



**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Beloit City Council**

Special Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2011

5:30 p.m.

City Hall Forum

City Hall – 100 State Street

Beloit, WI 53511

**CALL OF MEETING OF CITY OF BELOIT COUNCIL  
CITY OF BELOIT, WISCONSIN**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that in accordance with Section 2.02(3) of City Code a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, is being called.

1. Roll call.
2. Resolution **Combining Polling Places** for February 15, 2011 Spring Primary Election (Houseman)
3. Motion to adjourn.

Larry N. Arft, City Manager

Dated: January 10, 2011  
Rebecca S. Houseman  
City Clerk

\*\*Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511

**RESOLUTION COMBINING POLLING PLACES FOR  
FEBRUARY 15, 2011 SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION**

**Whereas**, the City of Beloit uses ten polling places and 24 wards for all elections, and

**Whereas**, voter turnout for the February 15, 2011 Spring Primary is anticipated to be extremely low, possibly in the 2-4% range, for the Office of Justice of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, and

**Whereas**, providing open and accessible polling places to the voters is extremely important, as well as considering the prudent use of City tax dollars.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, that for the February 15, 2011 Spring Primary Election only, the usual ten polling places will be reduced to two, Gaston School and Central Christian Church, and all efforts possible will be made to inform the voters of this temporary change.

Adopted this 13th day of January, 2011.

City Council of the City of Beloit

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Kevin D. Leavy, President

ATTEST:

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Rebecca S. Houseman, City Clerk

# CITY OF BELOIT

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

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**Topic:** Combining Polling Places for February 15, 2011 Spring Primary Election

**Date:** January 13, 2011

**Presenter(s):** Rebecca Houseman

**Department(s):** City Clerk

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### Overview/Background Information:

A Spring Primary Election will take place on February 15, 2011. The only race on the ballot in the City of Beloit will be for the Office of the Justice of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. Because of the anticipated extremely low turnout for this election (2-4 percent), the Clerk's office is requesting to combine the usual ten polling places into two: one on the west side at Gaston School and one on the east side at Central Christian Church. The City Council must approve the polling places at least 30 days before the election. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is January 18, 2011, which is not 30 days before this election.

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### Key Issues (maximum of 5):

- Personnel costs for similar one-issue elections in 2008 and 2009 were in excess of \$11,000.
- The City Council authorized combining the ten polling places into two polling places in the Spring Primary Election in 2010 with much success and without negative impact on the voting process.
- The cost savings in 2010 were about \$8,000 including savings in the areas of personnel, computer programming costs, polling place rental, and copy and production costs of voting materials and notices.
- Voters will be notified of the combination of polling places by various means including postings on doors of all polling places; public notices, press releases, and articles in the Beloit Daily News and Shopping News; postings on the City's website, at City Hall, the Public Library, and Grinnell Senior Center, and through information provided to the Beloit School District.
- This model may continue to be used in the future for elections when turnout is anticipated to be extremely low.

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### Conformance to Strategic Plan (List key goals this action would support and briefly discuss its impact on the City's mission.):

Consideration of this request supports *Strategic Goal #1*, which focuses on the sustainable stewardship of City resources.

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### Sustainability (Briefly comment on the sustainable long term impact of this policy or program related to how it will impact both the built and natural environment utilizing the four following eco-municipality guidelines.):

- **Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels**  
N/A
- **Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufacturing substances that accumulate in nature**  
N/A
- **Reduce dependence on activities that harm life sustaining eco-systems**  
N/A
- **Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently**  
Combining polling places will save money while establishing one polling place on each side of the City for the convenience of voters.

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### Action required/Recommendation:

- City Council consideration and adoption of the proposed Resolution

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### Fiscal Note/Budget Impact:

The reduction in the number of polling places will save several thousand dollars in personnel and material costs.

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### Attachments:

Resolution