



## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** May 14, 2014

**TO:** Mayor Frederick and the Owosso City Council

**FROM:** Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Changing City Council election dates

### RECOMMENDATION:

After weighing citizen comment, I recommend Council consider approval of the attached resolution to change City Council elections to even-year November elections from their current schedule of odd-year November elections.

### BACKGROUND:

As you will recall, a new law came into effect in early 2013 which allows cities in Michigan to shift their local elections to November even-years with a resolution from council. In my memo dated May 1, 2014 I listed the advantages and disadvantages of moving the City Council elections to November even-years, which I have summarized below. In an effort to reach as many voters as possible, as required by the law, tonight's public hearing was advertised in both newspapers, as well as being posted on the City website, at City Hall, and at the Library.

1. More voters will participate in Council elections
2. Tax payer money will be saved by avoiding separate elections
3. Staff time for Clerk's Office employees can be dedicated to neglected tasks
4. City elections may receive little attention on a long even-year ballot
5. At this time there is no way to undo the change
6. Current Council members would see their terms extended by one year

To date I have received no citizen comment regarding the proposal.

### FISCAL IMPACTS:

Each election avoided would save the City at least \$7,500 in funds plus the associated soft costs for Clerk's Office personnel.

Document originated by: Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**ESTABLISHING REGULAR ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER OF EACH EVEN YEAR  
COMMENCING WITH THE CITY ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2016**

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso currently holds elections for City Council members in November of odd years; and

WHEREAS, participation in odd year November elections has waned significantly in recent times; and

WHEREAS, the cost of holding elections continues to grow in spite of decreasing voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Election Code MCL § 168.642(a)(4), as amended by PA 523 of 2012, authorizes the governing body of a city that holds elections for city officers at odd-year November elections to change its regular election schedule to even-year November elections by the adoption of a resolution in compliance with the requirements of section 642 of the Michigan Election Code (MCL § 168.642); and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid law provides that the terms of the City's current elected and appointed Council members not be shortened and that the terms for elected city offices continue until successors are elected and qualified starting with the November 2016 election; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing required by the aforesaid law has been conducted pursuant to the published notice and all interested parties have been heard; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The date of the regular city election is changed from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year commencing with the regular city election in November 2016, resulting in the last city regular odd-year November election being held on November 5, 2013.
2. The term of the three (3) council members duly elected to four-year terms at the odd-year November election in 2013, which would otherwise expire in November 2017, shall continue until their successors are elected and qualified in November 2018.
3. The terms of the three (3) council members duly elected to four-year terms at the odd-year November election in 2011, which would otherwise expire in November 2015, shall continue until their successors are elected and qualified in November 2016.
4. The term of the council member duly elected to a two-year term at the odd-year November election in 2013, which would otherwise expire in November 2015, shall continue until their successor is elected and qualified in November 2016.
5. The terms of the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem, which would otherwise expire in November 2015, shall continue until their successors are selected by their peers in November 2016.
6. The city clerk is hereby instructed to file this resolution with the County Clerk of Shiawassee County and the elections division of the Secretary of State of the State of Michigan.