



Item Number: 5

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** April 15, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Committee of the Whole  
**LIAISON:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**FROM:** Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution providing for the publication of and setting a date to consider a proposed ordinance amending Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids entitled "Voting Precincts" to update the boundaries of certain precincts**

Michigan voters approved Proposal 3 of 2018 and Proposal 2 of 2022 that made monumental changes to the Michigan Constitution enshrining many voting rights including the right for all voters to apply for an absentee ballot without a reason and 9 days of early voting before a federal or statewide election. These two fundamental updates to the way voters engage in the election system make it necessary to review the precinct boundaries and polling locations. Michigan state law states that the city Election Commission has the authority to change precinct boundaries, and the City Commission has the authority to approve the polling location in said precincts. The Michigan Legislature passed an amendment to the minimum number of voters per precinct from 2,999 to 4,999.

Many cities and townships reduced the number of precincts prior to the 2024 election season, but the Clerk's Office waited until data was available following the 2024 Presidential Election. The table below shows the turnout and method of voting in November 2024. The average turnout in the Election Day precinct was 571 voters. This is substantially less than 2016, which was 901 voters per precinct. With the increase of voters choosing absentee and early voting, it is prudent to reduce the number of precincts. The cost savings of reducing precincts can be shifted to the increased costs to facilitate Absentee and Early voting.

Registered	Voted	%	Precinct	Absentee	Early
152,226	97,677	64.17%	42,222	34,909	20,546

***November 2024 Turnout***

The Election Commission and City Clerk's Office requests that the City Commission approve the attached Polling Locations for each precinct.

After adoption, the City Clerk's office will update all Precinct Maps and the Michigan Qualified Voter File Street Index. The Clerk's office will also mail new Voter Identification Cards to all affected voters.

Attached to this memo are new Precinct Maps, a precinct directory of Polling Locations, a comparison chart of old and new precincts, and the Election Commission Meeting Minutes.

The attached resolution would authorize publication of a proposed ordinance to amend the Voting Precinct section of the Code of Ordinances. The resolution would also schedule the date of April 29, 2025, for consideration of and vote on the proposed ordinance amendment.

Please place this item on the next available Committee of the Whole agenda. Thank you.

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution approving Election Day polling locations.

WHEREAS:

1. Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.657, establishes that the Election Commission has the duty to establish the boundaries of election precincts; and
2. Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.662, establishes that the City Commission has the duty to designate polling places; and
3. Michigan Election Law, MCL 169.661, establishes that the number of registered voters may not exceed 4,999 registered voters; and
4. The Election Commission met February 21, 2025, to approve the revision of the boundaries of certain precincts; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. The attached ordinance amending Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids shall be published as part of the proceedings; and
2. The proposed ordinance shall be considered for adoption on April 29, 2025; and
3. In accordance with Title V, Section 10(b) of the Grand Rapids City Charter, the attached ordinance shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the City of Grand Rapids.

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH ELECTION PRECINCTS  
PURSUANT TO TITLE I, SECTION 5(a) OF THE CITY CHARTER,  
BY AMENDING SECTION 1.46 OF CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE I OF  
THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS DO ORDAIN:**

Section 1. That Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids be amended to read as follows:

“Section 1.41. Voting Precincts.

That pursuant to Title I, Section 5(a) of the Charter of the City of Grand Rapids, the City Commission hereby establishes fifty-nine (59) election precincts with the boundaries shown on the Election Precinct Map filed with the City Clerk.”

Section 2. The City Clerk shall give all notices required by law of the establishment of such precinct boundaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

1. The City Commission approves the list of polling locations as provided by the City Clerk's Office.

  
CORRECT IN FORM  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW