

Introduced: Ms. Mach  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: July 13, 2009  
Passed: August 10, 2009  
Posted: August 11, 2009  
Effective: August 20, 2009

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1302

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I "IN GENERAL" OF CHAPTER 8, "ELECTIONS," OF THE GREENBELT CITY CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 2009-1 PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JUNE 22, 2009, TO ALLOW FOR "EARLY VOTING"

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WHEREAS, the Council has approved "early voting" to make it easier for all qualified voters registered with the Prince George's County Board of Elections to participate in municipal elections, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland that Chapter 8, "Elections," be amended to include a new Section 8-13 to read as follows:

**ARTICLE I.**

**IN GENERAL**

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**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.

(c) 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.

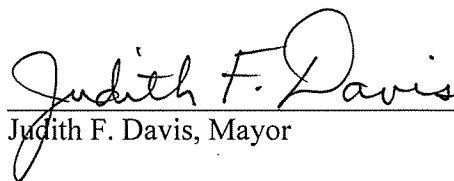
(2) To cast an early voting ballot, the voter must complete the ballot on the premises, place it in a blank, sealed envelope, and then place the sealed

envelope in the early voting envelope on which are written the voter's name as registered and signature. The voter shall place the early voting envelope in the designated early voting ballot box. Early voting envelopes that contain more than one blank, sealed envelope shall be kept by the city clerk, and those early voting ballots shall not be counted. If a ballot is submitted in a properly signed and sealed early voting envelope without being contained in a blank, sealed envelope, then the board shall determine by majority vote whether a violation of the voter's privacy has occurred or whether the ballot may be counted. If a determination is made to count the ballot, then a member of the board shall place the ballot in a blank, sealed envelope.

- (3) The city clerk shall deliver the ballot box containing the early voting sealed, blank envelopes to the early voting clerks appointed by the board of elections for the counting of early voting ballots. The city clerk shall advise the early voting clerks of the numbers of early voting ballots cast, and shall keep the same record of the early voting ballots as is kept by the clerks of election at their polling places.
- (4) Upon receipt of the ballot box containing the early voting sealed, blank envelopes, the early voting clerks shall open the sealed envelopes and determine that no envelope contains more than one (1) ballot. Ballots in sealed envelopes that contain more than one (1) ballot shall not be counted.
- (5) If an early voting ballot is challenged by the city clerk or an early voting ballot clerk for noncompliance with this section, it may not be counted until the board of elections determines that it is valid. Early voting ballot validity shall be determined by rules adopted by the board.

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PASSED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, at its regular meeting of August 10, 2009.

  
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Judith F. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Cindy Murray, 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.