know. Reviewing and recording these write-in votes routinely requires hours of staff and election judge time following an election.

Staff recommends adoption of the attached Resolution to require the tally of write-in votes if the total number of write-ins for an office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a candidate on the ballot. Once adopted, the Resolution will remain in effect until any subsequent Resolution is adopted to change the requirement.

Supporting Information

- Resolution No. 2026-05