



Resolution 20-11
Purposes of Instituting Voting by Mail for the 2020 Election

Effective: April 15, 2020

A Resolution of the City of New Carrollton, Maryland, for purposes of instituting voting by mail for the 2020 election due to an existing state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency caused by COVID 19.

WHEREAS, a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed in the State of Maryland and Prince George's County to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the states of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exist; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, is a public health catastrophe and has been confirmed in nearly all Maryland counties, with Prince George's County having the highest number of confirmed cases in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health recommend social distancing and avoiding gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support limitations on gatherings and social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of COVID 19 in the City of New Carrollton and the State of Maryland, and in order to save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in the City refrain from congregating; and

WHEREAS, the City election would ordinarily be conducted at a polling location that during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency, hinder social distancing, enable the transmission of COVID 19, and pose risks to public health, welfare, and safety; and

WHEREAS, the holding of a municipal election at the polling location during or around the time of a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency would potentially expose government buildings, voters, municipal officers, employees, candidates and volunteers to COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, the City election must be accessible, secure, and safe; and

WHEREAS, the City's elections are primarily conducted in-person at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, conducting in-person voting during the state of emergency and the catastrophic health emergency would violate the social distancing and public gathering restrictions currently in place due to COVID 19, thereby threatening the health and safety of everyone participating in the election; and

WHEREAS, without providing a replacement for in-person voting during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency, voter suppression would likely result as voters would be in the unenviable position of having to risk their lives to participate in the election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the best interest of the public health and safety of the City, its citizens, officials, employees, candidates, and volunteers to institute voting by mail for the 2020 municipal election; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Executive Order No. 20-03-30-03 of the Governor of the State of Maryland and the applicable provisions of Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the City has amended its Charter to provide that the City Council may, in the event of a state of emergency or public health catastrophe, institute voting by mail; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED this 15th day of April 2020, by the City Council of New Carrollton that the 2020 municipal election be conducted by mail only, and the City Council and the Board of Elections are authorized to institute procedures necessary to conduct the election by mail.

It is further resolved that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED by the City Council of New Carrollton, on the 15th day of April 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 15, 2020

ATTEST:

THE CITY COUNCIL OF NEW CARROLLTON

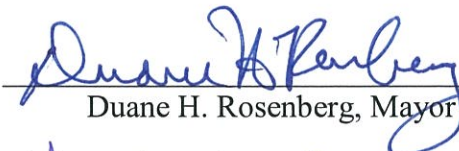


Douglass A. Barber, MMC
City Clerk



Phelecia E. Nembhard, Chair
City Council

APPROVED:



Duane H. Rosenberg, Mayor

DATE:

April 15, 2020