



Date: August 18, 2026
To: Election Commission
From: Kalla Langston-Weiss, City Clerk
Subject: Proposed Permanent Consolidation of City Election Precincts

The City of Buchanan is currently divided into two election precincts. The City's existing ordinance establishes Precinct No. 1 and Precinct No. 2 and divides the precincts generally along the centerline of Front Street. doc00467420260910094302

Michigan Election Law permits a city with no more than 4,999 active registered electors to abolish existing precinct divisions and operate as a single election precinct. MCL 168.658 also provides that, in a city, this action may be taken by the election commission or by other officials charged with that duty under the city charter. The statute further provides that a consolidation may not be made later than 120 days before a primary or election.

Because the City Charter requires Buchanan's precinct structure to be established by ordinance, the City Commission will ultimately need to amend the existing ordinance before the City can permanently move from two precincts to one. The purpose of the proposed Election Commission resolution is therefore to formally support the consolidation and recommend that the City Commission begin the ordinance amendment process following the November 3, 2026 General Election.

No change is proposed for the November 3, 2026 General Election. Precinct No. 1 and Precinct No. 2 would remain in place for that election under the City's current ordinance.

Following the November General Election, staff would bring an ordinance amendment before the City Commission to establish one election precinct encompassing the entire corporate limits of the City of Buchanan. After the ordinance is adopted and effective, the City would complete the required election-administration steps, including coordination with the Berrien County Clerk and the Michigan Bureau of Elections, updating precinct information in the Qualified Voter File, and providing any required voter notices. Michigan Bureau of Elections guidance states that permanent precinct changes and precinct renumbering require updated voter identification cards to be generated in QVF and mailed to affected voters.

The polling place for the new single precinct would be designated separately by the appropriate City authority. Staff currently anticipates recommending Buchanan City Hall as the polling place so that all City voters would vote at one location on Election Day.

Recommended Action:

Adopt the accompanying resolution supporting the permanent consolidation of the City of Buchanan's two existing election precincts into one citywide election precinct and recommending that the City Commission consider the necessary ordinance amendment following the November 3, 2026 General Election.