



MEMO

Office of the City Clerk

To: City Manager Marsh and City Council

From: City Clerk/Deputy City Manager Rottmann

Date: September 13, 2023

RE: Agreement for Election Services between Oakland County, Madison Heights and Royal Oak

With the passage of Proposal 22-2, early voting is now a requirement in the State Constitution. Oakland County is taking the lead in most of the facilitation of the early voting sites in the county, along with the purchasing of any necessary equipment and training of election workers. The local communities are responsible for the cost of staffing and public notifications, along with the joint administration of the early voting site when open. There are financial incentives to communities for signing a joint agreement, including the County picking up the cost of equipment through a State grant accessible to county governments. This level of funding is not available to communities that have a stand-alone early voting site.

The cities of Madison Heights and Royal Oak have been partnered for an early voting site and the location of the early voting site will be the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, located at 3500 Marais Avenue (north of 13 Mile Road, east of Crooks). This location was preliminarily agreed upon by both Royal Oak and Madison Heights City Clerks, City administrators, and Oakland County. This location is convenient to both communities' residents, has adequate parking, is handicap accessible, has proper data infrastructure, is available as a dedicated location, as well as provides each of city with the ability to share the load when administering early voting for each election. In addition, another early voting site will be offered to all participating communities' voters at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center which Oakland County is running. Despite the State Constitution only requiring early voting for those elections with State and Federal offices or questions, it is the intention of Oakland County to have all communities that are participating jointly to have early voting for all elections from this point forward, keeping the same location and hours for each early voting site for all elections. Oakland County and municipal election officials agree that we want consistency, ease, familiarity of the early voting location and an overall positive experience when offering this service to our residents. Early voting will be for nine days, beginning the second Saturday prior to each election. The hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except on Thursdays, when the hours will be Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Due to the upcoming election and Oakland County's desire to holding early voting this October, the agreement will need to be voted on at this Council meeting. The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the draft language and I have been advised that this agreement is very similar to other shared service agreements with the Oakland County, such as animal control.

Please feel free to reach out to me regarding any questions you may have.

Staff recommends approving the Agreement for Election Services between Oakland County, Madison Heights and Royal Oak and to authorize the City Clerk to sign on behalf of the City.