

Introduced: Ms. Davis
1st Reading: December 11, 2017
Passed: January 8, 2018
Posted: January 9, 2018
Effective: February 27, 2018

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-1

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2057

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND AND TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT FOUND, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN THE COMPILATION OF MUNICIPAL CHARTERS OF MARYLAND (1983 EDITION AS AMENDED), AS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 77 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND OF 1983, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 12, 15, 16 AND 20 TO CHANGE THE VOTING AGE FOR CITY ELECTIONS TO THOSE 16 YEARS OLD AND OLDER AND TO CLARIFY THAT THOSE WHO SERVE ON THE EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD, THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND CITY COUNCIL MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Greenbelt desires to lower the eligible voting age to 16 years of age for City Elections; and

WHEREAS, qualified voters of the City are allowed to be members of the City Employee Relations Board, the Board of Elections and City Council; however, the Council of the City of Greenbelt desires that the members of these boards and the Council be at least 18 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Greenbelt desires to amend the City Charter to reflect these changes.

SECTION I NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt that the Charter of the City, found, in whole or in part, in the compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (2008 edition as amended), as prepared by the Department of Legislative Services, Sec. 12 Employee relations board shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12. Employee relations board.

- (a) *Members; appointment.* There shall be an employee relations board consisting of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the council. Members of the employee relations board shall be qualified voters of the city who are at least 18 years of age; and no member of this board shall hold any other elective or appointive office in the city government.

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SECTION II NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt that the Charter of the City, found, in whole or in part, in the compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (2008 edition as amended), as prepared by the Department of Legislative Services, Sec. 15 Voters shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15. Voters.

A qualified voter within the meaning of this charter shall be any person who is a resident of the City of Greenbelt and who is duly registered with Prince George's County under the applicable provisions of the [Article 33]-Election Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and is at least 16 years of age; provided that eligibility to vote in any city election shall be subject to applicable registration deadlines as set forth in the charter and code of the city.

SECTION III NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt that the Charter of the City, found, in whole or in part, in the compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (2008 edition as amended), as prepared by the Department of Legislative Services, Sec. 16 Board of elections – Generally shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16. Board of elections--Generally.

(a) *Appointment.* There shall be a board of elections consisting of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the city council. The members shall be appointed for a term ending on the third Monday of January in even numbered years or until their successors are appointed. Members shall serve for a term of four (4) years, or until their successors are appointed; except that, of the members first appointed, three (3) shall be appointed for a term expiring on the third Monday in January, 1978; and two (2) shall be appointed for a term expiring on the third Monday in January, 1976.

Members of the board of elections shall be qualified voters of the city who are at least 18 years of age and shall not hold or be candidates for any elective office in government (federal, state, or local) during their term of office. The board shall elect one of its members as chairman who shall serve at the pleasure of the board until a successor chairman is elected. A vacancy on the board shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the city council.

Three (3) members of the board shall constitute a quorum at meetings duly called pursuant to rules to be adopted by the board.

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SECTION IV NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt that the Charter of the City, found, in whole or in part, in the

compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (2008 edition as amended), as prepared by the Department of Legislative Services, Sec. 20 Nominations shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20. Nominations.

- (a) Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age may be nominated for the office of member of council upon filing at the office of the city clerk a nominating petition signed by not fewer than fifty (50) voters, a written acceptance of the nomination, and such other statements as may be required by this charter or by law. Upon the finding by the city clerk that the nomination petition, the written acceptance, and such other statements as may be required are in order, the name of such nominee shall be authorized to be placed upon the ballot.

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SECTION V BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any provision of the City Charter that is inconsistent with the amendments contained in this Charter Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION VI BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date of the adoption of this resolution January 8, 2018, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City, as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on February 27, 2018, unless on or before 5:00 p.m. on February 17, 2018, a petition for referendum on this resolution meeting the requirements of §4-304 of the Md. Local Government Code Ann. is filed in writing, with the Mayor or City Manager.

SECTION VII BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a complete and exact copy of this resolution shall be posted at the Greenbelt City Office, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland, until February 17, 2018 and a fair summary of the proposed Charter amendment contained in this resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Greenbelt not fewer than four (4) times at weekly intervals before February 17, 2018.

SECTION VIII BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as soon as the Charter amendment hereby enacted shall become effective, either as herein provided or following a referendum, the City Manager shall send or cause to be sent to the Department of Legislative Reference the following information concerning this Charter resolution: (1) the complete text of this resolution; (2) the date of enactment of the Charter amendment; (3) the date of the referendum election, if any; (4) the number of votes cast for or against this resolution whether by the City Council or in a referendum; and (5) the effective date of the Charter amendment contained herein. The transmittal to the Maryland Department of Legislative Reference shall be in accordance with the provisions of §4-109 and Division II, Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and any other applicable law.

SECTION IX AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Greenbelt be and hereby is specifically enjoined and instructed to carry out or cause to be carried out the provisions of Sections VII and VIII.

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

Key:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Boldface brackets] indicates language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.