

Introduced: Ms. Mach
1st Reading: June 20, 2005
Passed: July 11, 2005
Posted: July 12, 2005
Effective: August 30, 2005

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2005-1

RESOLUTION NUMBER 984

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND AND SECTION 13 OF ARTICLE 23A OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, (1957 EDITION AS AMENDED), TITLE, "CORPORATION-MUNICIPAL," SUBTITLE "HOME RULE" 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 REFERENCE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 77 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND OF 1983, BY REPEALING AND REENACTING WITH AMENDMENTS SECTION 27, TITLED "ABSENTEE VOTING" TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR ABSENTEE VOTING (CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2005-1)

- SECTION I WHEREAS, the City of Greenbelt provides that any qualified City voter may vote by absentee ballot in municipal elections, by reason of religious beliefs, physical condition or absence from the City on the day of an election; and
- SECTION II WHEREAS, the City Council and the City's Board of Elections wish to encourage higher levels of voter participation in municipal elections by trying various means to make the process of voting more convenient and easily accessible; and
- SECTION III WHEREAS, it is now desired to extend the established absentee voting procedures, which are established by ordinance, to any qualified City voter who prefers to cast a ballot away from a polling place; and
- SECTION IV WHEREAS, subsequent to the adoption of this Charter Amendment Resolution, the City Council will also review for passage an ordinance to amend section 8-4 ("Absentee Voting") of the City Code. NOW, THEREFORE,
- SECTION V BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED 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 (1983 edition as amended), as prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, shall be amended by repealing and reenacting with amendment Section 27, titled "Absentee Voting" as follows:

* * * * *

Sec. 27. Absentee voting.

Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt[, by reason of religious beliefs, physical condition or absence from the city on the day of an election,] may vote by absentee ballot. The procedures for applying for[an absentee ballot], [for]casting[the ballots], and counting[it] absentee ballots shall be established by ordinance.

* * * * *

SECTION VI BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the date of the adoption of this resolution is July 11, 2005, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City, as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on August 30, 2005, unless on or before August 20, 2005, a proper petition for referendum on this resolution shall be filed as permitted by law.

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 August 20, 2005, 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 August 20, 2005.

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 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.

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 VI and VII.

Judith F. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk

Key:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

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