

A RESOLUTION

23-522

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 22, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to provide, for the November 3, 2020 General Election, that election workers who are District government employees are not required to be District residents or qualified electors.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Election Worker Residency Requirement Waiver Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to provide, for the November 3, 2020 General Election, that election workers who are District government employees are not required to be District residents or qualified electors.

(b) For the General Election, the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“Board”) has estimated a need for approximately 3,000 election workers.

(c) Due to the pandemic, the Board has had more difficulty than in the past recruiting election workers. In prior elections, most election workers have tended to be older residents. This demographic is particularly vulnerable to the health risks associated with COVID-19, and therefore, has been unwilling or unable to serve as election workers under the present conditions.

(d) Under current law, election workers must be “qualified registered electors” – meaning, District resident voters.

(e) The District government employs individuals who can be detailed to the Board to support the administration of the General Election in various capacities, and the Executive has offered to do so. However, some of those employees may not currently reside or be eligible to vote in the District, therefore making them ineligible to be election workers.

(f) This emergency legislation is necessary to allow the Board to utilize District government employees as election workers, regardless of their residency or voter registration status in the District, so that the Board can meet its critical staffing needs and ensure an efficient administration of the election.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

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 Worker Residency Requirement Waiver Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.