

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to provide, for the November 3, 2020 General Election, that the requirement that election workers be registered qualified electors in the District shall not apply to District government employees.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Election Worker Residency Requirement Waiver Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to provide, for the November 3, 2020 General Election, that the requirement that election workers be registered qualified electors in the District shall not apply to District government employees.

(b) For the General Election, the Board of Elections (“Board”) has estimated a need of approximately 3,000 election workers.

(c) Due to the pandemic, the Board has had more difficulty than in the past recruiting election workers. In prior elections, most election workers have tended to be older residents. This demographic is particularly vulnerable to the health risks associated with COVID-19, and therefore, has been unwilling or unable to serve as election workers under the present conditions.

34 (d) Under current law, election workers must be “qualified registered electors” –
35 meaning, District resident voters.

36 (e) The District government employs individuals who can be detailed to the Board to
37 support the administration of the General Election, and the Executive has offered to do so.
38 However, some of those employees may not currently reside or be registered to vote in the
39 District, therefore making them ineligible to be election workers.

40 (f) This emergency legislation is necessary to allow the Board to utilize District
41 government employees as election workers, regardless of their residency or voter registration
42 status in the District, so that the Board can meet its critical staffing needs and ensure an efficient
43 administration of the election.

44 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
45 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
46 Election Worker Residency Requirement Waiver Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be
47 adopted after a single reading.

48 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.