

Charter Amendment Res. No.: 7-22
Introduced: November 7, 2022
Adopted: December 5, 2022
Effective Date: January 24, 2023

TOWN OF SOMERSET

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 83-30 OF THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF SOMERSET

This Resolution of the Council of the Town of Somerset (the “Council”) is adopted pursuant to the Constitution of Maryland, Article XI-E, the Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 4-301, *et seq.*, and the Charter of the Town of Somerset (the “Charter”), to amend Section 83-30 of the Charter to allow elections by mail and other means, and to remove the requirement for incapacitation or absence for absentee voting.

Section 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, that Section 83-30 be amended to read as follows:

Section 83-30. Conduct of elections.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the board of supervisors of elections to [provide for each special and general election a suitable place or places for voting and suitable ballot boxes and ballots or voting machines] determine for each special and general election the manner in which the elections will be conducted. Elections may be conducted in person, by mail, or other format. The ballots or voting machines shall show the name of each candidate nominated for elective office in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, arranged in alphabetical order by office with no party designation of any kind.
- (b) Qualified voters [who are incapacitated or who will be absent] may vote by [absentee ballot] mail according to rules and regulations recommended by the board of supervisors and approved by the council, regardless of whether an election takes place in person or by other means.

NOTE: Underlining indicates language added to the Charter
[Boldface Brackets] denote language deleted from the Charter

Section 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the date of the adoption of this Resolution is December 5, 2022, following its introduction on November 7, 2022 (at least twenty-one (21) days prior to adoption) and that the amendment to the Town Charter hereby proposed by this enactment shall be and become effective on January 24, 2023 (fifty (50) days from adoption), unless a proper petition for a referendum hereon shall be filed as permitted by law on or before January 14, 2023 (forty (40) days from adoption).

Section 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a complete and exact copy of this Resolution shall be posted at 4510 Cumberland Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 for at least forty (40) days following adoption and a fair summary of this Resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Somerset not less than four (4) times, at weekly intervals, within a period of at least forty (40) days starting immediately after the date of adoption.

Section 4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as soon as the amendment hereby enacted shall become effective, either as herein provided or following a referendum, the Mayor shall send, by certified mail, return receipt requested, bearing a postmark from the United States Postal Service, to the Department of Legislative Services, the following information concerning the amendment: (i) the complete text of the amendment as hereby enacted; (ii) the date of the referendum election, if any, held with respect thereto; (iii) the number of votes cast for and against the question concerning the amendment, whether by the Town Council or in a referendum; and (iv) the effective date of the amendment.

Section 5. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Mayor be and is hereby specifically instructed to carry out the provisions of Sections 3 and 4. As evidence of compliance herewith, the said Mayor shall cause to be placed in the Town files the following information concerning the amendment: (i) appropriate certificates of publication of the newspaper in which a fair summary of this Resolution shall have been published; and (ii) the return receipts of the mailing referred to in Section 4, and shall further complete and execute the Certificate of Effect attached hereto.

Stephen Surko
Stephen Surko, President

Robin Barr
Robin Barr

Debbie Heller
Debbie Heller

Kabir Kumar
Kabir Kumar

Shannon Rovak
Shannon Rovak

ATTEST:

Matt Trollinger
Matt Trollinger, Clerk-Treasurer

Town Manager

Approved:



Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor
Town of Somerset

Date: 12/5/2023