

**City of Battle Creek
Election Commission Meeting
Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor
10 N. Division Street
Battle Creek, MI
April 15, 2025
10:00 AM**

Members Present: Victoria Houser, City Clerk: Bill Kim, City Attorney

Members Absent: Aaron Powers, City Assessor

Call to Order: Clerk Houser called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M., noting all members were in attendance, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Attorney Kim, supported by Clerk Houser, to approve the October 8, 2024 Election Commission meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Following approval of the previous meeting minutes, Clerk Houser presented a list of inspectors for the May 5, 2025 Special Election, for Election Day AVCB, Election Day precinct inspectors and Election night Receiving Board members.

Appointment of Election Inspectors for the May 5, 2025 Special Election AV Counting Board Processing board

A motion was made by Attorney Kim, supported by Clerk Houser, to appoint 6 inspectors to the AV Counting Board Processing team for the May 5, 2025 Special Election. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Appointment of Election Inspectors and Receiving Board members for the May 5, 2025 Special Election

A motion was made by Attorney Kim, supported by Clerk Houser, to appoint up to 45 Election Day Precinct inspectors and 6 Receiving Board members for the May 5, 2025 Special General Election. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Public Accuracy Testing

Clerk Houser completed the public accuracy testing on the Precinct #4 tabulator. Clerk Houser explained the different markings of each test ballot, noting the need to test the tabulator to ensure over votes and stray marks did not result in any vote totals. Clerk Houser also noted a ballot from a different precinct was included in the test to ensure only ballots designated for the precinct tabulator would be accepted. Clerk Houser shared the resulting totals tape with the public present and Attorney Kim to compare and confirm with the test deck.

Rebalancing/Consolidation of Precincts

Clerk Houser discussed the rebalancing of Precincts 6 and 8, and 15 & 19. Clerk Houser noted the southern part of Precinct 9, from Briarhill south to the precinct line would be moved back to Precinct 8. Clerk Houser noted the boundary line for Precinct 19 would be moved to E. Emmett Street, southerly between North Avenue and Union Street (from Precinct 15).

A motion was made by Attorney Kim, supported by Clerk Houser, to rebalance Precinct 6 & 8, and Precinct 15 & 19. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Consolidation of Precincts:

Clerk Houser discussed the consolidation of numerous precincts, noting most voters would not experience a change in location as the consolidations were for precincts in the same polling place, noting precincts may now have 4,999 active voters, an increase of 2,000 voters per precinct due to Proposal 2 of 2022. Clerk Houser noted no boundary changes were being made to Precincts 1, 3, 7, 11 & 18.

Clerk Houser noted with the consolidation, and in an effort to keep precinct numbers in sequence, Precinct 19 would be renumbered to be Precinct 9, and Precinct 18 would be renumbered to be Precinct 10. Precinct 8 would retain the current precinct number.

A motion was made by Attorney Kim, supported by Clerk Houser, to approve the new legal descriptions of each precinct due to rebalancing and consolidation:

Precincts 2 & 13, Ward 4, located at Trinity Neighborhood Center, to be identified as Precinct 2

Precincts 4 & 10, Ward 1, located at Christ United Methodist Church, to be identified as Precinct 4

Precincts 5 & 20, Ward 5, located at Woodland Church, to be identified as Precinct 5

Precincts 6 & 9, Ward 4, located at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, to be identified as Precinct 6

Precincts 12 & 21, Ward 2, located at Second Missionary Baptist Church, to be identified as Precinct 12

Precincts 15 & 17, Ward 3, located at City Life Center, to be identified as Precinct 15

Precincts 22 & 23, Ward 1, located at Westlake Presbyterian Church, to be identified as Precinct 13

Clerk Houser noted there would not be a precinct 14, which has not existed for more than 10 years.

Kathy Antaya, resident, agreed it was a good idea to consolidate and rebalance precincts, expressing appreciation that most voters would remain at their current polling location, which would decrease confusion.

All in favor, none opposed. Motion was approved.

Public Comments: Kathy Antaya asked how inspectors could identify a ballot after it had been tabulated. Clerk Houser noted that with the ballot stub removed, it was not possible to identify each voter's ballot.

Commission Comments: There were no Commission comments.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 A.M.