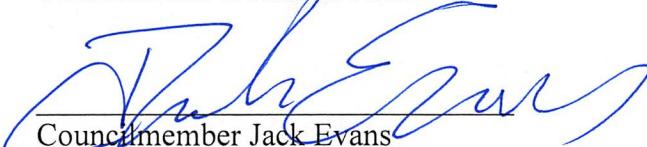1

2 Councilmember Anita Bonds

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6 Councilmember Jack Evans

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10 Councilmember Robert White

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Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

14   A BILL

15

16   _____

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18

19   IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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21   _____

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23

24   To amend the District of Columbia Elections Code of 1955 to require the District of Columbia
25   Board of Elections to develop and post on its website a voter registration packet; to amend
26   the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency Act to provide that housing projects
27   assisted by the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency shall comply with certain
28   provisions relating to the provision of voter registration packets; to amend the Rental
29   Housing Act of 1985 to require landlords of residential rental properties to provide voter
30   registration materials to new tenants including information about how to register to vote
31   and update the tenant's voter registration information; to amend the District of Columbia
32   Housing Authority Act of 1999 to include voter registration packets in the tenants' Bill of
33   Rights; and to amend Subchapter II of Subchapter 8 of Title 47 to provide that an
34   application for the homestead deduction for houses, condominium units, and cooperative
35   housing associations shall include a voter registration packet.

36   BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this

37   act may be cited as the "Improving Voter Registration for New Tenants and Homeowners

38   Amendment Act of 2019".

39   Sec. 2. Section 5(a) of the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August

40   12, 1955 (69 Stat. 700; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)), is amended as follows:

1

41   (a) Paragraph (18) is amended by striking the phrase "; and" and inserting a semicolon in

42   its place.

43   (b) Paragraph (19) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its

44   place.

45   (c) A new paragraph (20) is added to read as follows:

46   "(20) Develop and post on the Board's website a voter registration packet, which

47   shall include the following materials:

48   "(A) A voter registration application;

49   "(B) Information concerning:

50   "(i) Online voter registration;

51   "(ii) Updating a voter's address; and

52   "(iii) The voting rights of individuals with criminal records in the

53   District; and

54   "(C) A weblink to the Board's website to identify the following:

55   "(i) The date of the next scheduled election;

56   "(ii) Polling place locations;

57   "(iii) Names and positions of current elected officials in the District

58   of Columbia; and

59   "(iv) How to search for an individual's Ward Councilmember and

60   Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.".

61   Sec. 3. The second section 26e of the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999,

62   effective May 9, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-105; D.C. Official Code § 6–232), is amended by adding a

63   new subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

64   "(b-1) The Bill of Rights shall also include the voter registration packet, created by the

65   Board of Elections pursuant to section 5(a)(20) of the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955,

66   approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 700; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)(20)).".

67   Sec. 4. Section 308(a) of the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency Act, effective

68   March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-135; D.C. Official Code § 42-2703.08(a)), is amended by striking the

69   phrase "Rental Housing Act of 1985, signed by the Mayor on May 16, 1985 (Act 6-23; to be

70   codified as D.C. Code, sec. 45-2501 *et seq.*)" and inserting the phrase "the Rental Housing Act of

71   1985, effective July 17, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-10; D.C. Official Code § 42-3501.01 *et seq.*), except

72   for section 909 of the Rental Housing Act of 1985, effective July 17, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-10; D.C.

73   Official Code § 42-3509.09)." in its place.

74   Sec. 5. Section 2067(8) of the Office of the Chief Tenant Advocate Establishment Act of

75   2005, effective October 20, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-33; D.C. Official Code § 42-3531.07(8)), is

76   amended by striking the phrase "Register." and inserting the phrase "Register. The Tenant Bill of

77   Rights shall include a voter registration packet, created by the Board of Elections pursuant to

78   section 5(a)(20) of the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69

79   Stat. 700; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)(20))." in its place.

80   Sec. 6. Subchapter II of Chapter 8 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code is

81   amended as follows:

82   (a) Section 47–850(b) is amended by striking the phrase "in a form prescribed by the

83   Mayor" and inserting the phrase "in a form prescribed by the Mayor. The application shall include

84   a voter registration packet, created by the Board of Elections pursuant to § 1-1001.05(a)(20)" in

85   its place.

86   (b) Section 47–850.01(c) is amended by striking the phrase "in a form prescribed by the

87 Mayor" and inserting the phrase "in a form prescribed by the Mayor. The application shall include

88 a voter registration packet, created by the Board of Elections pursuant to § 1-1001.05(a)(20)" in

89 its place.

90   Sec. 7. Fiscal impact statement.

91   The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact

92 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved

93 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

94   Sec. 8. Effective date.

95   This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the

96 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as

97 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,

98 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of

99 Columbia Register.