

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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1 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to extend the deadline by  
2 which the Council must adjust the boundaries of election wards based on the 2020  
3 Census.

4 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
5 resolution may be cited as the “Ward Redistricting Deadline Extension Emergency Declaration  
6 Resolution of 2021”.

7 Sec. 2. (a) The Boundaries Act of 1975, effective December 16, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-38;  
8 D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01) requires the Council to adjust the boundaries of election wards  
9 following receipt of the official report of the federal decennial census, so that each ward will be  
10 approximately equal in population and meet other applicable requirements.

11 (b) The deadline for Council action to adjust ward boundaries is no later than 90 days  
12 after the Council’s receipt of the census report, or not later than July 14th of the year in which  
13 the census report is received, whichever is later.

14 (c) Due primarily to pandemic-related delays, the official report of the 2020 Census was  
15 received on September 16, 2021, which was during a period of Council recess and nearly six  
16 months after the deadline set forth in federal law (13 U.S.C. § 141(c)).

17 (d) Through the Subcommittee on Redistricting, the Council is engaged in a public  
18 outreach effort including public hearings, roundtables, and community meetings to provide for  
19 members of the public to ask questions, express their views, and submit maps for the Council's  
20 consideration.

21 (e) It is anticipated that Bill 24-371, the Ward Restricting Amendment Act of 2021, will  
22 be marked up in the Subcommittee on Redistricting during the month of November 2021, then  
23 considered by the Council at first reading on December 7 and at final reading on December 21,  
24 2021, which is 96 days after receipt of the 2020 Census report.

25 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
26 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Ward  
27 Redistricting Deadline Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single  
28 reading.

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