

Staff Report

Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement to Conduct Municipal Special Election
Author: Laura Bassett, Director of Elections
Department: Elections and Registration
Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

Item Description: Consideration to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Effingham County Board of Elections to conduct the May 19, 2026, Special Election for the City of Guyton and any required runoff election in conjunction with the General Primary.

Summary Recommendation: The City of Guyton has requested that the Effingham County Board of Elections conduct its special election for an open city council seat. The agreement also provides for the administration of a potential runoff election in June 2026, if required.

Executive Summary: The Effingham County Board of Elections has successfully conducted municipal elections in the past. Holding the municipal special election in conjunction with the General Primary is more convenient for voters, as it allows them to vote at one location and receive a single ballot containing all eligible contests. The City of Guyton will reimburse the county for a portion of the election costs associated with administering the municipal election.

Background: The agreement has been approved by the Effingham County Board of Elections, reviewed by the County Attorney, and approved by the Guyton City Council.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve and sign the intergovernmental agreement.
2. Do not approve or sign the intergovernmental agreement. That would require the city to hold its own election.

Recommended Alternative:

Approve alternative 1.

Other Alternatives:

Deny the request.

Department Review:

Funding Source:

Attachments:

1. IGA for City of Guyton