



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Work Session - All Resident Voting Initiative

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

OR

Virtual Participation
Zoom Webinar Attendees:

Please submit your request in writing via email to questions@greenbeltmd.gov
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85674279309?pwd=iUJpcxdyMD2lExxf8Wma3pm7BGiAJZ.1>

Dial-in: 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 856 7427 9309

Passcode: 172283

Wednesday, August 7, 2024
7:30 PM

Work Session Packet

Work Session - All Resident Voting Initiative

Suggested Action:

[Agenda](#)

- Introductions - 10 minutes (7:30 - 7:40 pm)
- Council Discussion - 60 minutes (7:40 - 8:40 pm)
- Questions and Answers - 15 minutes (8:40 - 8:55 pm)
- Other Items - 15 minutes (8:55 - 9:10 pm)
 - Informational Items

[BoE4178NoncitizenCharterandCode_Report 2024-03.pdf](#)



A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council, City of Greenbelt
FROM: Bonita Anderson, City Clerk
DATE: July 31, 2024
SUBJECT: Noncitizen Voting Legislation – Report #2024-03

The Board of Elections has prepared for Council review the attached draft legislation. These amendments to the City Charter and Code authorize noncitizen residents to vote in City elections if they file with the Clerk a registration application and a document or affidavit showing residence in Greenbelt. Outlined in the draft charter and code amendments, the words in bold and underline are additions, and the words with strikethrough are elimination.

Attachments:

- Draft Charter Amendments
- Draft Code Amendments

BoE4178NoncitizenCharterandCodeMemo_Report #2024-03

NONCITIZEN VOTING CHARTER AMENDMENTS

SECTION 15. Voters.

(a) A qualified voter within the meaning of this [charter shall be any person] Charter is either a citizen of the United States who is a resident of the City of Greenbelt and who is duly registered with Prince George's County under [the] applicable provisions of [Article 33 of] the Annotated Code of Maryland[; provided that eligibility to vote in any city election shall be subject to applicable registration deadlines as set forth in the charter and code of the city], or, if not a U.S. citizen, a resident duly registered to vote with the Office of the City Clerk, under applicable provisions of the Charter and Code.

(b) In the Charter and Code, a “resident,” “City resident,” or “resident of the City” is any natural person who has a legal domicile or residence in Greenbelt, regardless of the person’s citizenship.

SECTION 18. REGISTRATION [FOR ELECTION; UNIVERSAL REGISTRATION] OF VOTERS WITH PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.

(a) Registration with the Board of Elections of Prince George's County [board of elections under the State of Maryland general election laws] by any person who resides [within the corporate limits of] in the City of Greenbelt [shall be considered] constitutes registration for any [council] City election, referendum, [and/] or special election [held by the City of Greenbelt].

(b) Method, hours, and places of registration shall be as established by the Board of Elections of Prince George's County [board of elections].

1. In addition to registration procedures established by the board of election supervisors of Prince George's County and so as to provide optimum convenience and opportunity for city residents to register, mail registration forms shall be made available at the city offices during regular office hours and at such other times and places as may be designated by the city clerk. Such forms shall be provided by the supervisor of the board of elections at the request of the city.

2. Neither city employees nor employees or attendants at other locations offering mail registration forms are agents or shall act as agents for the Prince George's County supervisor of elections. Each person obtaining a mail registration form

shall assure the timely delivery of the completed registration form to the office of the county supervisor of elections to meet the applicable registration deadline.

(c) The names of persons who register in person or whose mail registration forms are received during the following periods will not be included in the list of qualified registered voters for the purpose of a city election:

1. Between the close of business of the fifth Monday preceding the regular council election and the close of polls on the day of such election, or runoff election, if any.

2. Between the close of business of the Monday of the calendar week immediately preceding the week in which the day of the special election has been set and the close of the polls on the day of such special election, or runoff election, if any. (d) The city clerk shall give at least ten (10) days' notice prior to the close of the registration dates for city elections as set forth in (c)1. and 2. above. Such notice shall be in the form of an advertisement published in a newspaper of general circulation within the city.

SECTION 18A. REGISTRATION OF NONCITIZEN VOTERS WITH THE CITY OF GREENBELT.

Persons who are residents of the City of Greenbelt but not citizens of the United States may register to vote and become qualified voters in City elections, under applicable provisions of the Charter and Code.

SECTION 19. REGISTRATION [LIST] LISTS.

(a) Implementation plan for universal registration. Not less than six (6) months prior to a council election, and immediately upon the call for a special election, the city clerk, who is designated the municipal liaison for the City of Greenbelt, shall submit to the board of elections of Prince George's County a request for the development of a plan and schedule to implement universal registration, in accordance with [the] applicable provisions of [Section 3 of Article 33 of] the Annotated Code of Maryland [(1957 as amended)].

The plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for:

1. Identifying the city's boundaries and precinct boundaries;

2. Obtaining, updating, and maintaining in the county's files the voter history of registrants who vote in city elections; and updating and maintaining any changes to the city's boundaries or precincts;
3. Establishing the county's deadline for accepting registration applications from city residents for inclusion in the city's voter registration list for a city election;
4. Determining the format of the voter registration list, including voter history and data for city registrants, and the timing for providing this list to the city by the Prince George's County supervisor of elections;
5. Furnishing to the city ninety (90) days prior to the date of a regular election, or within one week of the call for a special election, a preliminary list of registered voters residing within the city at such time, and separate listings of the names of voters who have been a) removed from or b) added to the list of qualified voters since the last regular council election of the city;
6. Notifying the supervisor of elections of Prince George's county within twenty (20) days after receipt of the preliminary list of registered voters of any potential or known errors in the list, including residency of registered voters; and
7. Developing procedures for obtaining additional copies of registration lists or parts thereof in the form of printed lists, mailing labels, and/or floppy disks or other computerized data.

(b) Posting of list. It shall be the duty of the city clerk before every municipal election to:

1. Post the current registration list together with a list of all names added or removed since the last regular council election in a public place or places within the boundaries of the city by the twelfth Monday preceding the date of any regular council election.
2. Post at least three (3) weeks preceding the date of the regular council election a supplemental list of all names added or removed since the posting of the registration list in all locations at which the registration list was posted.
3. Post in a public place within the city not more than ten (10) days after a special election has been called by the city council or board of elections the registration list for the last regular council election and a supplemental list of names added or

removed since the last regular council election and, upon the close of the registration list prior to the special election, post another list of names added or removed since the previous posting.

(c) Copies; availability to public. The city clerk shall provide, without charge, to the chairman of the board of elections of Greenbelt a copy of each registration list and each list of names added to or deleted from the list which is required to be posted by this charter, and may provide the other members of the board, the city council, and certified candidates for the office of city council the copies as well. Any person may make application for a copy or copies of the registration list or parts thereof to the supervisor of the board of elections of Prince George's County. Any person, with reasonable notice to the city clerk, shall be permitted to examine and to copy, without the payment of any service charge, the names and addresses from the registration list for any purpose relating to a city election. Each application for examination or copying of registration lists at the office of the city clerk shall be accompanied by a sworn or affirmed statement of the applicant, declaring that the information obtained from the list will not be used for purposes of commercial solicitation or other business purposes.

(d) Registration list for noncitizen residents. The city clerk shall prepare a list of qualified voters who are not citizens and shall make the list available, in the same manner as provided above, to all persons named above.

SECTION 26. VOTER IDENTITY.

Upon satisfying the judges of election of [his or her] their identity, any person whose name [properly] appears on the registration list provided by the [supervisor of elections] Board of Elections of Prince George's County or the City Clerk may vote.

SECTION 33. APPEALS.

(a) Any challenges to the registration list provided by the supervisor of the board of elections of Prince George's County shall be filed with the board of elections of Prince George's County, Maryland, in accordance with [said] the board's procedures and applicable state law. Any challenges to the registration list provided by the city clerk shall be filed with the board of elections of the City of Greenbelt.

(b) Any person [who shall feel] aggrieved [at] by any action of the city clerk relating to the filing of nomination papers or the conduct of elections shall have the right to appeal within ten days to the board of elections. The board of elections shall consider such appeal and shall have the authority to reverse the decision of the city clerk. An aggrieved person shall also have the right to appeal a decision of the board of elections to the circuit court for Prince George's County within the time allowed for such appeals and such case shall be heard by such court as provided for by the general elections laws of the state for appeal in election cases. So far as the same may be applicable, but not in contradiction to this charter, the provisions of the general election laws relating to appeals and election cases generally shall be applied to such appeals.

KEY:

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

NONCITIZEN VOTING CODE AMENDMENTS

SECTION 8-2. VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) Registration of persons wishing to vote in [city] City elections shall be made in accordance with [the provisions of section] Sections 18 and 18A of the [charter] Charter and this section of the City Code.

(b) [Reserved.] All persons who are eligible to register with the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Prince George's County must do so with that agency, in accordance with State law and the law of the City of Greenbelt.

(c) A person who is a resident of Greenbelt but not eligible to register with Prince George's County, because of the person's citizenship, may register with the Clerk's office to vote in City elections. The person must be over sixteen and must file, at least 30 days before the election in which they first wish to vote, a registration application, and either:

(1) A document that shows residence in Greenbelt, including without limitation a student's identifying school paper, a Maryland driver's license or similar government paper, a utility bill, or a mortgage or lease or similar paper showing an interest in property; or

(2) An affidavit in which the person states that they reside in Greenbelt but have no document showing their residence.

KEY:

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.