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**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

**Date:** October 14, 2021

**Subject:** Joint Powers Agreement with Anoka County for Elections

The City of Spring Lake Park has been a part of a Joint Powers Agreement for election expenses since 2013. The agreement has been a success, resulting in reduced costs, streamlined operation, and eliminated redundancies and inefficiencies in the operation our elections.

Anoka County has proposed a new election joint powers agreement with four changes:

1. The dates of the agreement will be updated to create another four-year term with an auto renewal for each subsequent calendar year. The new agreement would begin on January 1, 2022.
2. References to the North Suburban Hospital District will be removed from the agreement as it dissolved in 2019.
3. Census data language will be updated to use current census data for cost allocation, instead of referencing the 2010 census data.
4. With the growth of absentee voting by mail, Anoka County has absorbed the postage costs associated with mailing out the ballots. The proposed JPA would allocate absentee ballot postage expenses based on the same formula that is used for ballot costs. Anoka County will still pay the vast majority of absentee ballot postage costs, but the City will be responsible for some of these costs. Based on 2020 actual figures, I anticipate this change to result in an increase of approximately \$500.

Staff believes the City has benefited from the partnership with Anoka County Elections and recommends approval of the JPA.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.