

Introduced by: Councilmember Grimes

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2013-46
APPOINTMENTS TO THE VOTING TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the City Council established a Voting Task Force to make recommendations on any policies or regulations needed to strengthen the right to vote and voter participation in City elections; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall consist of up to 11 members appointed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, members shall be Takoma Park residents or shall represent organizations with expertise in election laws or policy, voting rights or voter registration; and

WHEREAS, at least two members of the Task Force shall be selected by the Takoma Park Board of Elections and recommended to the City Council for appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Council shall aim to appoint at least two youth members aged 16 to 21 on the date of appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall elect from among its members two Co-Chairs and a Secretary; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager may designate one or more staff members to assist the Task Force in its work; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall focus on the following in the course of its work:

- Recommend actions by the City before the 2013 elections to promote new suffrage opportunities and other participation in City government for and by residents who have turned 16, same-day voter registration and residents who are currently on parole or probation as a result of a felony conviction.
- Study the impact of Takoma Park's longstanding and new laws on voting to make recommendations for voter outreach and voting procedures in future City elections.
- Recommend to the City Council steps that would strengthen early voting efforts and extend early voting as practical and desirable.
- Research and recommend practical steps that may be taken by the City and community organizations to boost electoral awareness and participation,

particularly in neighborhoods and community segments that have historically had the lowest participation rates.

- Review all City laws, regulations, processes, and practices that may affect the right to vote and that may affect the power of voters to elect candidates and hold representatives accountable.
- Recommend changes to City law, regulations, processes, and practices that would better uphold voting rights, encourage increased electoral participation, and promote greater awareness of our political process.
- Make recommendations on a means to monitor and report on the effect of City ordinances, regulations and practices on voting rights, voter participation and voter awareness over time.
- Report on recommendations regarding state legislation the City Council could promote with our representatives in the House of Delegates and State Senate that would strengthen the right to vote in Maryland.
- Identify needs for addition voter registration efforts designed to register eligible individuals who are at least 16 years old.
- Recommend policies that would increase opportunities for civic engagement with tenants living in apartment buildings.
- Recommend languages appropriate to Takoma Park into which all written and recorded City voter resources including ballots should be translated.

WHEREAS, the opportunity to apply to serve on the Voting Task Force has been advertised in the Takoma Park Newsletter; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Elections has recommended two of its members for appointment to the Voting Task Force; and

WHEREAS, a number of individuals have applied to serve on the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found the applicants to be appropriate candidates for appointment to the Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK THAT the following individuals are hereby appointed to serve on the Voting Task Force:

Name	Ward/Organization
Tim Anderegg	Ward 6
Patricia Hart	FairVote: The Center for Voting and Democracy
Camille Kirsch	Ward 1 (youth member)
Alex Koroknay-Palicz	Ward 5
Oliver Njong	Ward 4 (Board of Elections)
Jeffrey Noel-Nosbaum	Ward 3 (Board of Elections)
Lucas Richie	Ward 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT members' terms shall expire on June 30, 2014 unless the term of the Task Force is extended by the Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force shall issue a preliminary report with recommendations for the 2013 election by September 15, 2013 and a final report with its findings and recommendation to the City Council by June 30, 2014 unless its term is extended by the Council.

Adopted this 8th day of July, 2013 by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk