

June 10, 2020

TO: Shari Moore, Saint Paul City Clerk

FROM: David Triplett, Ramsey County Elections Manager

SUBJECT: COVID-19; Polling Place Changes for the City of Saint Paul per HF 3429

On 05/05/2020 Governor Walz signed the Safe and Secure Elections bill (HF 3429) which extends the deadline to establish and change polling places for the remaining 2020 elections from 12/31/19 to 7/01/20. This extension allows municipalities additional time to find replacement locations for facilities that are no longer able, or willing, to serve as a polling place as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. In the City of Saint Paul, we are recommending the below replacements for locations that are no longer available to serve as polling places. All the replacement locations recommended below have been surveyed to verify that they meet the standards set-forth by Minnesota Election Law and the US Department of Justice. We also reviewed the new locations with the precinct's head election judges to include their opinions. All the replacement locations have authorized our use of their facility for the August Primary and November General Election.

Given the rapidly changing environment we cannot fully guarantee that more of our polling locations will decline our use of their facility ahead of the August 11th Primary. As of June 1st, 2020, all our locations in Saint Paul, beyond the ones listed below, have signed agreements to serve as polling places. If we receive notice from a location that they will not be able to serve as a polling place after the July 1st, 2020, deadline we will use our emergency authority under MN Statutes 204B.175 to establish a new location. We will use this authority under consultation with the St. Paul City Clerk's office.

Ward 2, Precinct 11

Current location: Kellogg Square Apartments, 111 E Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55101

Proposed location: Landmark Center, 75 W 5th St, St Paul, MN 55102

Comments: Kellogg Square is a small location that will not allow social distancing standards to be met, as a result the facility was unwilling to serve as a polling place. At Landmark Center we will have the entire space to spread out and allow voters a safe voting experience.

Ward 3, Precinct 1

Current location: Temple of Aaron, 616 Mississippi River Blvd, St Paul, MN 55116

Proposed location: **Urban Charter Academy or Lumen Christi for just 8/11**

Comments: Temple of Aaron is unwilling to serve as a polling place until more information is known about COVID-19, we'll reevaluate the location after the August Primary. Lumen Christi

will serve as a location for the August Primary if the Urban Charter Academy is unwilling. We hope to have this resolved by 6/15/20.

Ward 3, Precinct 5

Current location: Graham Place, 1745 Graham Ave. St Paul, MN 55116

Proposed location: Graham Place, 1375 Davern St. St. Paul, MN 55116

Comments: We are relocating our polling place within the facility to leave the senior living building and move into another building at the complex with larger space and room to social distancing.

Ward 3, Precinct 11

Current location: The Wellington, 2235 Rockwood Ave, St Paul, MN 55116

Proposed location: Highland Middle School, 975 S, Snelling Ave S, St Paul, MN 55116

Comments: The Wellington serves a high-risk population and is unwilling to serve as a polling place. We are recommending the Highland Middle School Gym, this precinct will use half of the gym. The SPPS permit office and security officer have approved our use of this location. For the August primary no students will be in the school.

Ward 3, Precinct 12

Current location: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 Snelling Ave S, St Paul, MN 55105

Proposed location: Mt. Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55105

Comments: Immanuel Lutheran Church is unable to serve as a polling place for the August Primary. We are recommending Mt. Zion Temple as it has a large parking lot, ample handicap parking space in front, and a large space to vote directly inside the entrance of the building on the first floor. We will reevaluate this location after the August Primary as Immanuel Lutheran Church is available as a polling place for the November election.

Ward 3, Precinct 14

Current location: Expo School, 540 Warwick St, St Paul, MN 55116

Proposed location: Highland Middle School, 975 S, Snelling Ave S, St Paul, MN 55116

Comments: The SPPS permit office would not allow us to use Expo School as a polling location. Per their advice we are recommending the Highland Middle School Gym, this precinct will use half of the gym. The SPPS permit office and security officer have approved our use of this location. For the August primary no students will be in the school.

Ward 4, Precinct 11

Current location: Lyngblomsten Care Center, 1415 Almond Ave W, St Paul, MN 55108

Proposed location: Holy Childhood Church, 1435 Midway Pkwy, St Paul, MN 55108

Comments: The Lyngblomsten Care Center serves a high-risk population and is unwilling to serve as a polling place. We are recommending the Holy Childhood Church as the polling place for this precinct.

Ward 7, Precinct 5

Current location: Marion Care Center, 200 Earl St, St Paul, MN 55106

Proposed location: Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 1049 Euclid St, St Paul, MN 55106

Comments: Marion Care Center serves a high-risk population and is unwilling to serve as a polling place. We are recommending the Mounds Park United Methodist Church as the polling place for this precinct. The head judge and the facility administration believe this location will accommodate two precincts voting here. We'll reevaluate the location after the August Primary.

Once approved, the polling place changes will be updated on MNvotes.org and RCElections.org. The voters affected by this change will be notified by surface mail during the week of July 13th. Postings will be made at the old polling places to remind voters of the change in location.

Please note, we are conducting an aggressive communication strategy to inform and encourage Ramsey County residents to vote by mail as a safe, secure, and convenient method to cast your ballot. In recent national elections held during the COVID-19 pandemic most jurisdictions are seeing upwards of 50% voters choosing to vote by mail. As a result, we anticipate a lot less in-person traffic at our election day polling places but still want to be prepared to serve every voter in the manner they choose.

Please let me know if you have questions about these recommended changes.

Take care,

David Triplett
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