

**Subject** Election of Metropolitan Council members

**Authors** Hornstein

**Analyst** Chelsea Griffin

**Date** April 22, 2022

### Overview

This bill provides for the election of members to the Metropolitan Council (“council”) and specifies the procedures and requirements for that process. Conforming changes are made throughout the Minnesota Statutes.

### Summary

Section	Description
1, 8-18, 21-24	<b>Conforming changes.</b> Adds or strikes “Metropolitan Council” or equivalent terms from the appropriate statutes due to the change to an elected council. Cross-reference changes are also made.
2	<b>Place of filing.</b> Requires a council member to file the required statement of economic interest with the state Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“board”).
3	<b>Amounts.</b> Sets the maximum campaign expenditure amounts for a council member at \$90,000 in the election segment and \$30,000 in the nonelection segment of the election cycle.
4	<b>Contribution limits.</b> Sets the maximum aggregate contribution amount to a Metropolitan Council candidate’s campaign at \$1,000 in both the election and nonelection segments of the election cycle.
5	<b>[10A.313] Metropolitan Council public subsidy.</b> <b>Subd. 1. Funding.</b> Requires the council to provide sufficient money to pay the public subsidy under this section.

**Section Description**

---

**Subd. 2. Eligibility.** States that a candidate is eligible to receive a public subsidy in the amount of \$20,000 if (1) the candidate has filed a spending limit agreement and an affidavit of contributions with the board, (2) the candidate was opposed in the primary election or will be opposed in the general election, and (3) the candidate's name will appear on the ballot in the general election.

**Subd. 3. Certification.** Requires the board to certify to the council the maximum number of candidates eligible to receive the public subsidy within a week of the filing deadline for the spending limit agreement and affidavit of contributions. The council must pay the board the amount necessary to fund the public subsidy for the maximum amount of candidates within a week of receipt of the board's certification. Deposit and appropriation of the funds is specified.

**Subd. 4. Payment.** Requires the board to pay the public subsidy to the eligible candidates as soon as the board receives primary election results from the secretary of state, but no later than one week after certification by the State Canvassing Board of the results of the primary. Any amount not paid to or returned by the candidates must be returned to the council.

**6 Special election subsidy.**

Requires each eligible candidate for the council in a special election to be paid a public subsidy equal to the general election subsidy, so long as certain criteria are met.

**7 Affidavit of contributions.**

Requires a candidate for the council to have accumulated contributions of at least \$3,000 from eligible voters to be eligible to receive a public subsidy.

**19 [204D.265] Vacancy in office of metropolitan council member.**

**Subd. 1. Special election.** Provides that a vacancy in a Metropolitan Council office must be filled by appointment, unless a member is unable to serve due to illness or absence from or refusal to attend council meetings for a 90-day period. If the vacancy occurs before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy for the next regular election and more than two years remain in the unexpired term, a special election must be held.

**Subd. 2. When victor seated immediately.** Requires a vacancy that occurs less than 60 days before a general election preceding the end of the term to be filled by the general election victor.

**Subd. 3. Inability or refusal to serve.** Allows a vacancy on the council to be declared by the council when a member is unable to serve in the office or attend council meetings for a 90-day period due to illness or absence from or refusal to

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
	attend council meetings. A declared vacancy may be filled by appointment for either the remainder of the unexpired term or until the ill or absent member may resume duties, whichever is earlier.
20	<b>Special Metropolitan Council election.</b> States the procedure and timing of the declaration of special election results for a council member.
25	<b>Creation.</b> Requires the council to have 16 members and a chair, all appointed by the governor, until the completion of redistricting following the 2020 census. After completion of redistricting, the council shall be supervised and controlled by 17 elected members.
26	<b>Terms.</b> Provides for staggered, four-year terms for council members.
27	<b>Membership.</b> Requires the 17 council members to be elected and each member must reside in the district the member represents.
28	<b>Redistricting.</b> Requires council members to be elected in the year ending in the number "4" from each newly drawn district after redistricting.
29	<b>Chair, officer, and selection; duties and compensation.</b> Requires the chair of the council to be appointed by the governor until the completion of redistricting following the 2020 federal census. After redistricting, the chair must be elected from and by the council members for a two-year term.
30	<b>Compensation.</b> Provides that each council member must be paid as authorized by the council. The members and chair must also be reimbursed for expenses.
31	<b>Transition.</b> Uncodified section providing that the council members and chair serving at the time this act becomes effective shall continue to serve until the first Monday in January 2022. Council members must be elected in the 2022 general election. Members elected to represent an odd-numbered district shall serve a two-year term and members elected to represent an even-numbered district shall serve a four-year term. Then the terms shall be the four-year staggered terms as provided in section 26.

Section	Description
32	<b>Repealer.</b> Repeals the subdivisions governing terms and council membership under current law. Also repeals a 1994 session law providing for the salaries of council members and the council chair.
33	<b>Effective date; application.</b> Provides that the act is effective for the state primary in 2022 and thereafter. The act applies in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155