



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248.656.4630
www.rochesterhills.org

Legislative File No: 2025-0091

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Leanne Scott, City Clerk
DATE: February 26, 2025
SUBJECT: Permanent Consolidation of Voting Precincts

REQUEST:

Request for approval from City Council to permanently consolidate the number of election-day precincts from 32 to 21 as permitted under MCL 168.658.

BACKGROUND:

Due to the passing of Proposal 2 by the electors in November 2022, significant changes have been made to Michigan Election law and how we now conduct elections. One of those would be the implementation of nine (9) days of Early Voting. Another is increasing the number of registered voters assigned to a single precinct from 2,999 to 4,999. A third is the growing popularity of the permanent ballot list.

With the passing of Proposal 3 in 2018, no-reason absentee was implemented which contributed to a significant increase in absentee voters. To accommodate the ever-increasing numbers of absentee voters, 8 days of pre-processing absentee ballots was also included in Proposal 2.

Voter turnout in the November 2024 general election was 75% of our registered voters. Of that total 68% voted via absentee or early voting. We continue to anticipate this shift in voter behavior over the next several years.

Due to absentee voting and the increasing popularity of early voting, coupled with the growing numbers of registered voters requesting to be on the Permanent Ballot list, we believe it is prudent to decrease the number of election-day precincts. Doing so would allow for savings to be realized in inspector wages, testing and maintenance of voting equipment, as well as the purchase of new equipment in 2027. The proposed consolidated precinct list is included your packet.

A meeting of the city's Election Commission was held on Friday, February 21, 2025 to discuss the topic of consolidating precincts. A thorough review of registered versus active voters, as well as the number of electors voting absentee, early, and on Election Day were reviewed. The members of the Election Commission voted unanimously to move forward with consolidating the city's current 32 precincts into 21 precincts.

Decreasing the number of election-day precincts will save the City an average of \$28,000 per election. We generally have two elections per year (primary and general) and three in a Presidential year. Additionally, we anticipate significant savings when purchasing new equipment in 2027 due to the decrease in the number of tabulators, ADA voting machines and printers needed for each precinct. Lastly, we anticipate an additional savings of approximately \$24,408 annually for the maintenance of this equipment.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council approval of the permanent consolidation of the city’s election-day precincts to 21 effective immediately as permitted by MCL 168.658

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
City Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney Yes N/A