



**DATE:** June 22, 2026

**TITLE:** Change to Write-in Vote Tally Process

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Joey Page, Superintendent

**BACKGROUND:** Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.09, provides that a school board may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for school board elections. The resolution may require that write-in votes for an individual candidate for the school board only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate.

**RATIONALE:** Providing a detailed roster of all write-in votes on the final election tally can be very time consuming and requires resources that do not result in a change of election results unless a single write-in candidate receives more votes than a ballot candidate. It would be more efficient to enact the statute allowing the streamlining of this tally process for write-in votes.

**RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend the adoption of the resolution requiring the tally of write-in votes only if write-in votes are greater than a ballot candidate's total votes. The resolution would remain in effect for all future elections until and unless a subsequent resolution is adopted by the school board.

**RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE TALLY OF WRITE-IN VOTES  
ONLY IF WRITE-IN VOTES ARE GREATER THAN  
A BALLOT CANDIDATE'S TOTAL VOTES**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.09, provides that a school board may adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for school board elections. The resolution may require that write-in votes for an individual candidate for the school board only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate; and

**WHEREAS**, the write-in vote counting process can be overly time consuming and require resources that does not result in a change of election results unless a single write-in candidate receives more votes than a ballot candidate.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No 492, Austin Public Schools, State of Minnesota, that the school board requires that write-in votes for an individual candidate for the school board will only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for that office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate. If not enough people filed for open positions and one of the open positions needs to be filled by a write-in candidate, then all write-in votes will be counted.

This resolution shall remain effective for all future elections until and unless a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the school board.

The motion for adoption for the Resolution was made by Member \_\_\_\_\_, duly seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted by Independent School District No. 492.

Austin Public Schools, State of Minnesota, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2026.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk