



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
troymi.gov

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: October 6, 2020

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager  
M. Aileen Dickson, City Clerk

Subject: Senate Bill 757 and Troy's Absent Voter Counting Board

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On September 14, 2020, City Council approved a resolution encouraging the Michigan Legislature to support Senate Bill 757, that would allow Absentee Voter Counting Boards to convene on Monday, November 2 from 10:00 am – 8:00 pm to pre-process absentee ballots, among other amendments to Election Law. The Michigan Legislature subsequently approved SB757 in the weeks that followed.

On October 6, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed SB757 into law, amending Michigan Election Law in a number of ways. Some particular points to note:

- Absent Voter Counting Boards (AVCB) can convene on Monday, November 2, 2020 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm to pre-process absentee ballots. Pre-processing entails verifying the count of ballots, slicing the envelopes, removing the ballot in the secrecy sleeve. The City Clerk must notify the Secretary of State not later than 20 days prior to the election, and the Election Commission must approve the list of inspectors who will perform the pre-processing.
- The last time a voter can spoil an absentee ballot and obtain a new ballot is now 10:00 am instead of 4:00 pm the day before the election.
- Clerks are required to notify voters of signature issues on absentee ballot return envelopes within 48 hours of receipt of the ballot for ballots received before 8:00 pm on the day before the election.
- For absentee ballots received between 8:00 pm on the day before the election until 8:00 pm on Election Day, Clerks are to mark ballots "Rejected" if the voter's signature is missing or does not match the signature on file.

The Troy Election Commission will meet on Thursday, October 8, 2020 to approve the list of Election Inspectors appointed to work in the AVCB on Monday, November 2, and Tuesday, November 3. The City Clerk will notify the Secretary of State that the City of Troy intends to convene the AVCB for the full time allowed in order to pre-process absentee ballots on Monday, November 2, and process absentee ballots on Tuesday, November 3.

There are other sections of SB757 that Troy is already in compliance with, such as drop box regulations and ballot envelope container regulations. The section of SB757 that addresses the ability for Election Inspectors to work in shifts is more of a clarification of procedures that were already allowed, rather than an amendment to the law.

As of this writing, the City Clerk's Office has issued 29,800 absentee ballots, with more applications being processed every day. We are grateful to City Council and City Administration for supporting



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Senate Bill 757 and all of our efforts to provide a secure, safe, and accurate Election Day for Troy voters and election workers.