Holly Licht

From: Holly Licht
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Regina Hirsch; Greg Jenson; Tim Swadley
Cc: Jean Ligocki
Subject: RE: absentee ballot applications

Good Afternoon,

I definitely think it's something to consider given the current situation. If this is something the council would be interested in doing, I would recommend that we do it this summer. If we wait until the fall, my office will be slammed with requests and won't be able to keep up. This was this biggest challenge for the April Election. We had thousands of requests come in within a 2 week period.

There is currently a group Wisconsin called the Voter Participation Center that mails out absentee ballot request forms to voters. You may have even received one at your house—I know I did in Madison. I would say that 75% of these requests that we get back in our office are incomplete. Mostly, voters do not include their photo ID with the request. This creates quite a challenge, as then we have to contact the voter to get that information. In most cases, the only contact info we have for the voter is their address, so then we have to send them a letter which is another cost and significantly slows down the process. If we go forward with mailing out the requests we will have to ensure we include adequate instructions.

I would estimate that we probably have around 1000 voters that have already requested a ballot for the calendar year or are indefinitely confined and receive a ballot every election.

We would be looking at mailing out approximately 7200 absentee ballot requests.

Postage Costs: $3600
Envelope Costs: $393
Printing Costs: $360

Staff time would be hard to calculate as we would have to account for the time it would take us to assemble, data entry of returned requests and dealing with the incomplete requests.

Since we are on the subject, someone asked me the other day about the cost of sending out 1 absentee ballot. That is below.

Postage for outer envelope: $0.65
Postage for return envelope: $0.50
Outer envelope cost: $0.11
Return envelope cost: $0.13
Printing costs of inserts: $0.05 (rough estimate)

Total cost per ballot: $1.44

That does not include the staff time to process the application, put together the materials to send out, checking them back into the office and the poll worker's time processing them on Election Day.

Let me know if you have further questions. I'm open to exploring all the options available to us.

Holly Licht, WCMC
City Clerk
City of Stoughton
608-873-6692
207 S. Forrest St.

From: Regina Hirsch
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Greg Jenson <GJenson@ci.stoughton.wi.us>; Tim Swadley <TSwadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us>; Holly Licht <HLicht@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Cc: Jean Ligocki <jligocki@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Subject: RE: absentee ballot applications

Another article of interest on the subject.

https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/a-20-year-history-of-success-gop-secretary-of-state-says-oregon-shows-mail-in-voting-is-secure-effective.html

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

-------- Original message --------
From: Regina Hirsch <RHirsch@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Date: 4/24/20 1:05 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Greg Jenson <GJenson@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Tim Swadley <TSwadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Holly Licht <HLicht@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Cc: Jean Ligocki <jligocki@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Subject: RE: absentee ballot applications

Greg,
Very interesting, as yesterday after I saw that article I sent a text to Jean Ligocki to see if she would put it on the CA/CP agenda. I think that is a logical place to start and then bring it to full council once we have hashed out the pros and cons.
Hopefully, Jean will put it on the agenda.

Take care,
Regina

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

-------- Original message --------
From: Greg Jenson <GJenson@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Date: 4/23/20 6:10 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Tim Swadley <TSwadley@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Regina Hirsch <RHirsch@ci.stoughton.wi.us>, Holly Licht <HLicht@ci.stoughton.wi.us>
Subject: absentee ballot applications

Good evening all;
Earlier today I emailed Holly regarding the action taken be the Milwaukee Common Council to mail out absentee applications to all registered voters in Milwaukee. My follow up question to Holly is if we were to do this, what would be the financial impact to the Clerks budget? My question to our new President (again, congratulations Regina) and to Mayor Tim is do we want to bring this idea to Council? Just wanted to run this by you first.

Best regards,

Greg Jenson
City of Stoughton
3rd Dist. Alderperson
Council Vice President
Sent from my Galaxy Tab A