

Why I Requested a Special Council Meeting for August 3, 2026

Timeline Regarding the Disincorporation Ballot Petition

This timeline is my personal account of events based on public meeting actions, communications received by me, and conversations attributed below. It is not an official statement of the Village of Lake Orion.

July 6, 2026

Petitioner Robert Reighard filed a County/Local Proposal Petition seeking:

“A vote on the question of whether the Village of Lake Orion shall disincorporate pursuant to Michigan law.”

July 15, 2026

The Charter Township of Orion Clerk issued formal written notice regarding the petition filed on July 6, 2026. The Clerk stated:

“Pursuant to MCL 74.18a, in my capacity as the Township Clerk, I have reviewed and verified the signatures appearing on the petition. I have made a determination that the petition is sufficient under MCL 74.18a.”

The notice further stated:

“Pursuant to MCL 74.23, the Village Council may, no later than its next meeting held after this verification and sufficiency determination, elect by resolution to proceed under the disincorporation-commission process provided by law.”

July 22, 2026

The Village Council held a special meeting. The stated purpose of the meeting was:

“To convene into closed session for the purpose of considering an attorney-client privileged communication regarding the recently submitted disincorporation petition and to reconvene into open session and take any action Council may deem appropriate regarding the same.”

Following the closed session, the Council unanimously voted in open session to receive and file the petition and take no action.

During the open-session discussion, the Village Attorney advised that, if the Council took no action, the disincorporation question would be placed on the November ballot pursuant to the procedures in MCL 74.18a.

MCL 74.18a(4) provides that, unless the Council proceeds under Sections 23 through 23i, if the Township Clerk determines that the petition is sufficient, the disincorporation question shall appear on the ballot at the next general or special election held in the Village, subject to the Michigan Election Law.

July 23, 2026

I contacted the Village Manager and Village Clerk and requested access to the written legal opinion and related records presented by the Village Attorney during the closed session. The printed copies distributed during the closed session had been collected by the Village Attorney.

I was informed that the Village did not possess a copy of the written legal opinion and that requesting another copy from the Village Attorney would incur additional legal expense. I was also informed that the closed-session minutes were not available for public inspection.

After further email exchanges, I discontinued my informal request until I could present a formal request to the Village Council.

July 24, 2026

Petitioner Robert Reighard reported to me that, during a meeting with Township officials, he was told that the Village Manager had contacted the Township Supervisor concerning a possible discussion with attorneys about the ballot proposal.

July 30, 2026 - 8:00 a.m.

Petitioner Robert Reighard reported that the Township Supervisor had informed him that representatives of the Village, Township, and County were discussing the ballot proposal.

July 30, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

During a telephone inquiry to the Oakland County Elections Division, I was told that the proposal was not expected to appear on the November ballot because attorneys representing the governmental entities had concluded that the statutory petition procedure did not apply due to a specific legal theory which was that same that I had previously been presented with at the closed session on July 22, 2026.

I then went to the Elections Division in person and was given substantially the same information. Elections Division staff directed me to submit my concerns to the Director of Elections.

July 30, 2026 - 3:50 p.m.

After speaking with Council Member Dandalides and requesting his support, pursuant to the Village Council Rules, for a special meeting to discuss these developments, I emailed the Village Manager requesting a special Village Council meeting for August 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

July 30, 2026 - 8:04 p.m.

I received an email from the Village Manager notifying the Village Council that the requested special meeting had been scheduled for August 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

July 30, 2026 - 8:50 p.m.

I sent an email to the Director of Elections explaining my concerns.

July 31, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

I hand-delivered a printed copy of my email to the Oakland County Elections Division at 1200 North Telegraph Road.

July 31, 2026 - 5:18 p.m.

The Village Manager forwarded to me an email from the Township Attorney stating that, based on the attorney's advice, the Township did not believe it had authority to stop the ballot proposal. The Township Attorney further stated that he did not believe the Township would remove the proposal from the ballot.