

**Resolution Relating to**

VOTING LOCATIONS AND IMPROVING VOTER PARTICIPATION

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

Sponsor(s): Councilors Roof, Colburn

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

In the year Two Thousand Fifteen .....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

- 1 That WHEREAS, the Burlington City Council has a responsibility to afford the voters of Burlington the
- 2 highest degree of access to opportunities to vote in elections; and
- 3 WHEREAS, ward-specific voting locations limit the access to certain members of our community to
- 4 vote on election days, especially working families and others who may not be able to get to their ward-specific
- 5 location on election days; and
- 6 WHEREAS, there are more efficient and robust ways to administer voting access throughout the City;
- 7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Secretary of State has provided online voter registration to residents statewide in an
- 9 effort to improve voter participation; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has an opportunity to be a national leader in voter participation
- 11 policy; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the consideration of universal voting locations throughout the City is part of a continued
- 13 commitment to the improvement of local election processes and voter participation; and
- 14 WHEREAS, universal polling locations will allow any registered voter in Burlington to cast a vote for
- 15 their home ward and district candidates at any voting location in the City; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the consideration of multiple voting locations in wards throughout the City will provide
- 17 additional access to voters in some or all parts of the City; and
- 18 WHEREAS, a restructuring of voting location access requires additional City staff and financial
- 19 investment; and
- 20 WHEREAS, section 8 of the City Charter currently requires a voter to vote “in the ward or City district
- 21 of which he or she is at the time a resident;”
- 22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council requests the Board of Civil Authority
- 23 and Board for Registration of Voters to investigate a restructuring of voting location administration throughout
- 24 the City that will facilitate increased access to voters by:
- 25 a. Allowing registered voters to cast their vote for their ward and district candidates at any polling

26 location in Burlington;

27 b. Increasing the number of voting locations in some or all wards and/or districts of the City; and

28 c. Considering additional steps recommended by the public to improve voter access in additional ways  
29 other than those stated herein; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests the Administration to evaluate the status  
31 of the City’s current election-day budget and staffing requirements and what additional commitment would be  
32 required to improve access; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests the Board of Civil Authority and the  
34 Administration to consult with elections staff on what support and resources are required to accomplish the  
35 changes herein; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Civil Authority and the Administration are requested  
37 to report back to the City Council with their findings by April 2016.

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