

## 2009 City Elections: Linn County, IA

### What is a Majority?

What is a majority of votes?

How does the county figure out the winners and which candidates move on to a run off election?

Here is one example from the Iowa Secretary of State.

If there is more than one person to be elected to an office, a majority of the vote is determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Majority} = ((\text{Total number of votes cast}) / (\text{Number of seats to be filled})/2) + 1$$

#### **For example:**

The city of Stoneybrook has three (3) at-large council seats to be filled. There were three (3) candidates on the ballot; Marion Woodbury was a write-in candidate.

Their vote totals were as follows:

<b>Candidate Name</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Taylor Hancock	128
Des Moines-Grundy	167
Marion Woodbury	234
Carroll Worth	471
Total Votes	1000

1. Divide the total number of votes cast for the office by the number of seats to be filled: 1,000 (votes) divided by 3 (number of seats to be filled) = 333.3
2. Round fractions up (there is no way to receive less than a whole vote): 333.3 becomes 334.
3. Divide the result from step 2 in half.  $334/2 = 167$
4. Add one (1) = 168 votes are needed to be elected.
5. Worth and Woodbury both are elected. Woodbury, the write in candidate, does not need to file an affidavit of candidacy; she is elected to the office.

A runoff election between Hancock and Des Moines-Grundy must be held for the third seat. [§376.9:§376.11]