

Introduced: Ms. Davis
1st Reading: April 12, 2021
Passed: April 26, 2021
Posted: April 30, 2021
Effective: June 15, 2021

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-1

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2090

A Resolution to Amend Section 27 Titled “Absentee Voting” to be replaced with “Mail-In Voting” of the Greenbelt City Charter

WHEREAS, the City of Greenbelt wishes to allow any qualified City voter to vote by mail-in ballot in municipal elections, for any reason, on or before the day of an election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the 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

WHEREAS, it is now desired to extend the established mail-in voting procedures, which are established by ordinance, to any qualified City voter who prefers to cast a ballot away from a polling place; and

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, 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:

SECTION 27. [ABSENTEE] MAIL-IN VOTING.

Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may vote by [absentee] mail-in ballot, without stating a reason. The procedures for applying for, casting, and counting [absentee] mail-in ballots shall be established by ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the date of the adoption of this resolution is April 26, 2021, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City, as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on June 15, 2021, unless on or before June 5, 2021, a proper petition for referendum on this resolution shall be filed, as permitted by law.

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 June 5, 2021, 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 June 5, 2021.


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.

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.



Colin A. Byrd, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

Key:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.