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050510
SUBSTITUTE 1
050304
THE CHAIR
Substitute resolution directing the Intergovernmental Relations Division - Department of Administration to seek introduction of state legislation necessary for implementing various recommendations of the City Election Task Force.
This resolution directs the Intergovernmental Relations Division - Department of Administration to seek introduction and passage of state legislation necessary for implementing various recommendations of the City Election Task Force for improving the election system.
Whereas, The Election Commission conducts all aspects of elections in the City of Milwaukee; and

Whereas, In November 2004, the City's election process was tested by the sheer size of the election and challenges resulting from the political dynamics surrounding the presidential race; and

Whereas, It is of utmost importance to conduct elections that build public trust in the democratic process and encourage registration and voting by eligible residents; and

Whereas, The City Election Task Force, formed by the Mayor, issued a report on June 27, 2005, containing a number of recommendations for improving the election system in ways that would ensure efficient, well-run elections and restore pride and confidence in the system; and

Whereas, Some of these recommendations require changes in state statutory provisions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Department of Administration - Intergovernmental Relations Division is authorized to seek introduction and passage of state legislation to:

1. Prohibit the compensation of deputy registrars based on the number of registration cards completed.
2. Establish an earlier "cut-off" date for voter pre-registration of 21 to 29 days prior to an election, in lieu of the current 13-day deadline.
3. Allow electors to vote by absentee ballot at a "satellite" location.
4. Allow for the processing of absentee ballots at a "satellite" location rather than at the polls.
5. Advance the statutory deadline for voter submittal of absentee ballot request applications to at least 7 days prior to the election, in lieu of the current deadline of 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to an election.

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TWM/cac

9/15/2005