

Committee of the Whole Briefings

June 16, 2026





FY 2027 / BUDGET FOLLOW-UP
JUNE 16, 2026



Budget Process

November 13, 2025	City Commission Prioritization Workshop
February 24, 2026	FY2026 Mid-Year Update
April 28, 2026	City Manager presents FY2027 Preliminary Fiscal Plan/Budget
May 5, 2026	Budget Work Session – Special Meeting, 9 a.m. <i>Safe Community</i> <i>Mobility / Vital Streets Oversight Commission</i> <i>Engaged and Connected Community</i> <i>Governmental Excellence</i>
May 12, 2026	Budget Work Session – Committee of the Whole, 10 a.m. <i>Economic Prosperity and Affordability</i> <i>Health and Environment / Stormwater Oversight Commission</i> Public Hearing on FY2027 Budget, Revenue Omnibus, and Tax Rates – City Commission, 7 p.m.
May 19, 2026	Commission adopts FY2027 Final Fiscal Plan/Budget
July 1, 2026	FY2027 Begins
September 2026	FY2026 Annual Performance Presentation

Results of May 19 Deliberations | FY2027 Budget

Program	Fund - Dept	Cost	Ongoing/One-time
<u>Amendments Approved:</u>			
Disaster Relief Fund Contribution	General Fund – General Admin	\$50,000	One-time
Commission Enhanced Support (Communications through 12/31/2026; Administrative TBD)	General Fund – City Comm.	\$100,000	One-time
<u>Amendments Not Approved:</u>			
Administrative Services Officer	General Fund – Office of Equity & Engagement (6 mos)	\$75,000 (\$155,821 annual cost)	Ongoing
Administrative Analyst I – Energy and Carbon Specialist	General Fund – Exec. Office (6 mos)	\$63,000 (\$126,000 annual cost)	Ongoing
Commission Enhanced Administrative Support (Administrative Aide)	General Fund – Commission	\$100,485	Ongoing or One-time
Mediation Coordinator – Community Relations (Contract or Position?)	General Fund – Exec. Office	\$150,000	Ongoing or One-time

Today's Agenda

- Follow-Up Topics
 - City Commission Enhanced Support (today)
 - Public Safety Service Enhancements (today)
 - Expiring Grant-Funded Positions (future)
 - Neighborhood Roads Funding (future)
- Discussion Purpose
 - Review continuation and transition options
 - Discuss operational impacts and fiscal considerations
 - Provide feedback to inform future FY2027 budget amendments and planning

Enhanced Communications Support

- Current Status
 - Enhanced Communications Support was implemented as part of the broader City Commission Enhanced Support Pilot Program
 - Services have included communications coordination, constituent outreach, and engagement support
 - Commissioners utilized services differently depending on individual operating styles and preferences
- FY2027 Direction
 - City Commission approved continuation of the current communications support model through December 2026
 - A budget amendment to support continuation is on today's Fiscal Committee agenda
 - Future discussion is planned alongside the FY2026 Annual Performance Report in September 2026

Enhanced Administrative Support | Current State

Administrative Support

- Receiving and forwarding messages
- Upon-request basic meeting scheduling
- Travel, training, reimbursement
- Hard-copy correspondence
- Supply ordering; IT support coordination
- ***Constituent callback and email management***
- ***Regular planning consultations to review calendar, in-process scheduling, decisions, CFRs, etc.***
- ***Advanced calendaring, e.g. group invitee polling/scheduling, event RSVP, reminders***
- ***Enhanced City Hall services, e.g. set-up, greeting, printing, distributing, scanning/filing, etc.***

Enhanced Administrative Support | Option #1

Option 1: Continue Pilot

- Estimated Annual Cost
 - Approximately \$80,000
- Operational Approach
 - Continue temporary or limited-duration staffing arrangement
 - Maintain current enhanced support structure
- Services would generally continue in current form, including:
 - Constituent coordination
 - Scheduling assistance
 - Hospitality support
 - Printing and distribution
- Administrative and logistical support functions
- Considerations
 - Preserves operational continuity and flexibility
 - Maintains future policy discretion
 - Some limitations associated with temporary staffing may remain
 - May not fully address expectations for responsiveness or consistency

Enhanced Administrative Support | Option #2

Option 2: Permanent Position

- Estimated Annual Cost
 - \$100,485 annually
- Operational Approach
 - Create permanent Executive Office support position with benefits
 - Transition enhanced support from pilot operations to ongoing service model
- Potential Operational Benefits
 - Greater continuity and institutional knowledge
 - Improved responsiveness and consistency
 - Expanded project coordination and proactive support
- Increased accountability and service reliability
- Opportunity to refine and standardize support practices identified during the pilot
- Considerations
 - Highest level of operational continuity
 - Establishes long-term service expectations
 - Requires ongoing General Fund commitment
 - Aligns staffing structure with demonstrated operational demand and evolving support expectations

Enhanced Administrative Support | Option #3

Option 3: End Pilot

- Estimated Annual Cost
 - \$0 ongoing added cost
- Operational Approach
 - No dedicated enhanced administrative support staffing
 - Remaining support would revert to standard Executive Office and departmental capacity
- Service Impacts - Enhanced support services that would conclude include:
 - Constituent callback and email management
 - Advanced calendaring and coordination support
- Enhanced event and hospitality coordination
- Expanded City Hall logistical support
- Printing, distribution, and related administrative assistance
- Considerations
 - Lowest fiscal impact
 - Reduced individualized support capacity
 - Potential reduction in responsiveness and scheduling coordination for some Commissioners

Enhanced Administrative Support | Option #3 Impact

Administrative Support

- Receiving and forwarding messages
- Upon-request basic meeting scheduling
- Travel, training, reimbursement
- Hard-copy correspondence
- Supply ordering; IT support coordination
- ~~Constituent callback and email management~~
- ~~Regular planning consultations to review calendar, in-process scheduling, decisions, CFRs, etc.~~
- ~~Advanced calendaring, e.g. group invitee polling/scheduling, event RSVP, reminders~~
- ~~Enhanced City Hall services, e.g. set-up, greeting, printing, distributing, scanning/filing, etc.~~

Public Safety Enhancements – Public Safety Trust Fund

- The State of Michigan is expected to allocate approximately \$1,740,353 to the City of Grand Rapids through the Public Safety Revenue Sharing Grants program.
- These funds are designated to support public safety related activities, with specific requirements for how they are distributed. State guidelines require that:
 - At least 75% of the funds support law enforcement
 - Up to 25% may be used for broader public safety purposes (Approximately \$ 400,000).
- Intended uses include:
 - \$200,000 for internal City projects like SAFE Taskforce, OPA's Violence Prevention and Intervention programs and community mediation efforts.
 - \$200,000 for External Community Grants Program

Public Safety Enhancements (continued)

- Planning and community engagement activities, including outreach regarding the grant program, were originally anticipated to begin in July 2026.
- However, staff has revised the distribution timeline because the State has not provided the funding or a timeline for when the funds will be released to the City.

Revised Anticipated Timeline & Next Steps

- **September 2026** – Program launch, webpage goes live, and community engagement begins
- **October 2026** – Grant application period opens and proposals are accepted
- **November 2026** – Staff review and development of funding recommendations
- **November 17, 2026** – Public Safety Committee reviews staff recommendations
- **November 17, 2026** – City Commission considers Committee recommendation
- **On or before December 1, 2026** – Grant recipients are notified

Future Considerations

- Grant-Funded Positions
- Neighborhood Roads Funding

What is the City Commission's Preference?

- Enhanced Administrative Support:
 - Option 1: Continue Pilot
 - Option 2: Permanent Position
 - Option 3: End Pilot



Thank You

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2026 Elections Update



Proposal 3 of 2018

Constitutional Right:

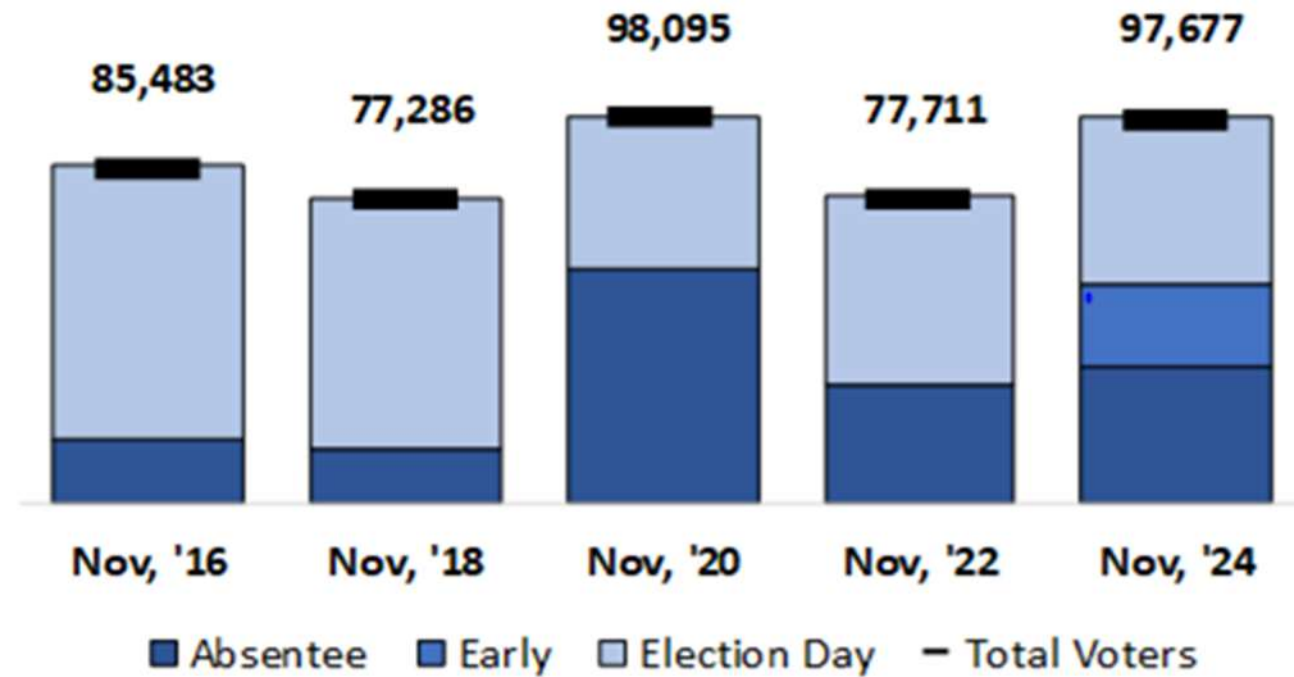
- Right to a secret ballot
- Straight Party voting
- No Reason Absentee Voting
- Automatic Voter Registration
- Same Day Registration
- Military/Overseas ballots available 45 days before election.
- Election Audits

Proposal 2 of 2022

Constitutional Right:

- Fundamental Right to Vote
- Early Voting
- Photo ID or sign affidavit
- Single Application for Absentee Ballots
- State Paid returned postage for AV Applications/Ballots
- Drop Boxes
- Absentee Ballot Tracking
- Military/Overseas voters counted 6 days after if postmarked by Election Day
- Allow Private Donations
- Audits and Certification

Election Turnout by Voting Method



Election Turnout by Voting Method

Registered	Voted	%	Precinct	Absentee	Early
152,226	97,677	64.17%	42,222	34,909	20,546

November 2024 Turnout

57% voted before Election Day!

Average Voters per precinct on Election Day

- November 2016 - 901
- November 2020 - 511
- November 2024 - 571

	Registered	Voted	%	Precinct	Absentee	Early
Ward 1	49,542	29,883	60.32%	13,916	9,862	6,105
Ward 2	52,053	36,184	69.51%	14,823	13,209	8,152
Ward 3	50,631	31,610	62.43%	13,483	11,838	6,289

August 4 Primary Election

Federal and State partisan section. Also, Precinct Delegates.

Republican and Democratic candidates on the same ballot - **CAN NOT CROSSOVER!**

Also 1st Ward City Commissioner. GRPS millage proposal. Therefore, there may be multiple ballot styles in precinct

November 3 General Election

Federal and State partisan section.

- Straight Ticket, Split Ticket, Mixed Ticket

Also Judicial, City, Local Education Boards.

2 proposals so far - Constitutional Convention, Museum Zoo Millage

Early Voting August 9 Days

Ottawa Hills High School, GRPS University, St. Peter and Paul School

Date	Day	Voting Hours
July 25, 2026	Saturday	9:00am-5:00pm
July 26, 2026	Sunday	9:00am-5:00pm
July 27, 2026	Monday	9:00am-5:00pm
July 28, 2026	Tuesday	11:00am-7:00pm
July 29, 2026	Wednesday	9:00am-5:00pm
July 30, 2026	Thursday	11:00am-7:00pm
July 31, 2026	Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
August 1, 2026	Saturday	9:00am-5:00pm
August 2, 2026	Sunday	9:00am-5:00pm

Early Voting November 13 Days

Ottawa Hills High School, GRPS University, St. Peter and Paul School, New Hope Baptist Church

Date	Day	Voting Hours
October 20, 2026	Tuesday	11:00am-7:00pm
October 21, 2026	Wednesday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 22, 2026	Thursday	11:00am-7:00pm
October 23, 2026	Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 24, 2026	Saturday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 25, 2026	Sunday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 26, 2026	Monday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 27, 2026	Tuesday	11:00am-7:00pm
October 28, 2026	Wednesday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 29, 2026	Thursday	11:00am-7:00pm
October 30, 2026	Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
October 31, 2026	Saturday	9:00am-5:00pm
November 1, 2026	Sunday	9:00am-5:00pm

Absentee Voting



- Military and Overseas Voters - Ballots must be sent at the latest, 45 Days before the election.
- Available 40 days before the election for all other absentee voters.
- Permanent Application List and Permanent Ballot list.
- Ballots may be returned to drop boxes, by mail, at the Clerk's Office or vote the ballot in person.
- Ballots are tabulated in an Absentee Voter Counting Board. May begin tabulating two Mondays before the election.

Election Day

August 4

November 3



Polls are open 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Anyone in line at 8:00 may still vote

All 59 precincts will be open.

Polling Location Update

New Polling Location- Precinct 9 - New Vintage Place

Precinct 38 voting at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church due to construction at Yankee Clipper Library

Precinct 51 voting at Brookside CRC due to construction at Ken-O-Sha Elementary.

Voters that are affected will be contacted by mail.

Know Before You Go

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Grand Rapids Elections

www.grandrapidsmi.gov/grvotes

- Current Election Information
- Apply to be an Election Inspector
- Learn about Early and Absentee Voting
- Ward/Precinct Maps
- Past Election Results

Michigan Bureau of Elections

www.michigan.gov/vote

- Check your Voter Information
- Apply for an Absentee Ballot
- Register to Vote
- Find your polling location
- View your sample ballot

Kent County Election

www.kentcountyvotes.com

- Campaign Finance
- Election Results
- Election Information

Proposed Social Media Posting Schedule



Week of 6/1	Week of 6/8	Week of 6/15	Week of 6/22	Week of 6/29
Register to Vote - [Carousel]	Mark Your Calendar V1 - [Single Post] Election Inspector [Single Post]	Vote by Mail - [Carousel] Early Voting - [Carousel]	Vote by Mail (Secure) - [Single Post]	Mark Your Calendars V2 [Single Post]
Week of 7/6	Week of 7/13	Week of 7/20	Week of 7/27	Week of 8/3
Drop Off Location [Carousel]	Register to Vote - Election Day - [Carousel]	Early Voting - [Carousel] Sign Your Absentee Ballot - [Single Post]	Mark Your Calendar Version 3- [Single Post]	Register to Vote - Election Day - [Single Post] Week Of - [Single Post] Day of - [Single Post]

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ONLINE

If you're registered to vote, go to michigan.gov/vote and apply for an absentee ballot.

2 →

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BY PHONE

You can apply for an absentee ballot over the phone by calling your city clerk's office at City Hall.

3 →


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BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

Your absentee ballot application can be downloaded at michigan.gov/vote and be returned by mail or in-person to the city clerk's office at City Hall.

4 →

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How can I cast my vote by mail?

1 →



You can register to vote until 8 pm on Election Day!

The first step for registering to vote is to verify if you are eligible. To find out if you meet the requirements visit, mi.gov/vote

1



¡Puedes registrarte para votar hasta las 8pm el Día de las Elecciones!

El primer paso para registrarte para votar es verificar si eres elegible. Para saber si cumples con los requisitos visita, mi.gov/vote

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www.michigan.gov/vote

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Thank You!