

A RESOLUTION

23-297

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 17, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to allow candidates to be listed on the ballot for presidential primary elections who have complied with the candidate qualification rules of a political party.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Primary Election Filing Requirement Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) In advance of the 2020 presidential primary election on June 2, 2020, there exists an immediate need to amend current law to allow candidates who have complied with a political party’s candidate qualification rules to be listed on the presidential primary election ballot.

(b) Section 5(b)(2) of the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 700; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(b)(2)), provides that, in order to be listed on a presidential primary election ballot, a candidate must file a petition on behalf of his or her candidacy signed by at least 1,000, or 1%, whichever is fewer, of the qualified electors of the District who are of the same political party as the candidate.

(c) The District of Columbia Democratic Party’s rules provide alternatives to the nominating petition signature collection process that are not explicitly authorized under District law.

(d) Previously, the Council has similarly amended District law to accommodate such alternatives, including before the 2016 presidential primary election.

(e) This emergency legislation would again permit political party rules to provide alternatives to the current statutory candidate qualification process.

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 Primary Election Filing Requirement Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.