

CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 20-

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A PLAN TO EXPAND VOTING AND REGISTRATION ACCESS
BEYOND THE MINIMUM REQUIRED BY THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City held on September 21, 2020, at or after 7:00 o'clock p.m., local time, local time, and conducted electronically in conformity with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-160 (COVID-19).

PRESENT, Commissioners:

ABSENT, Commissioners:

The following preamble and resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo is committed to ballot access for all its voters; and

WHEREAS, extended voting hours and locations for voter registration and use of absentee ballots can increase access, particularly people unable to accomplish these tasks during ordinary business hours; and

WHEREAS, voter education about expanded hours, office locations, and access lead to optimal voter participation; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Sections 4 (f) and (g) of the Michigan Constitution establish the following rights: 1) Absentee balloting for all voters who choose to vote in that manner; 2) Voter registration any time before and during election day; 3) Voting immediately upon registration; and 4) Availability of at least eight hours during the Saturday or Sunday prior to an election during which time citizens may register and/or vote; and

WHEREAS, MCL 168.761b(3) requires local governing body approval for additional locations and hours that the Clerk will be available to issue and receive absent voter ballots.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: prior to the November 3, 2020 Election the City Clerk's Office at City Hall will be open for 16 hours in addition to normal business hours and the hours required by the Michigan Constitution. The additional hours will be offered on the following days and times:

Monday, October 19 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Clerk’s Office will provide a branch location at the Bernhard Center on the campus of Western Michigan University on a trial basis for the November 3, 2020 election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall and the branch location at Western Michigan University will be open for in-person voter registration and to issue and receive absentee ballots on the following days and times:

October 5 – October 9 (M-F) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 12 – October 16 (M-F) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 19 (M) 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
October 20 – 23 (T-F) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
October 24 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

October 26 (M) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
October 27 (T) 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
October 28 – 30 (W-F) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
October 31 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

November 2 (M) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
November 3 (T) 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the November 2020 General Election the City Clerk will provide first-class return postage for all absentee ballots issued to City voters who do not cast their ballots in the City Clerk’s Office or the branch location; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk will develop a program to install up to four satellite ballot drop boxes within the City for use in future elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at the conclusion of the November 2020 General Election, the City Clerk will host a public forum in collaboration with members of the City Commission to elicit public input on voter accessibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Clerk will study the long-term feasibility of options for expanding voter registration and absentee balloting services for all City voters and shall submit a report with recommendations and cost estimates to the City Commission by June 1, 2021.

The above resolution was offered by _____ and supported by
_____.

AYES, Commissioners:

NAYS, Commissioners:

ABSTAIN, Commissioners:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo at a regular meeting held on September 21, 2020. Public notice was given and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as temporarily modified by Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-160 (COVID-19). Minutes of the meeting will be available as required by said Act.

Scott A. Borling, City Clerk