

Takoma Park Board of Elections  
Statement on November 3, 2020 Election Planning

July 15, 2020

Dear Members of the Council,

Since the recommendation of the Takoma Park Board of Elections (BOE or the Board) to move to all mail voting for the 2020 city elections, the board has continued to consider the mechanics for switching to all mail elections. The BOE would like to provide a brief update on new recommendations on specific aspects of the election, especially those regarding changes to the city charter or code. The BOE also acknowledges that additional clarity on the election process is still needed and will be forthcoming. The latest updates for the Council are as follows:

- **Deadline for ballots:** The BOE considered the deadline for ballots to be received, if the deadline for voters to place ballots in the mail is Election Day. The BOE would like to provide as much time as possible for ballots to arrive, so as not to disenfranchise voters, while also ensuring that results from the election can be certified within a reasonable timeframe. As proposed in the Charter Amendment, the date for certification would be the Wednesday following Election Day (8 days). The BOE recommends that the deadline for receipt of ballots postmarked on or before election day be extended to the Monday following Election Day (6 days).
- **Mailing of ballots:** The BOE noted the election details set forth by the the Governor for the Maryland state and federal elections. The state will continue to open in-person voting locations as normal and will mail an absentee ballot request form to every voter. The Takoma Park BOE still recommends mailing each voter a ballot directly and not follow the state's procedures.

We will continue to provide further updates to the Council and we look forward to any feedback.

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