

Introduced: Mr. Herling
1st Reading: June 8, 2009
Passed: June 22, 2009
Posted: June 23, 2009
Effective: August 11, 2009

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2009-1

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1044

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND AND SECTION 13 OF ARTICLE 23A OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, (1957 EDITION AS AMENDED), TITLE, "CORPORATION-MUNICIPAL," SUBTITLE "HOME RULE" TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT FOUND, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN THE COMPILATION OF MUNICIPAL CHARTERS OF MARYLAND (1983 EDITION AS AMENDED), AS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 77 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND OF 1983, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 27A, TITLED "EARLY VOTING" (CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2009-1)

SECTION I WHEREAS, in February 2008, the City received correspondence from the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and the Prince George's County Branch of the NAACP raising concerns about the City's voting process and subsequently learned that the U.S. Department of Justice was investigating Greenbelt's election system. In response to these concerns, City Council engaged in dialogue and deliberations with residents, other stakeholders and staff to determine what changes, if any, were needed to the City's election system. One of the suggestions resulting from this process was to implement some form of early voting. NOW, THEREFORE,

SECTION II BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt that the Charter of the City, found, in whole or in part, in the compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 edition as amended), as prepared by the Department of Legislative Services pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, shall be amended to read as follows:

* * * * *

Sec. 27a. Early Voting.

Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may vote by Early Voting. The procedures for casting and counting early votes shall be established by ordinance.

* * * * *

SECTION III BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the date of the adoption of this resolution is June 22, 2009, and that the amendment to the Charter of the City, as herein adopted, shall be and become effective on August 11, 2009, unless on or before

August 1, 2009, a proper petition for referendum on this resolution shall be filed as permitted by law.

SECTION IV BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a complete and exact copy of this resolution shall be posted at the Greenbelt City Office, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland, until August 1 and a fair summary of the proposed Charter amendment contained in this resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Greenbelt not fewer than four (4) times at weekly intervals before August 1, 2009.

SECTION V BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as soon as the Charter amendment hereby enacted shall become effective, either as herein provided or following a referendum, the City Manager shall send or cause to be sent to the Department of Legislative Reference the following information concerning this Charter resolution: (1) the complete text of this resolution; (2) the date of enactment of the Charter amendment; (3) the date of the referendum election, if any; (4) the number of votes cast for or against this resolution whether by the City Council or in a referendum; and (5) the effective date of the Charter amendment contained herein.

SECTION VI AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Greenbelt be and hereby is specifically enjoined and instructed to carry out or cause to be carried out the provisions of Sections IV and V.

Judith F. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

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.