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2023 RES-207

INCREASING HOURLY RATE FOR BOARD OF CANVASSERS

The Board of Canvassers provides an essential role during elections in Dane County. The Board of Canvassers canvasses the election results after each election and participates in all recount activities should there be recounts.

The current per diem rate for the Board of Canvassers is \$50 per day. The Board of Canvassers also receives mileage at the standard rate. In recent years, the workload of board members has increased as have the number of recounts; for example, Board of Canvassers work, on average, during presidential recounts, 16 hours a day for 6-8 days, which is higher than previous years. The compensation does not adequately reimburse board members for their time and work. Also, due to the importance and notoriety of these positions and the current political environment, the potential for threats has significantly increased over the last several years.

These circumstances make it difficult to recruit and retain experienced, knowledgeable, and dependable board members. The current compensation for the Board of Canvassers does not align with the workload and the increased risk of threats. The data available on public board wages in the area indicates \$36 per hour is the average compensation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to fairly and appropriately compensate the Board of Canvassers for their hard work that they receive an hourly rate of \$36 per hour in addition to mileage.