



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Change in election schedule approved for County's 7th District

The St. Louis County Board has approved a change to its election rotation schedule to create staggered terms for northern commissioners. As a result, the 7th District Commissioner position currently held by Steve Raukar, which covers the southwestern quarter of the County, including Floodwood, Meadowlands and Hibbing; and is up for election this fall, will be for just a two-year term this time. All subsequent elections will be for standard four-year terms.

Historically, the District Seven seat was up for election during opposite years as the other two northern commissioner seats. This was intended to provide stability and ensure institutional memory on the Board so that the commissioners in those three positions couldn't all retire or be defeated at the same time. However, since the 2002 court order that ended the court case regarding the St. Louis County Board's redistricting decision, all three Iron Range Commissioners have been on the same election rotation. That court order expired in 2012, and the Board felt it important to return the three northern districts to staggered terms.

Special legislation was required to do this, and that bill was signed into law last week. Tuesday's vote by the County Board approved that legislation, designating that the election for a two-year term would take place in 2014, and the schedule would return to four-year terms beginning in 2016.

The filing period for anyone interested in running for the District Seven Commissioner position opens next week, and runs May 20-June 3. Three other commissioner positions also will be on the ballot this November: Districts One, Four and Six.

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