

Town of Denton
Charter Amendment Resolution #873

A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Denton, Maryland Repealing and Re-Enacting Section §C5-10 and Repealing §C5-13 of the Town Charter regarding Uncontested Elections and Write-in-Votes. This resolution was adopted on July 2, 2020 and will become effective on August 21, 2020.

A complete copy of this Resolution is available at www.dentonmaryland.com. To inquire or obtain additional information regarding this amendment please contact the Town Clerk at (410) 479-2050 during normal office hours – Monday through Friday from 8:30AM – 4:30 PM.

RESOLUTION NO. 873

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF DENTON, MARYLAND REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING §C5-10 – CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, REPEALING §C5-13 WRITE-IN-VOTES - OF THE TOWN CHARTER

WHEREAS, §C5-8 of the Charter of the Town of Denton provides that “[n]o person shall be eligible for elective Town public office who has not fulfilled the requirements of this section”; and

WHEREAS, §C5-8 of the Charter of the Town of Denton provides that candidates for public office must present a petition signed by at least 20 registered voters at least 30 days prior to an election; and

WHEREAS, §C5-13 of the Charter of the Town of Denton provides that “the Town shall provide for write-in votes in all elections;” and

WHEREAS, §§C5-8 and C5-13 are in conflict; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find it to be in the interests of the Town and its citizens to avoid the cost of general elections when only one (1) candidate has qualified to stand for election as provided in §C5-8 of the Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, write-in votes in Town elections are rare and have not elected a candidate not on the official ballot since the adoption of the current Charter in 1984; and

WHEREAS, holding uncontested elections creates unnecessary expense for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council may amend the Charter under the authority of §4-301, *et seq.*, Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

(a) §C5-10 – Conduct of Elections - of the Charter of the Town of Denton is repealed and re-enacted as follows:

Section C5–10. Conduct of Elections

It is the duty of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to provide for each special and general election a suitable place or places for voting and suitable ballot boxes and ballots and/or voting machines. The ballots and/or voting machines shall show the name of each candidate nominated for elective office in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, arranged in alphabetical order by office, with no party designation of any kind. **In the event that there is no contest for any of the offices for which an election shall be proper, the Board of Supervisors of**

Elections is authorized and directed to cancel the election with respect to said office or offices after giving public notice thereof by publication on the Town's website and for one week in a newspaper or newspapers having general circulation in the Town, and to certify as elected the candidate or candidates therefor who have filed a valid certificate of nomination pursuant to §C5-8 of the Charter.

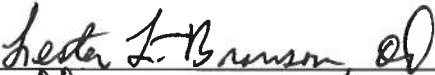
(b) §C5-13 – Write-In-Votes - of the Charter of the Town of Denton is repealed in its entirety.

ADOPTED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Denton, at a regular meeting and on the 2nd day of July, 2020. To become effective fifty (50) days from the date of adoption.

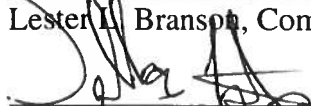
DENTON TOWN COUNCIL



Abigail W. McNinch, Mayor



Lester A. Branson, Commissioner



Dallas Lister, Commissioner



Walter Keith Johnson, Commissioner



Doncella Wilson, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Karen L. Monteith, Clerk Treasurer

Approved for legal sufficiency this 13th day of July, 2020.



Christopher F. Drummond, Town Attorney

Date Passed 7-2-2020
Effective Date _____

Text in **bold** and *italicized* reflects additions to the Town Charter