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2 Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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8 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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16 To commemorate and recognize September 20th, 2022, as National Voter Registration Day in the
17 District of Columbia.

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19 WHEREAS, according to the Board of Elections 499,789 District residents
20 are registered to vote, meaning over 70% of District residents are registered to vote;

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22 WHEREAS, National Voter Registration Day was established to raise awareness
23 about the need for Americans to register to vote and keep their registration current;

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25 WHEREAS, National Voter Registration Day is a day to remember both the importance
26 of the right to vote and the exercise of that right;

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28 WHEREAS, according to the Board of Elections during the District's last primary
29 that included a mayoral election a total of 32.26% of residents voted;

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31 WHEREAS, according to the Board of Elections 66.90% of registered voters voted in the
32 Presidential Election in 2020;

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34 WHEREAS, the rewards of local elections are not as widely reflected in public discourse
35 as higher profile national elections;

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37 WHEREAS, the District's local elections have the most immediate impact on safety,
38 public education, recreation for youth, and the general quality of life of residents;

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40 WHEREAS, the District's democratic representation continues to be hampered by its lack
41 of statehood, but that only increases the importance of exercising the rights we do have;

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43 WHEREAS, women and people of color have fought and died for the right to register to
44 vote and for that registration status to be honored without encumbrances;

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46 WHEREAS, the United States has a history of hindering black voters

47 with tactics such as poll taxes and political gerrymandering;

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49 WHEREAS, current Supreme Court cases such as Shelby County v. Holder and Brnovich
50 v. Democratic National Committee have made it more difficult for voters of color to prove
51 that anti-voting laws have a discriminatory impact;

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53 WHEREAS, currently to register to vote in the District you must be a United States
54 citizen, maintain residency in the District for at least 30 days prior to the election in which you
55 intend to vote, not claim voting residence outside of the District, be at least 17 years old and at
56 least 18 years old by the next General Election, and not have been found by a court to be legally
57 incompetent to vote;

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59 WHEREAS, the Board of Elections must receive your voter registration materials at
60 least 21 days prior to Election Day, but if you miss the 21-day deadline, same-day registration is
61 available at Vote Centers during the Early Voting period and on Election Day;

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63 WHEREAS, District is one of 20 jurisdictions that have implemented same-day voting
64 and Election Day registration, which means voters can both register and vote on Election Day;

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66 WHEREAS, the District, Maine, and Vermont are the only jurisdictions where
67 incarcerated people never lose their right to vote;

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69 WHEREAS, the Board of Elections has outlined comprehensive voter registration
70 guidance at www.dcboe.org; and,

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72 WHEREAS, the next election in the District is November 8th, 2022;

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74 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
75 resolution may be cited as the “National Voter Registration Day Ceremonial Recognition
76 Resolution of 2022”.

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78 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes National Voter Registration Day in the District of
79 Columbia and honors the important work of organizations that work to register people to vote.

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81 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
82 the District of Columbia Register.