

Meeting Minutes
Committee to Increase Voter Participation
City of Farmington Hills
November 28, 2023 – 5:30pm
City Hall-Viewpoint Room
3155 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills MI

Called to order by: The meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Hubbard at 5:35pm.

Members Present: Karen Bartos
Susie Brown
Aimee Ergas
Dennis Hubbard
Lauri Thornhill

Members Absent: Rose Christoph
Dawn Raymond
Marjorie Whittemore

Others Present: City Clerk Pam Smith

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bartos, support by Thornhill, to approve agenda as published.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thornhill, support to support by Bartos, to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023, as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Election Update

a. Election Results and Early Voting

Clerk Smith reported on the election results and issues uploading results to the county as well as reported on early voting statistics and success of the pilot program.

b. February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary

Clerk Smith reported that the legislation adjourned early so the Bills that were signed by the Governor but had not taken immediate effect will now be in effect and that includes the Presidential Primary date of February 27, 2024.

The committee discussed the changes in this election with the different ballots styles and how that may be implemented for voters who are on the permanent ballot list and will no longer be required to complete an application. Clerk Smith noted that postcards requesting the preferred ballot style will be mailed to all of those voters.

c. Election Law Changes effective for 2024

Clerk Smith mentioned that other changes in election law now effective because the legislature adjourned early include up to 8 days of pre-processing that will include opening the ballots and allowing election inspectors to tabulate the ballots. No results will be able to be obtained or released until after 8pm election day. Other changes include any ballot being able to be taken to the precincts and potentially early voting sites to be voted; so if a voter requested an absent voter ballot, they could decide to take that ballot to an early voting site or

to their precinct on election day and vote it at those locations. Clerk Smith noted that the Precinct consolidation Bill would not be in effect until the August, 2024 election and that she did not anticipate the City Clerk at that time to consolidate precincts for 2024 as there won't be enough data from early voting to make that decision for 2024.

PTA Meetings or Conferences were suggested as a location to further promote elections and new legislation to students and parents.

Strategic Plan 2024

It was determined that the items listed for 2023 were still relevant for 2024 but more discussion was needed on implementation for each going forward.

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Selection of President, Vice President, Secretary at the January meeting

Chair Hubbard clarified that this would take place at the January meeting and he asked members to consider putting their name in for Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Member Comments

Members wished Clerk Smith well in her retirement.

Adjournment

Motion by Brown, supported by Bartos, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: January 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Ergas, committee secretary