Date: 11/5/2026

To: City Commission

From: Kalla Langston-Weiss, City Clerk

Subject: November 3rd, 2026, General Election

Election Overview

The City of Buchanan successfully conducted the November 3, 2026, General Election. Both city precincts, the Absent Voter Counting Board (AVCB), and early voting have completed their election reporting.

A total of 1,707 voters participated in the General Election, with reported voter turnout of 44% in Precinct 1 and 48% in Precinct 2. The Clerk's Office also processed 17 same-day voter registrations on Election Day.

Voter Participation and Turnout

The following is a breakdown of voter participation by voting method:

Voting Method	Voters	Percentage of Total
Election Day – Precinct 1	673	39.4%
Election Day – Precinct 2	523	30.6%
Absentee Voting	423	24.8%
Early Voting	88	5.2%
Total Voters	**1,707**	**100%**

Precinct Turnout:

- Precinct 1: 44%
- Precinct 2: 48%

Election Day voting accounted for 1,196 voters, representing approximately 70.1% of total participation. An additional 511 voters, or 29.9%, participated through absentee or early voting. Early voting was conducted October 24 through November 1, 2026, at the consolidated Berrien County early voting location at Lake Charter Township Hall in Bridgman.

Same-Day Voter Registration

The Clerk's Office processed 17 same-day voter registrations on November 3, 2026.Under Michigan election law, eligible residents may register to vote in person at their local clerk's office through 8:00 PM on Election Day with the required proof of residency.

City Commission Election Results

The November 3 election included three open seats on the Buchanan City Commission, each carrying a four-year term. Five candidates appeared on the ballot, and voters could select up to three candidates.

The unofficial results are as follows:

Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total Votes
Raquell George	516	427	**943**
John Backus	429	323	**752**
Mark W. Weedon	332	246	**578**
Daniel R. Vigansky	308	256	**564**
Tony Houser	196	166	**362**
Write-in	41	27	**68**

Based on the unofficial results, Raquell George, John Backus, and Mark W. Weedon received the three highest vote totals. The difference between the third- and fourth-place candidates was 14 votes.

Buchanan City Dial-A-Ride Millage Renewal

Voters also considered the Buchanan City Dial-A-Ride Millage Renewal proposal.

The unofficial results were:

Response	Votes	Percentage
Yes	**1,023**	**64.02%**
No	575	35.98%
Total Votes Cast	**1,598**	**100%**

Based on the unofficial results, the Dial-A-Ride Millage Renewal received majority voter approval, with 64.02% voting in favor and 35.98% voting against.

The proposal received 448 more Yes votes than No votes.

Of the 1,707 voters who participated in the election, 1,598 cast a vote on the Dial-A-Ride proposal, leaving a difference of 109 voters who did not record a vote on the proposal.

Election Administration and Challenger Observations

The November 3, 2026, General Election required coordination between the City Clerk's Office, precinct election inspectors, absentee ballot counting board inspectors, Berrien County election officials, and the consolidated early voting operation.

Both precincts opened at 7:00 AM and closed at 8:00 PM. Following the close of polls, election inspectors completed the required ballot reconciliation, equipment closing procedures, and preparation of election materials for delivery to Berrien County.

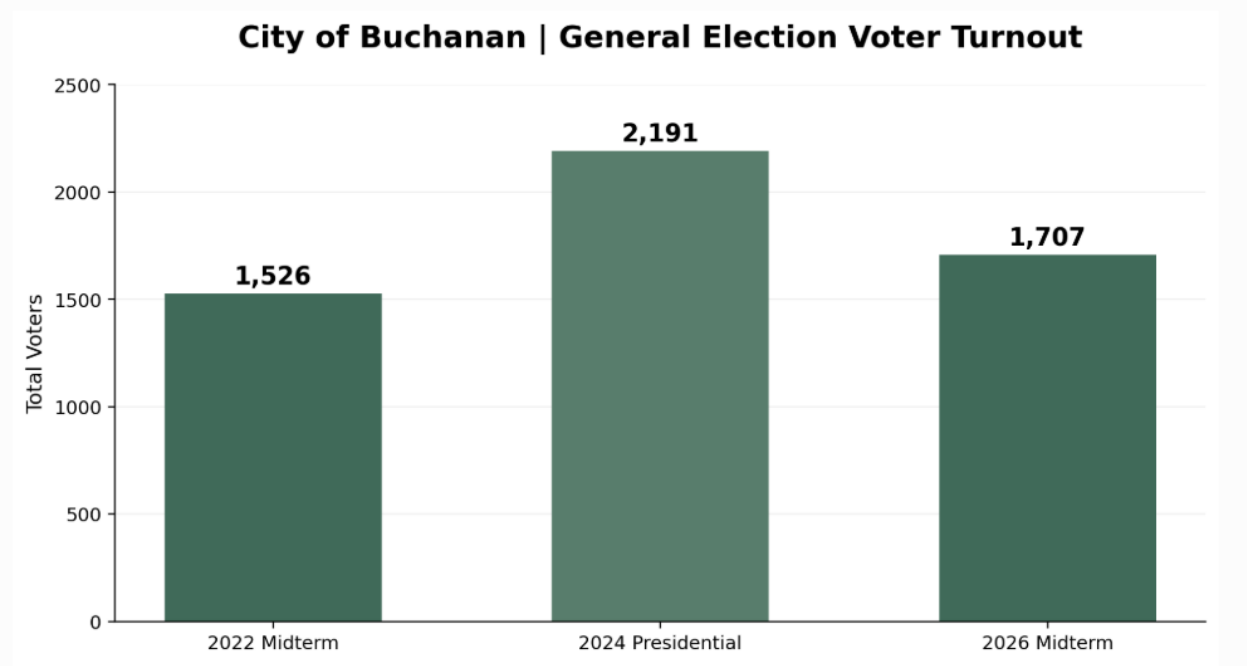
I am especially pleased to report that every election challenger who observed our precincts and the Absent Voter Counting Board commented on how smoothly and efficiently the election operations were conducted**.** Their positive feedback reflects the preparation, professionalism, and dedication of our election inspectors and AVCB workers.

This recognition is particularly meaningful coming from individuals whose role is to independently observe election procedures. It is a testament to the hard work of our election teams and their commitment to conducting an organized, transparent, and well-run election.

General Election Voter Turnout Comparison (2022–2026)

The City of Buchanan recorded a total of 1,707 voters during the November 3, 2026 General Election, compared to 2,191 voters during the November 2024 Presidential Election and 1,526 voters during the November 2022 Midterm Election.

Although participation in 2026 was lower than during the 2024 Presidential Election, the City experienced an increase of 181 voters, or approximately 11.9%, compared to the previous midterm election in 2022.



Appreciation

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our election inspectors, chairpersons, co-chairpersons, and AVCB workers for their dedication and hard work throughout this election.

These individuals put in long hours and carry significant responsibilities to ensure elections are conducted accurately, securely, and in accordance with Michigan election law. I would also like to thank the residents of Buchanan for exercising their right to vote and for their patience and cooperation throughout the election process. It continues to be a privilege to serve the residents of Buchanan as their City Clerk and Chief Election Official.