

Wm. Patrick Madden
Mayor



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Mayor Madden, City Council Majority Announce Proposal to Strengthen Access to Early Voting in Troy

TROY, NY – Mayor Patrick Madden and the Troy City Council majority today announced a proposal to establish an early voting location in the Collar City. The proposal seeks to share costs with Rensselaer County to establish a third early voting site within Troy – in coordination with the Rensselaer County Board of Elections – to provide voters from across the county an additional place to cast their ballot ahead of the general election this fall.

Mayor Madden said, “With over one-third of the total population of Rensselaer County living in the City of Troy, it’s logical an early voting location should be available in the Collar City to reduce barriers between residents and the ballot box. We know Rensselaer County understands the importance of increasing access for voters, and look forward to discussing this important proposal to expand voting opportunities for the public.”

Troy City Councilmember David Bissember said, “Nearly two thirds of all Rensselaer County residents without a personal vehicle reside in Troy. Early voting sites outside of the city limits will disproportionately impact those residents and, in some cases, make early voting inaccessible. This common sense approach will ensure the law’s intended goal of improving enfranchisement of residents is realized.”

The City Council will present the legislation during the July 11th Finance Committee Meeting for consideration and discussion. The legislation commits \$7,500 toward the \$15,000 cost of creating an additional voting site to strengthen voting opportunities for Troy and Rensselaer County residents. After final approval by the full City Council, the city of Troy will approach Rensselaer County to secure the additional funding necessary to expand the total number of early-voting locations for the public.

The seat of county government and the largest city in Rensselaer County, Troy is a central hub of economic activity, transportation, and governmental services. Troy represents 31 percent of Rensselaer County's population (approx. 50,000). Earlier this year, the Rensselaer County Board of Elections approved the creation of two early voting locations in the towns of Brunswick and Schodack. While these locations meet the needs of many voters across Rensselaer County, over 72 percent of county residents without access to a car will be unable to reach those locations without significant travel time. The establishment of an early voting location in Troy will help increase access for thousands of voters.

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