

CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
COUNCIL

No.

- WHEREAS, the freedom to vote is America's most important political right outside the original Bill of Rights, and it is also the most hard-won right; AND
- WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment and the 55th Anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, making the General Election on November 3, 2020 a historically significant date for all citizens to exercise their right to vote; AND
- WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused disruption and challenges, including the closure and consolidation of three Newport polling locations during the September 8 primary for public health related concerns; AND
- WHEREAS, closing polling locations adversely impacts access for many voters, especially the elderly, and disabled, many of whom rely on public transportation; AND
- WHEREAS, the alternative polling locations chosen for the September 8 primary were not accessible by public transportation which could have inadvertently impacted or suppressed voter turnout; AND
- WHEREAS, The canvassing authority is expected to render a decision regarding polling locations for the November 3 General Election on October 6, 2020; AND
- WHEREAS, the elected Newport City Council members, have an obligation to ensure all Newporters have an equitable opportunity to exercise the right to vote; NOW  
THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, that the Canvassing Authority work with the Newport Housing Authority to relocate the polling places back to Donovan Manor and the Park Holm Senior Center or find other, more suitable, voting locations for the residents of these neighborhoods that considers the transportation and mobility concerns of the residents served by these polling locations; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED
- RESOLVED, that the Canvassing Authority work with the City of Newport to craft a communications strategy to update voters of these precincts of any changes in a timely manner.

ANGELA MCCALLA

IN COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED

Laura C. Swistak  
City Clerk