

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2018 R-xx

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAJOR AND THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK, MARYLAND, adopted to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (2013 Edition, as amended), to amend the Charter of the said Town, said Charter being a part of the public local laws of Maryland (1963 Edition, as amended), which Article contains in whole or in part the Charter of the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland, whereby the Mayor and Town Council amend the Town Charter to change the qualifications for registering as a voter in Town elections so that (1) being a citizen of the United States is no longer a requirement to be a voter and (2) residency for (30) days is sufficient provided the individual does not claim the right to vote elsewhere in the United States, or has not been found by a Court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote. The amendment further establishes a voter registry separate from the State and County voter registry and further allows for same day registration of voters in Town elections which will be effective on or before, March 1, 2019 and further extending the time for the election judges to certify an election until five (5) calendar days after the election.

Article V
Nominations and Elections

§ 501: Qualifications of Voters

- (a) Every resident of the town who (1) ~~is a citizen of the United States~~ HAS THE TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK AS HIS OR HER PRIMARY RESIDENCE, (2) is at least eighteen (18) years of age, (3) has resided within the corporate limits of the town for at least ~~forty-five (45)~~ THIRTY (30) days immediately preceding any non-runoff town election, (4) DOES NOT CLAIM THE RIGHT TO VOTE ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES, (5) HAS NOT BEEN FOUND BY A COURT TO BE UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE A DESIRE TO VOTE, and (6) is registered to vote in accordance with the provisions of ~~§ 503~~ THIS CHARTER shall be a qualified voter of the ~~town~~ Town. Every qualified voter shall be entitled to vote in all town elections; provided, however, that in the election of council members, only those qualified voters who reside within the limits of the ward from which a council member is elected shall be qualified to vote for that council member. For runoff elections, only those residents who were registered for the initial election are qualified to vote in the runoff election.
- (b) The Town of Riverdale Park shall be divided into six (6) wards for municipal voting purposes. The ward boundaries shall be established by ordinance and shall be reviewed in the fall of the year following the decennial year in which the federal census is taken to ensure substantial equality of representation as nearly as practicable. The boundary descriptions of the wards shall be filed at all times in the town office for public inspection.

§ 503: Registration

~~Any resident of the town may register to vote at the Board of Election Supervisors for Prince George's County by mail or whenever the office is open for business.~~

(a) In accordance with § 3-2(d) of the Election Code, Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, persons registered to vote in Prince George's County for county, state, and federal elections who meet the residency requirement of § 501(a)(3) of this charter shall be qualified to vote in ~~town elections.~~Town elections. Any resident of the Town may register to vote at the Board of SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS OF Prince George's County by mail or whenever the office is open for business. [Amended 9-8-94, effective 10-28-94.]

(b) THE TOWN CLERK SHALL MAINTAIN A SUPPLEMENTAL VOTER REGISTRY, SEPARATE FROM THE LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS GENERATED BY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN TOWN ELECTIONS PURSUANT TO § 501 OF THIS CHARTER AND ARE NOT ON THE LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS GENERATED BY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

(c) VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL VOTER REGISTRY SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE TOWN CLERK'S ACCEPTANCE OF A COMPLETED AND SIGNED REGISTRATION APPLICATION AS OUTLINED IN [THE TOWN ELECTIONS CODE].

(d) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, THE TOWN SHALL INSTITUTE A SAME DAY REGISTRATION PROGRAM SO THAT TOWN RESIDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN TOWN ELECTION BY SUBMITTING AND COMPLETING A SIGNED REGISTRATION APPLICATION AND THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE THE SAME DAY. SAME DAY REGISTRATION SHALL OCCUR AT A MINIMUM ON ANY DAY DURING THE TIME THE POLLS ARE OPEN IN THE TOWN.

§ 511: Vote Count, Declaration of Persons Elected, and Determination of Candidates for Runoff Election [Amended 2-4-01.]

~~Immediately~~ WITHIN FIVE (5) CALENDAR DAYS after the closing of the polls, the election judges shall determine and record the vote cast for each candidate and shall seal the ballots and/or machine tallies. WITHIN FIVE (5) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS, ~~the~~ judges shall ~~immediately~~ present the record of votes cast to the mayor and council, who shall declare that person or persons elected who received more than half of the votes for the respective office or offices. The results shall be recorded in the minutes of the council.