

# City of Ramsey Election Scenarios

# 2023 Uniform Election Dates

- Second Tuesday in February – February 14, 2023
  - Second Tuesday in April – April 11, 2023
  - Second Tuesday in May – May 9, 2023
  - Second Tuesday in August – August 8, 2023
  - First Tuesdays after first Monday in November – November 7, 2023
- The City has followed the uniform election dates since it took effect on January 1, 2018. We used the uniform election dates and timelines for the 8-13-2019 Special, the 11-5-2019 Special and the 2-9-2021 Special. Adding the State Statute to our Charter will add clear deadlines and more clarity to running elections.

State Statute §205.10 Subd. 3a.

Uniform election dates. (a) Except as allowed in paragraph (b) and subdivision 4, a special election held in a city or town must be held on one of the following dates: the second Tuesday in February, the second Tuesday in April, the second Tuesday in May, the second Tuesday in August, or the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. A home rule charter city must not designate additional dates in its charter.

# Uniform Election Months with Corresponding General Election Months

February Primary

➤ April General

April Primary

➤ August General

May Primary

➤ August General

August Primary

➤ November General

November Primary

➤ February General

## Notice Needed

Candidate Filing Notice based on State Statute 205.13 Subd. 2  
Requires at least two weeks published notice before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy. Published notice is required at least 98 days before the election, which is a Tuesday. Our local newspaper requires notice by Wednesday at 10am prior to the weekly Friday publication. In order to meet the statutory deadline, we need 104 days' notice. Before the publication can happen, Council needs to pass a resolution calling for a special election. A conservative number of days' notice needed would be **125** days prior to the primary special election date.

## Possible Option to shorten up Vacancy

- There is nothing in State Statute that prohibits moving up a Special General election if a Primary is not necessary
- The State Elections department stated several cities and school districts regularly move up their Special General when a Primary election is not necessary
- The process to utilize that option would be to state it in the resolution passed by Council calling for a special election
- This would shorten up a vacancy to approximately 5 months as oppose to 7-9 months
- The Charter Commission has recommended adding section 4.5.5 to the Charter to provide that option
- Council is not required, but *may* choose to use that option if it is added to the Charter

# 2023 Example Scenarios

## February 14, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by October 12, 2022*

- Primary (if needed) would be February 14, 2023
- Special General Election would be April 11, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **7 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on February 14, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

## April 11, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by December 7, 2022*

- Primary (if needed) would be April 11, 2023
- Special General Election would be August 8, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **9 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on April 11, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

## May 9, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by January 4, 2023*

- Primary (if needed) would be May 9, 2023
- Special General Election would be August 8, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **8 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on May 9, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

## August 8, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by April 5, 2023*

- Primary (if needed) would be August 8, 2023
- Special General Election would be November 7, 2023
- Vacancy for approximately **8 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on August 8, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

## November 7, 2023 Special Primary *Notice Needed by July 5, 2023*

- Primary (if needed) would be November 7, 2023
- Special General Election would be February 13, 2024
- Vacancy for approximately **8 months**
- *If the Charter is updated to move up the Special General if two or less candidates file, then Special General would take place on November 7, 2023*
- Vacancy for approximately **5 months**

# Actual Past Examples

## August 13, 2019 Special General Election Councilmember At-Large

- Resignation notice received November 6, 2018
- Special Primary Election (if needed) would have been April 9, 2019
- Special Election took place on August 13, 2019
- The Councilmember attended their first meeting on August 27, 2019
- *Vacancy for approximately **8 months***

## November 5, 2019 Special General Election Councilmember Ward 3

- Resignation notice received April 9, 2019
- Special Primary Election (if needed) would have been August 13, 2019
- Special Election took place on November 5, 2019
- The Councilmember attended their first meeting on November 26, 2019
- *Vacancy for approximately **7 months***

## February 9, 2021 Special General Election Councilmember Ward 1

- Resignation notice received July 14, 2020
- Special Primary Election (if needed) would have been November 3, 2020
- Special Election took place on February 9, 2021
- The Councilmember attended their first meeting on March 9, 2021
- *Vacancy for approximately **7 months***