IMMEDIATE ADOPTION

..Number 200621 ..Version ORIGINAL ..Reference

..Sponsor ALD. JOHNSON

..Title

Resolution relating to locations for in-person absentee balloting in the city of Milwaukee.

..Analysis

This resolution directs the Election Commissioner to provide additional in-person absentee polling locations in the City for the 2020 General Election.

..Body

Whereas, Voting is both a right and the vital core of a healthy democracy; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has generated an increased interest in absentee voting, with 80% of ballots cast in the City Spring Election being absentee ballots; and

Whereas, Voting by mail is not necessarily the best option for every voter; and

Whereas, The City is committed to facilitating the right to vote while minimizing the risk of exposure to COVID-19; and

Whereas, The goal of the City is that each eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted; and

Whereas, In the August 11, 2020 Partisan Primary, the City experienced an unprecedented drop in voters using the Zeidler Municipal Building and Zablocki Library, smaller venues where social distancing is difficult, but an increased turnout in voters using the larger Midtown Center location where social distancing is possible to a greater extent; and

Whereas, Offering in-person absentee voting at larger sites offering greater opportunities for social distancing throughout the city may further racial equity and access to in-person voting opportunities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the attached list of additional in-person absentee polling locations for the 2020 Partisan Primary (already conducted) and General Election as attached to this file is approved.

..Requestor

..Drafter LRB 176305-2 Tea B. Norfolk 8/31/20