



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 20, 2021 Agenda Item 4

Work Session

Board of Elections Update on City Election Planning

Recommended Council Action

Hear the update and provide feedback.

Context with Key Issues

The City Council amended the City Charter in 2017 to change the date of City elections for Mayor and Council from November of odd-numbered years to November of even-numbered years. The elections now take place every two years on the same day as Maryland State and federal general elections.

For 2022, the Board of Elections is planning for a vote by mail election, which will be conducted in a similar fashion to the 2020 election. Since that time, other local jurisdictions have conducted elections by mail and the Board of Elections and staff will have the benefit of their experience in planning for 2022.

The Board of Elections is reviewing the City Code and Board procedures in preparation for 2022. The Board will be meeting with the City Attorney before the holidays to discuss improvements and clarifications. At the work session on October 20, Board Co-Chair Matt Ling will share discussion points for that meeting with the City Attorney and will ask the City Council for additional ideas based on the 2020 experience.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive, and Service-Oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

N/A

Fiscal Considerations

The cost of the November 2020 election was around \$70,000.

Racial Equity Considerations

The 2020 election resulted in improved turnout in all wards, including Wards 4, 5, and 6, the wards with the highest numbers of people of color. The voter turnout in these wards is typically very low.

Attachments and Links

None