

A resolution by Supervisors Nicholson, Czarnezki, Johnson, Jr., Taylor, Cullen, and Shea, supporting the City of Milwaukee's SafeVote program for the Fall 2020 General Election, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020, the City of Milwaukee (the City) Common Council unanimously adopted the creation of the SafeVote Program (the Program); and

WHEREAS, the Program will provide the 300,000 registered voters in the City with an application for an absentee voter ballot in the mail, along with a pre-postaged return envelope for the Fall 2020 General Election; and

WHEREAS, the Spring 2020 Primary Election occurred on April 7, 2020, in the midst of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, because the State of Wisconsin (the State) Supreme Court overturned an order by Governor Evers (the Governor), which would have delayed the date of in-person voting; and

WHEREAS, voters were forced to disobey the State's Safer at Home order and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance to vote in-person and risk exposure and contraction of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Health Department has identified seven individuals who appear to have contracted COVID-19 through activities related to the April 7, 2020, election, including one poll worker; and

WHEREAS, these numbers are expected to rise as the City continues to gather information on sick individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Program intends to avoid a repeat of the 2020 Spring Primary by encouraging absentee voting, and providing absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in the City; and

WHEREAS, it is not yet clear the impact COVID-19 will have in Fall 2020, but public health experts from the White House Coronavirus Task Force indicate that a resurgence is likely to occur; and

WHEREAS, the City contains a disproportionate amount of the State's persons of color, whom are more likely to both contract COVID-19 and be disenfranchised; and

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43 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Milwaukee County protect the right to vote
44 through the implementation of the Program; and
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46 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
47 March 20, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-382 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
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49 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) supports the City of
50 Milwaukee's SafeVote Program (the Program) for the 2020 Fall General Election, and
51 the right to vote safely during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and
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53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County encourages its other municipalities to
54 consider adoption of their own Program and requests the Office of the Milwaukee
55 County Clerk furnish a copy of this resolution to Government Affairs staff (or a similar
56 office) of the 19 County municipalities; and
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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County encourages the State of Wisconsin
59 (the State) to enact a State-wide Program, and requests the Office of Government
60 Affairs staff work with the State Governor and State legislature in developing such a
61 Program; and
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63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of the Milwaukee County Clerk is
64 requested to furnish a copy of this resolution to the State Governor and State
65 legislature.
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