

# CITY OF HARTFORD

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**To: City Manager/Council**

**April 24, 2023**

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## Passage of Proposal 22-2 – Changes to State & Federal Elections

The passage of Proposal 22-2 at the November 2022 election will impact how we administer local elections beginning with presidential primary in 2024. This proposal will significantly impact the City's budget & staff. After meeting with the County Clerk & Bureau of Elections I wanted to make you aware of some new requirements:

1. **Absentee Ballot Application:** voters will have the right to have an absentee ballot sent to them before each election after submitting one absentee ballot application that will cover all future elections. Impact: postage, envelopes, ballot printing costs, additional staff
2. **Voter's Signature Verification:** Clerk's will need to notify the voter if a signature did not sufficiently agree or if the ballot is missing a signature. Impact: training, postage, envelopes, staff time for contacting the voter, tracking to cure the deficiencies.
3. **Drop Boxes:** required for every 15,000 registered voters, under video surveillance and available for 40 days before an election. Impact: must meet strict State standards
4. **Early Voting:** In-person at an early voting site. The site will be open for at least nine consecutive days for at least eight hours a day, beginning on the Second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election. Early voting sites will be governed in the same manner as election-day polling places and can serve voters from more than six precincts and from more than one municipality within a county. Impact: Staff, site fees, additional election equipment, testing, publication, printing costs.

There are still a lot of questions to be answered as the State provides the rules & guidance to conduct early voting. I will keep you informed as the rules become available; this will require some creativity to deliver these services. I believe from the consensus of the group of clerk's in Van Buren County they are in favor of running their own jurisdiction's early voting. Due to limited resources I am in favor of the County Clerk running this service and spreading the costs evenly throughout the jurisdictions.

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht,

City Clerk