



# Hyattsville City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: November 19, 2018  
Submitted by: Candace Hollingsworth, Mayor  
Submitting Department: Legislative  
Item Type: Ordinance  
Agenda Section:

## **SUBJECT**

Chapter 8: Citywide Vote-By-Mail for 2021 Election (15 minutes)

## **HCC-132-FY19**

### **Recommendation:**

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Attorney to draft revisions to Chapter 8 necessary to enable the Board of Elections Supervisors to distribute, proactively, a Vote-by-Mail ballot to all registered voters in the City of Hyattsville (on State and city-only registries). I further move that the Mayor and Council appropriate funds necessary to support this effort in the 2021 municipal election.

### **Sponsor(s):**

Hollingsworth

### **Co-Sponsor(s):**

Lawrence, Suiter, Ward

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### **Summary Background:**

Hyattsville ordinance 2017-01 enabled vote-by-mail in municipal elections upon receipt of a completed application by eligible voters. Additionally, the Hyattsville City Council is currently considering additional revisions to Chapter 8 that will enable the establishment of a permanent vote-by-mail designation that may be revoked (proposed) due to non-participation in three previous city elections or by request of the voter. This revision is requested to further expand democracy by ensuring that every voter in the City of Hyattsville is able to participate in city elections with fewer barriers.

### **Next Steps:**

Discussion, determination of feasibility and anticipated costs.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

TBD

### **City Administrator Comments:**

The Board of Supervisors of Elections is supportive of Vote-by-Mail initiatives, however the Board has not yet had the opportunity to review this proposal. A 2021 implementation date allows the staff and the Election Board to evaluate support requirements and estimated cost.

The Initial evaluation identified the following next steps:

- Identify and recommend code changes
- Identify budget requirements
- Determine coordination needed with Prince George's County Board of Elections
- Determine vendor and equipment needs and process
- Review security plan for mailing/storage of ballots including location of secure room for processing ballots

- Develop a communications strategy
- Identify drop box locations and other standard operating procedures

**Community Engagement:**

TBD

**Strategic Goals:**

Goal 1 – Ensure Transparent and Accessible Governance

**Legal Review Required?**

Pending