

1 **CITY OF HYATTSVILLE**

2 **ORDINANCE 2021-01**

3 **An ordinance whereby the City Council amends Chapter 8 of the Hyattsville**
4 **Code to change the day by which candidates for office are required to register**
5 **as candidates.**

6 **WHEREAS**, the Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 5–202, as amended,
7 authorizes the legislative body of each municipal corporation in the State of Maryland to pass
8 ordinances that such legislative body deems necessary to assure the good government of the
9 municipality, to protect and preserve the municipality’s rights, property and privileges, to preserve
10 peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect
11 the health, comfort, and convenience of the citizens of the municipality; and
12

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
18

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.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville
25 in regular session assembled that Chapter 8 of the Hyattsville Code is hereby amended as follows:

26 * * *

27 **§ 8-7. Applications for Candidacy; Certification of Candidates; Withdrawal.**

28 A. All individuals wishing to have their name included on a ballot as a candidate for the offices
29 of Mayor or Councilmember shall:

30 (1) file an application for candidacy on a form prescribed by the Board on or before 5:00
31 p.m. on the ~~last~~ second Friday in March in the year that the election is to be held;

32 (2) comply with any financial disclosure requirements of Chapter 10, § 10-9 of the City Code.

33 B. The Board shall timely review all applications for candidacy and conduct any necessary
34 investigations to determine the eligibility of each applicant for candidacy, including verifying
35 that candidates are residents of the City.

1 C. The Board may refuse to certify for candidacy any individual who, in any previous election,
2 failed to file all reports required by this Chapter or has repeatedly or consistently failed to
3 observe required election procedures.

4 D. The Board shall consider any mitigating circumstances in ruling on whether to certify an
5 application for candidacy.

6 E. Candidates may withdraw their candidacy at any time on or before the Monday following
7 the filing deadline for applications for candidacy set forth in this Section. Any candidate who
8 withdraws shall file a disposition of funds report.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of this Ordinance or the
10 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, such invalidity
11 shall not affect the other provisions or any other applications of the Ordinance which can be given
12 effect without the invalid provision or applications, and to this end, all the provisions of this
13 Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable;

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20)
15 days from the date of its adoption;

16 **AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that a fair summary of this ordinance shall
17 forthwith be published twice in a newspaper having general circulation in the City and otherwise
18 be made available to the public.

19 **INTRODUCED** by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a regular
20 public meeting on January 19, 2020.

21 **ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a regular public
22 meeting on February 2, 2020.

Adopted: _____

Attest: _____
Laura Reams, City Clerk

Kevin Ward, Interim Mayor

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