



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

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Legislative File No: 2020-0379

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Tina Barton, City Clerk
DATE: 09/11/2020
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 757

REQUEST:

The Clerk's Office is requesting the support of Council in urging Michigan Senate Majority Leader Shirkey to take up Senate Bill 757 for a vote of the full Senate as soon as possible so it can be enacted in time for the November 3, 2020 General Election

BACKGROUND:

Since the passage of Proposal 18-3 in 2018 that authorized no-reason absentee voting, we have been predicting that Michigan Election Law would need to be revised to allow more time for absent voter counting boards (AVCB) to process the expected increase in absentee ballots. Senate Bill 757 which was introduced by State Senator Ruth Johnson and passed by the Michigan Senate Elections Committee in February, 2020, would allow pre-processing of absentee ballots by the AVCB on the Monday prior to Election Day.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a shift in voting habits of Rochester Hills voters from 40% absentee voting during the August 2018 election to 74% in the August, 2020 election. Michigan Election Law currently allows the processing of absentee ballots to begin at 7 AM on Election Day, and to continue through Election Day until all ballots are processed. The Rochester Hills City Clerk's Office currently has more than 25,000 absentee ballot applications on file for the November 3 General Election, with a total number of ballot applications expected to reach 30,000, the highest number of absentee ballots ever issued in Rochester Hills's history. Senate Bill 757 continues to be discussed by the Michigan Legislature, and has received bipartisan support from legislators, from the Michigan Secretary of State, and from Clerks and Election Officials throughout Michigan, but has not been taken up for a vote of the full Senate.

RECOMMENDATION:

We are recommending that Council urge Senate Majority Leader Shirkey to take up Senate Bill 757 for a vote of the full Senate as soon as possible so it can be enacted in time for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
Deputy Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney Yes N/A