

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
ELECTORAL BOARD OF THE CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
DETERMINING AND PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE POLLING PLACE
FOR WARD NO. 2
FROM CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TO
GYPSY HILL PARK GYMNASIUM
FOR THE MAY 5, 2020 LOCAL ELECTION

AND
THE JUNE 23, 2020 PRIMARY
DUE TO THE EMERGENCY AND DISASTER
RELATED TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Recitals

- A. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a public health emergency of international concern and on March 11, 2020, the WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic;
- B. On March 12, 2020, the Governor of Virginia declared a state of emergency, to prepare and coordinate Virginia's response to the potential spread of COVID-19;
- C. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak;
- D. On March 16, 2020, the City Manager and Emergency Management Director, Steven L. Rosenberg, declared a local emergency concerning COVID-19 and its effects;
- E. At its special-emergency meeting on March 18, 2020, by resolution, as the local governing body the Staunton City Council confirmed Mr. Rosenberg's Declaration of a Local Emergency and declared a disaster related to COVID-19;
- F. On March 23, 2020, the Governor of Virginia issued an executive order that, in essence, further recognizes the emergency and disaster COVID-19 outbreak, closing the public schools for the entire remainder of the school year and closing recreational and other non-essential establishments;
- G. On March 24, 2020, because of the COVID-19 emergency and disaster the Staunton City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-04 to provide for methods to help assure continuity in local government as to the City and its related public bodies and officials;

H. On March 30, 2020 the Governor of Virginia issued Executive Order Number 55 that, in essence, requires individuals in Virginia to remain at their place of residence, with certain limited exceptions. The order is in effect from March 30, 2020 through June 10, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order;

I. On April 15, 2020, the Governor of Virginia extended Executive Order Number 53, further ordering nonessential businesses to remain closed until May 8, 2020;

J. Local elections are scheduled for May 5, 2020, and the General Registrar has already received over 1,800 absentee ballots cast in regard to this local election in the City of Staunton, Virginia;

K. The polling place for the area designated as Ward No. 2 in the City of Staunton is presently designated and located at Christ United Methodist Church, 1512 Churchville Avenue, in the City of Staunton, as provided by Staunton City Code § 1.10.090;

L. By letter dated April 15, 2020, annexed and incorporated by reference, Reverend Jesse Moffitt of Christ United Methodist Church notified Glenn Graves, the Chairman of the Staunton Electoral Board, that the church site could not be used for the May 5, 2020 election given the Governor's mandate regarding social distancing and Virginia United Methodist Conference's Bishop Sharma Lewis' directive to remain closed;

M. Prior to its meeting today, acting through the General Registrar and its Chairman, the State Board of Elections was contacted and requested to give prior approval to temporarily change the polling location of Ward No. 2, for the May 5, 2020 local election and the June 23, 2020 primary, consistent with Virginia Code § 24.2-310(D), which approval was granted;

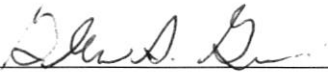
N. Upon consideration of the circumstances, including the foregoing, the Staunton Electoral Board met today to review whether an emergency made the polling place for Ward No. 2 unusable and/or inaccessible, leading possibly to a temporary change of polling place to Gypsy Hill Park Gymnasium, 116th Regimental Road, in the City of Staunton, subject to the procedures prescribed by Virginia Code § 24.2-310(D);

O. These recitals are deemed an integral part of this resolution.

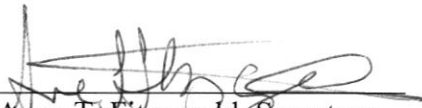
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Electoral Board of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that upon recommendation of the General Registrar it **FINDS** an emergency makes the existing Ward No. 2 polling place both unusable and inaccessible and determines it appropriate to determine and provide an alternative Ward No. 2 polling place

at the Gypsy Hill Park Gymnasium, 116th Regimental Road, in the City of Staunton, Virginia, for the May 5, 2020 local election and the June 23, 2020 primary, with authority and discretion granted to the Chairman and the General Registrar to take all reasonable and necessary actions in compliance with law to implement this decision.

Dated April 23, 2020.



Glenn A. Graves, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Anne T. Fitzgerald, Secretary