

1 **CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2021-1**

2 **A Resolution Amending Article IV of the City of Hyattsville’s Charter to Alter**
3 **the Last Day Candidates for Office May Register for an Election.**

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5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
6 **HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND,** adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the
7 Constitution of Maryland and Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated
8 Code of Maryland (2013 Edition, as amended), to amend the Charter of the said City, said Charter
9 being a part of the public local laws of Maryland (1963 Edition, as amended), which Article
10 contains in whole or in part the Charter of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, whereby the Mayor
11 and City Council seek to amend the City Charter to alter the last day candidates for office may
12 register.

13 **WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council are committed to increasing voter turnout in all
14 City elections and have created the option of conducting vote-by-mail elections; and

15 **WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council are committed to ensuring the 2021 election is
16 accessible, secure, and safe, while minimizing, to the extent possible, the potential for exposure to
17 COVID-19 to the voting public and City employees and election workers; and

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19 **WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council previously determined that the 2021 election
20 will be conducted by mail; and

21 **WHEREAS,** in order to ensure adequate time exists to create and mail vote-by-mail ballots
22 during a vote-by-mail election, it is necessary to change the candidate registration deadline to the
23 second Friday in March of each election year; and

24 **WHEREAS,** the City Council gave at least twenty-one (21) days advance notice of the
25 public hearing held regarding adoption of this Resolution and the amendment to the Charter
26 contained herein.

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28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and City Council of the City
29 of Hyattsville, Maryland, in regular session assembled:

30 **Section 1:** That Article IV, C§4-8 of the Charter of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, be
31 amended as follows:

32 **§ C4-8. Candidates for office; procedure; ballots. [Amended 12-19-83 by HR No. 20-83; 1-**
33 **30-89 by HR No. 2-89]**

34 A. Filing of applications. Any qualified person may become a candidate for the office of
35 Councilman for the ward in which he resides by filing an application with the Board of
36 Supervisors of Elections on or before 5:00 p.m. on the ~~last~~ second Friday in March of each
37 election year for which a vacancy in such ward shall occur. Any qualified person may become
38 a candidate for the office of Mayor by similarly filing an application if a Mayor is to be elected
39 that year. The application shall be on a form prescribed and made available by the Board of
40 Supervisors of Elections. No fee shall be charged any person for filing an application.

1 B. Public notice. Notice of the availability of applications and the time and place for their filing
2 shall be given twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the City once a week during the two
3 (2) weeks preceding the filing deadline provided herein. The Board of Supervisors of Elections
4 shall certify to the Mayor and City Council the name of each person filing an application of
5 candidacy and the respective office for which that person has filed an application at the first
6 regular meeting of the Council following the ~~last~~ second Friday in March of each election year.
7 If for any reason there is no candidate for a particular office, the City Council shall make
8 nominations for that office at this meeting.

9 C. Names on ballots. No candidate's name shall be printed upon official ballots of election in
10 the City of Hyattsville other than the names of the persons contained in the certificate mentioned
11 in the preceding subsection, except the names of persons nominated by the City Council
12 subsequent to the meeting of the Council as provided in such subsection. Official ballots shall
13 follow the general form prescribed by the election laws of the State of Maryland.

14 * * *

15 **Section 2:** That the date of the adoption of this Resolution is January 19, 2021, and that
16 the amendment to the Charter of the City of Hyattsville hereby proposed by this enactment shall
17 become effective on March, 10, 2021 (50 days after its passage), unless a proper petition for a
18 referendum hereon shall be filed by February 28 , 2021 (40th day after its passage), and that an
19 exact copy of this Resolution shall be posted at the main municipal building and a fair summary
20 of the Amendment shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of
21 Hyattsville not less than four (4) times at weekly intervals within forty (40) days after passage of
22 this Charter Amendment Resolution.

23 **Section 3:** That as soon as the Charter Amendment hereby enacted becomes effective,
24 either as herein provided or following a referendum, the Clerk shall send separately to the
25 Department of Legislative Services, the following information concerning the Charter
26 Amendment: (1) the complete text of this Resolution; (2) the date of referendum election, if any,
27 held with respect thereto; (3) the number of votes cast for and against this Resolution by the Mayor
28 and City Council of the City of Hyattsville or in a referendum; and (4) the effective date of the
29 Charter Amendment.

30 **Section 4:** That the Clerk be, and is specifically enjoined and instructed to carry out the
31 provisions of Sections 2 and 3, and as evidence of compliance herewith the said Clerk shall cause
32 to be affixed to the Minutes of this meeting (1) an appropriate certificate of publication of the
33 newspaper in which the fair summary of the Amendment shall have been published; and (2)
34 records of mailing referred to in Section 3, and shall further complete and execute a Certificate of
35 Compliance.

36 **INTRODUCED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a
37 Regular Meeting on January 19, 2021, at which meeting copies were available to the public for
38 inspection, and at which time a public hearing took place.

39 **ADOPTED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a
40 Regular Meeting on January 19, 2021, at which meeting copies were available to the public for
41 inspection.

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Adopted: _____

Attest: _____
Laura Reams, City Clerk

Kevin Ward, Interim Mayor

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4 { } indicate deletions

5 Underline/**bold**/CAPS indicate additions/amendments to additions

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