



Department Source: Law  
To: City Council  
From: City Manager & Staff  
Council Meeting Date: January 4, 2021  
Re: April 2021 Municipal Election

## Executive Summary

A council bill has been prepared to call the municipal election for April 6, 2021.

## Discussion

Under the City Charter, a regular election for municipal officials is held every April. In April 2021, the election will be for council members for Wards 2 and 6. Each candidate for the Wards 2 and 6 positions must file a nominating petition signed by at least 50 but no more than 75 registered voters entitled to vote for the candidate. Nominating petitions for all candidates must be filed no later than January 12, 2021.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Fiscal impact unknown at this time. The cost is based on the various entities who have placed an item on the ballot for any particular election.

The City's proportionate share for the April 2018 election was \$17,193.39 with 20 entities having items on the ballot for that election. City of Columbia election items in 2018 included filling council member positions for Ward 2 and Ward 6. In 2020, the April municipal election was delayed until June due to COVID closures. The City's proportionate share for the costs relating to this election was \$32,733.08 with 17 entities having items on the ballot. This increase in election costs may have been a result of issues associated with COVID protections.

Long-Term Impact: Not applicable.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
	An ordinance is passed annually for the April municipal elections.

## Suggested Council Action

Passage of the ordinance.