



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 21, 2016 Agenda Item 1

### **Voting Session**

Resolution Affirming the City Council's Intention to Proceed with Changing the Date of City Elections

### **Recommended Council Action**

Consider the resolution.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The City Council has held a series of work sessions to discuss changing the date of City elections to coincide with state and federal general elections in the interest of increasing resident participation. The City Board of Elections consulted with election officials from Montgomery County and the State of Maryland to see if Takoma Park election contests could be included on the state ballot if the City filed a request to do so. The Board learned that it would not be possible for 2018.

The City Council may still be interested in pursuing shared use of the polling places in Takoma Park to allow residents to vote in City and State elections on the same day and in the same locations. The Town of Ocean City, Maryland uses this model.

The City Board of Elections is scheduled to attend the Montgomery County Board of Elections meeting on September 19 to request shared use for the 2018 general election. If approved, the City would work with Montgomery County to develop a memorandum of understanding and refine plans for a concurrent election.

A charter amendment is required to change the election date. Throughout its discussions in 2016, the Council held a series of hand votes indicating agreement to continue toward changing the date. The draft resolution is on the agenda to ensure that there is sufficient support on the City Council for having staff work on a charter amendment and plan for a concurrent election.

### **Council Priority**

Engaged, Responsive and Service-Oriented Government

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

N/A

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

To be determined.

### **Attachments and Links**

Draft resolution

[Project Directory Page on Election Synchronization](#)

Introduced by:

**City of Takoma Park, Maryland**

**Resolution 2016-  
Affirming the Council's Intent to Proceed with Changing the Date of City Elections**

- WHEREAS, the City Council has been exploring the option of changing the date of City elections to coincide with State and Federal general elections as a way to increase participation; and
- WHEREAS, the Council has learned that it will not be possible to include City election contests on the State ballot for 2018; and
- WHEREAS, there is interest in pursuing the option of changing the date and conducting the election by sharing space in the Takoma Park precincts where residents will vote in the 2018 general election; and
- WHEREAS, while the majority of the Council has indicated support for changing the date through a series of hand votes, there has not been a vote on a resolution or ordinance affirming the Council's intention to continue to work towards a date change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council affirms its intention to proceed with changing the date of City elections to coincide with state and federal general elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution does not commit to changing the date if it is determined that it is not feasible or not in the best interest of the residents of Takoma Park.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2016.