

MOTION

NO. M-26-111

CITY HALL: March 12, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 18:534(B)(1) provides that once a polling place has been established, its location shall not be changed from the date when qualifying period opens until after the date of the general election, “unless the polling place becomes unavailable due to an emergency caused by an act of God or when privately owned property being used as a polling place becomes unavailable through no fault of the governing authority”; and

WHEREAS, the earliest qualifying period for the May 16, 2026 election began on February 11, 2026; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the New Orleans City Council has been notified that the Milton H. Latter Memorial Library is no longer equipped to serve as an election day polling site for Ward 13/Precinct 8, due to water intrusion, a nonfunctioning elevator and intermittent HVAC system, all of which result in the building’s total closure and inability to accommodate voters, poll workers, and voting machines; and

WHEREAS, this event and its impacts constitute an emergency due to an act of God, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 18:534(B)(1); and

WHEREAS, the elections division of the Louisiana Secretary of State’s office has deemed this situation sufficient for an emergency move of a polling place; and

WHEREAS, this motion identifies a permanent emergency polling relocation for this polling place, which is now unavailable for use and has been recommended for relocation by the

Clerk of Criminal District Court as stated in the attached memorandum and made a part hereof;

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the following polling place relocation recommendation has been received from Clerk of Criminal District Court, Darren P. Lombard, for immediate action. The location shown on the “Change To” list below is hereby established as the official polling place for the May 16, 2026, election for the precinct specified therein for the City of New Orleans, Parish of Orleans.

<u>Ward/Precinct:</u>	<u>Change From:</u>	<u>Change To:</u>
13/08	Milton Latter Memorial Library 5120 St. Charles Avenue	Sophie B. Wright Charter School 1426 Napoleon Avenue

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of Council shall immediately forward certified copies of this motion to the Governor of the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Secretary of State, the Clerk of Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish, the City Attorney and the Registrar of Voters for Orleans Parish for their further handling.

THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

MEMORANDUM

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CLERK OF CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

TO: Honorable Council Members, City of New Orleans
Aisha R. Collier, Clerk of Council

CC: Justyn A. Hawkins, Council Chief of Staff

FROM: Darren P. Lombard, Clerk of Criminal District Court

DATE: March 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Emergency Polling Location Changes

The Regional Manager of the Milton H. Latter Memorial Library contacted my office to explain why the library would no longer be able to serve as an election day polling site. The library is only ADA accessible by elevator. This is also the only way voting machines can be delivered. When the elevator was out for the 5/3/2025 election, the library was limited on where voting could be conducted. The machines were placed in the basement due to a narrow hallway and needing the staff workrooms accessible for volunteers and staff to pass through during operating hours. Staff cleaned out a storage area for us to make it work, but this area has water intrusion from being partly underground and is not an appropriate space to use in the future.

The elevator was out of operation for 106 days in 2025. Additionally, the library has had ongoing HVAC issues which has led to the building being closed when the temperature gets above 82 degrees or below 62 degrees. For these reasons, we have collaborated with Councilmember Harris to recommend the following Permanent Emergency Polling location change to City Council:

Ward/

Precinct:

From:

To:

13/08

Milton Latter Memorial Library
5120 St. Charles Ave.

Sophie B. Wright Charter School
1426 Napoleon Ave.