

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND SECTION 4.14, "APPOINTMENTS," OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH TO REPLACE QUALIFIED VOTER STATUS CRITERIA WITH AGE OF AT LEAST 18 YEARS

- WHEREAS, the City Charter of the City of Falls Church describes the process for appointments to boards and commissions; and
- WHEREAS, the Council-requested social equity review of policies and services has resulted in a recommendation to increase membership diversity and inclusion; and
- WHEREAS, Council's adopted 2040 Vision states in part "In the year 2040, the City of Falls Church is a welcoming and inclusive community – a special place in the heart of Northern Virginia. Involved citizens are key to the City's long-term success as a leader in education, environmental sustainability, multi-modal transportation, and vibrant economic development;" and
- WHEREAS, a core value necessary to achieve this Vision is "Inclusiveness and Social Sustainability" is the provision of services and facilities for all ages and abilities as well as celebrations of race and culture including music, arts, and commemorations of history and historical events; and
- WHEREAS, the City Charter's requirement that persons appointed to boards and commissions in the City be qualified voters precludes all non-citizens from serving on such boards and commission, in contravention of the City's policies of diversity and inclusion; and
- WHEREAS, amending the City Charter to permit non-citizen residents of the City who are at least eighteen years old will enable to City and Council to receive more different input and hear more diverse viewpoints so that all persons in the City can benefit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Falls Church Virginia, that the Virginia General Assembly is hereby request to amend Section 4.14 of the City Charter as follows:

Sec. 4.14. - Appointments.

The council in making appointments shall act only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the council. All members of boards and commissions, appointed by the council, shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and ~~qualified voters of the city, actually residing~~ reside within the city limits.

Reading: 10-25-21
Adoption: 11-08-21
(TR21-33)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the foregoing was adopted by the City Council of the City of Falls Church, Virginia on November 8, 2021 as Resolution 2021-38.



Celeste Heath
Celeste Heath
City Clerk