

Introduced: Ms. Davis
1st Reading: April 24, 2023
Passed: May 8, 2023
Posted: May 9, 2023
Effective: May 8, 2023

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1388

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I “IN GENERAL”, SECTION 13 “EARLY VOTING” OF CHAPTER 8, “ELECTIONS” OF THE GREENBELT CITY CODE

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1371 based on recommendations from the Greenbelt Board of Elections; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Elections and City staff have identified that most voters use Early Voting far less often than mail-in and voting on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to modify the early voting provisions by condensing the timeframe NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, that Chapter 8, “Elections,” be amended to read as follows:

Chapter 8

ARTICLE I.

IN GENERAL

* * * * *

Sec. 8-13. Early voting.

(a) Residents of the city who are qualified voters [~~registered with the Prince George's County Board of Elections~~] have the right to vote by early voting in municipal elections, as provided in this section.

(b) [~~For purposes of this Code, an "early voting ballot" is a ballot not used in a polling place on election day nor for "absentee voting," and "election day" means the day of a municipal election.~~

(e)] Voting by early voting in municipal elections shall be as follows:

(1) Early voting will [~~begin on the third Saturday prior to the election and end on the first Friday prior to the election on the following schedule: Third Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) and third Sunday (11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) prior to the election in Greenbelt East; second Saturday (9:00 a.m.~~

~~to 1:00 p.m.) and second Sunday (11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) prior to the election in Greenbelt West; and Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and Tuesdays (9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) in the municipal building throughout this period] take place on the last Saturday and Sunday prior to election day, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Early voting ballots may be cast in Greenbelt East (Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse), Greenbelt Central (Community Center), or Greenbelt West (Springhill Lake Recreation Center), or such other locations in Greenbelt East, Central, and West the Board of Elections may designate. A voter may use any polling place, without regard to residence.~~

(d) Early voting ballots shall be cast and counted as follows:

(1) The voter must obtain and complete an early voting ballot on the designated premises; seal it in a blank envelope; place and seal the blank envelope in an early voting envelope, signed by the voter, with the name as registered printed on it; and then place the envelope in a designated ballot box.

(2) Ballots in early voting envelopes that contain more than one blank, sealed envelope shall be kept by the City Clerk but may not be counted.

(3) If a ballot is submitted in a properly signed and sealed early voting envelope but not contained within a blank, sealed envelope, then the Board shall decide by majority vote whether the ballot may be counted and whether the voter's privacy has been violated. If such a ballot is to be counted, it shall be placed in a blank, sealed envelope and then included with all other envelopes containing early voting ballots. The City Clerk shall notify by mail every voter whose privacy the Board determines has or might have been violated.

(4) The City Clerk shall deliver the early voting sealed, blank envelopes to the Clerks appointed by the Board for the counting of early voting ballots. The City Clerk shall advise them of the number of ballots cast and shall keep the same record of early voting ballots as is kept by the Clerks of election at their polling places.

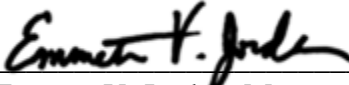
(5) Upon receipt of the early voting sealed, blank envelopes, the Early Voting Clerks shall open them and determine whether any contain more than one ballot. A ballot in an envelope containing more than one ballot may not be counted.

(6) If the City Clerk or an Early Voting Clerk challenges a ballot for noncompliance with the Code, then the Board shall decide whether it may be counted. All such Board decisions, by majority vote, shall be final.

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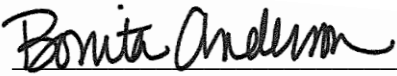
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt that this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, at its regular meeting of May 8, 2023.



Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

Key:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

~~Overstriking~~ indicates language deleted from existing law.

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