

A RESOLUTION

---

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

---

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to eliminate the requirement that the Board of Elections divide the District into new voting precincts prior to the 2024 primary election.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Election Precinct Modernization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) Currently, D.C. Official Code § 1–1001.05(a)(8) requires that every five years the Board of Elections shall “divide the District into appropriate voting precincts, each of which shall contain at least 350 registered persons; and draw precinct lines within election wards created by the Council.”

(c) On December 21, 2021, the Council unanimously passed B24-0371 – the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021, effective February 24, 2022 (D.C. Law 24-0074; 69 DCR 2018). The Ward Redistricting Amendment Act amended the Redistricting Procedure Act of 1981 to adjust the ward boundaries within the District of Columbia, establishing a need to ensure that the precinct lines were also redrawn in order that no precinct line crossed an election ward boundary.

(d) On October 18, 2022, the Council passed B24-0507 - the Election Modernization

Amendment Act of 2021, effective April 6, 2023 (D.C. Law 24-0342; 70 DCR 6313). The Election Modernization Amendment Act allowed residents to vote in person at any Vote Center in the District, regardless of their assigned precinct. This legislation eliminated the need to create precincts to determine where a resident may vote.

(e) Precincts no longer serve a specific purpose in the District, and removing the requirement to create them will result in administrative savings and improved efficiency for the Board of Elections. Because Single Member Districts – our smallest voting districts – overlap precinct lines, BOE has been required to produce over 750 different ballot styles. If precincts are eliminated, only 345 ballot styles will need to be created. This will streamline BOE efforts to prepare for the 2024 election. Moreover, this measure will not affect the tallying of votes. Presently, election results are reported at the District-wide, ward and precinct levels. This measure would replace precinct results with SMD-level results, providing voters with more specific voter data.

(f) BOE will begin the process of preparing materials for the election on March 1. Emergency legislation is therefore necessary to ensure that the BOE does not begin the unnecessary effort to redraw precinct boundaries prior to the 2024 election, as these boundaries no longer do not determine where a resident may vote.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Election Precinct Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

---

Chairman

Council of the District of Columbia

---

Mayor

District of Columbia