



# CITY of EASTPOINTE

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**For immediate release:**

## **City of Eastpointe to Become First Michigan City to Implement Ranked-Choice Voting**

The City is pleased to announce a settlement agreement with the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division which was approved this evening by unanimous vote of the Eastpointe City Council. The City Council has agreed to change the City's method of voting in an effort to assure all voters that their choice is given fair and equal consideration. While neither the City nor the Justice Department believe that the City's prior pure at-large voting method was intentionally discriminatory, they have both agreed that the City of Eastpointe will utilize Ranked-Choice Voting for two City election cycles. This agreement was reached to avoid costly and lengthy litigation for both the City and the federal government and to enhance the voting system in the City of Eastpointe.

By Consent Decree, Eastpointe will become the first city in the State of Michigan to officially implement a method called "ranked-choice" voting, by which the voter will be able to rank candidates on the ballot in order of their preference. The federal government has committed to working with the City of Eastpointe, the Michigan Secretary of State, the Macomb County Clerk's Office, and the election equipment vendor to insure that this new method of voting will be implemented and functioning as soon as possible. At this time, the goal is to begin ranked-choice voting with the November 2019 City election. All non-municipal elections will continue to be conducted using the old voting style. The Mayor will continue to be elected using the pure at-large voting method.

"The Eastpointe City Council and I are pleased to bring this voting issue to a close without going to trial. We are eager to be the first city in the State of Michigan to implement ranked-choice voting for our City election and look forward to positive results with the change", said Eastpointe Mayor Suzanne Pixley.

The Office of the Eastpointe City Clerk will be developing and implementing a voter education program so that all residents are aware of and understand the new voting method.

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Court.