

Adopted February 11, 2021 Effective April 2, 2021

**TOWN OF CHEVERLY
CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION R-06-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHEVERLY, MARYLAND, adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (2013 Edition, as amended), to amend the Charter of the said Town, said Charter being a part of the public local laws of Maryland (1963 Edition, as amended), which Article contains in whole or in part the Charter of the Town of Cheverly, Maryland, whereby the Mayor and Town Council increase the number of the Board of Supervisors of Elections from Three (3) to Five (5), permit early voting, same day voter registration and voting, and mail-in voting.

WHEREAS, State law grants to the Town plenary powers to legislate and regulate Town elections; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council find that increasing the number of the members of the Board of Elections Supervisors will facilitate the work of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council deem it appropriate to permit the use of early voting procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council deem it appropriate to permit same day voter registration and voting; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council deem it appropriate to permit the use of Vote-by-Mail ballots.

SECTION 1: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHEVERLY, MARYLAND, that, pursuant to Article XI-E of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Sections C-18, C-18.3, and C-18.4 of the Town of Cheverly's Charter be amended as follows:

ARTICLE V. - ELECTIONS

§ C-18. - Officials to register voters and conduct elections.

A. There shall be a Board of Election Supervisors, consisting of ~~three (3)~~ **FIVE (5)** members who shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to approval of the Council for two (2) year terms. ~~Two (2)~~ **THREE (3)** members shall be appointed at the first council meeting in January of every even-numbered year, and ~~one (1)~~ **TWO (2)** memberS shall be appointed at the first council meeting in January of every odd-numbered year. **UPON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CHARTER PROVISION, THE CURRENT THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL RETAIN THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD, AND THE MAYOR, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL, MAY APPOINT AN ADDITIONAL TWO MEMBERS, ONE MEMBER WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE SHALL BE UNTIL JANUARY OF 2022, AND THE OTHER MEMBER WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE**

48 **SHALL BE UNTIL JANUARY 2023.** The Mayor shall designate one (1) of these to serve as
49 Chairman. The members of the board shall be Cheverly residents and registered voters for town
50 elections and shall not hold or be candidates for any town elective or other appointive office
51 during their term of office. Prior to assuming the duties of office, each member of the board shall
52 take an oath before any officer of the State of Maryland, duly authorized to take an affidavit, to
53 the effect that he will obey the Constitution of the United States and the constitution and the laws
54 of the State of Maryland, and the laws of the town of Cheverly, and will fairly and impartially
55 administer the duties of his office. A vacancy on the board shall be filled by the Mayor subject to
56 approval of the Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

57 B. Subject to modifications and qualifications not in conflict with this Article and enacted by
58 ordinance, the board shall be responsible for the registration of voters, certification of candidates,
59 and town elections. In order to carry out such duty, the board shall have the power to make and
60 publish regulations, pursuant to and not in conflict with the provisions of this Article, regarding
61 the conduct of such functions. And further, the board shall act as judge and arbiter of all disputes
62 and controversies arising from the administration of the town election laws. For the exercise of
63 such powers, a majority of ~~two (2)~~ **THREE (3)** shall be sufficient for quorum and decision.
64 Appeals from the actions and decisions of the board may be taken as otherwise provided by law.
65 The board shall meet at regular intervals as it prescribes and shall be authorized to hold such
66 special meetings as the board may require, and all such meetings shall be open to the public. In
67 all matters, including the drafting, amendment or adoption of regulations and working
68 procedures, as well as the performance of all registration and election related duties including
69 acting as judge, and arbiter of all disputes, the town attorney shall act as an advisor to the board,
70 unless the Mayor and Town Council designate another to perform all or some of those duties.
71 Any regulation or amendment thereto shall be submitted to the attorney for the board and the
72 Town Administrator for their comments and approval prior to adoption by the board.

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74 § C-18.1 – Registration of voters

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76 B. Registration may be made by becoming a registered voter of Prince George's County or by the
77 following procedures. Persons qualified to vote in the Town of Cheverly elections may register
78 to vote in person or by mail. There shall be no registration of voters by the town board of
79 election supervisors during the period beginning thirty (30) days prior to or fifteen (15) days
80 after any election, **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION C-18.3(F)**. Registration in
81 person may be completed on such dates and at such special registration sites as may be
82 established by the Board of Election Supervisors. The dates and sites of such special
83 registrations shall be generally published to town residents at least five (5) days prior to such
84 dates. To register by mail, residents may call the town office during normal business hours and
85 request that a registration application be sent, or request in person the registration application at
86 the town office. The individual requesting such registration application shall give the clerk his or
87 her name, address and telephone number. When the completed mail registration application is
88 returned to the town office, the date received shall be noted thereon and a notice of receipt shall
89 be sent by unforwardable mail within three (3) business days. The information on the returned
90 application, when properly certified by the board, shall be transferred to a permanent registration
91 card. The voter then shall, when he appears to vote at any general or special election day, affix
92 his signature to the permanent registration card, thus completing his registration. Special
93 arrangements to secure the signature of a disabled applicant by other means may be made by the
94 board. The original mail registration application shall be preserved by the board until the person

has signed the permanent registration card, but no longer than five (5) calendar years from the date received.

§ C-18.3. - Election procedure.

A. All elections to fill the office of Mayor and Ward Councilmembers, and for other purposes, shall be by ballot, **VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT**, or voting machines. An election to fill the offices of Mayor and Ward Councilmembers shall be held on the first Monday in May of every year, beginning on the first Monday in May, 1976. The Mayor shall be elected by the combined vote of all the wards of the town, and the Ward Councilmembers shall be elected by the votes of the wards in which they dwell. The candidate for each office who shall receive the greater number of votes than any other candidate for said office shall be declared elected, and in the event of a tie vote, a special election shall be held within forty-five (45) days to elect one (1) of the candidates so tied.

B. THE COUNCIL OR BOARD MAY PROVIDE FOR ONE OR MORE EARLY VOTING DAYS IN TOWN ELECTIONS. ANY EARLY VOTING DAY SHALL BE HELD NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS PRIOR TO THE TOWN ELECTION DAY ESTABLISHED IN § C-18.3(A) OF THIS ARTICLE. ON A DESIGNATED EARLY VOTING DAY, THE POLLS SHALL BE OPEN TO QUALIFIED VOTERS AT THE TIMES AND PLACES SPECIFIED AND ADVERTISED BY THE BOARD, WHICH SHALL BE OPEN A MINIMUM OF EIGHT (8) HOURS IF EARLY VOTING IS CONDUCTED ON A SATURDAY AND AT LEAST FOUR (4) HOURS IF EARLY VOTING IS CONDUCTED ON ANY OTHER DAY OF THE WEEK.

~~[B.]~~ C. No person shall be allowed to vote in any election in the town except those persons whose names appear upon the registration books of the town, and who reside in the town on election day, **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION C-18.3(F)**. Any qualified voter is entitled to vote in town elections by absentee ballot if the requirements established therefor are met. A voter whose registration has been cancelled shall not thereafter be eligible to vote except by registering again as in this Charter provided.

~~[C.]~~ D. In all town elections, it shall be the duty of the board of elections to give public notice of the times, place and purpose thereof. Such public notice shall be given on the government access cable channel, in the town newsletter, in a newspaper of general circulation within the town and in the town's public notice advertisement currently located at Forest Road and Cheverly Avenue. Such public notice shall be given at least 30 days before the date of election, and in the case of notice on the government access cable channel and the public notice advertisement such notice shall continue to be advertised until the date of the election. In the discretion of the Board, notices may also be posted in such public places in each ward in such manner as the Board may determine.

In elections to fill the offices of Mayor and Ward Councilmembers, the polls shall be opened at 7:00 a.m., and closed at 8:00 p.m. The board of Election Supervisors may authorize periods of excused absence of up to four (4) hours between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on election day for judges and members of the Board.

142 Immediately upon closing of the polls, the judges of the election shall proceed to count the
143 ballots, but no ballot cast by a voter dwelling in one ward for a candidate for the office of
144 Councilmember of another ward, and no ballot cast for more than one candidate for the office of
145 Mayor, shall be counted. The counting of the ballots or checking of the votes on voting machines
146 shall be announced publicly, and written returns fully completed and signed by the judges of
147 election and the Board of Election Supervisors, and sealed in an envelope with the names of said
148 judges and board signed thereon.

149
150 One (1) copy of such returns shall be sent to the Mayor of the town and one (1) copy to the Town
151 Clerk for filing among the records of the town. Any judge or member of the board who declines
152 to sign said return shall prepare, sign and seal in an envelope and send as aforesaid an individual
153 return, giving his reason therefor. The ballots shall then be returned to the ballot boxes from
154 which they were removed, a paper seal with the signatures of the judges and board thereon shall
155 be pasted upon said ballot boxes in such manner that the boxes cannot be opened without
156 breaking said seal, and in the event voting machines are used in lieu of the paper ballots, the
157 voting machines, upon completion of the tabulation of the votes cast, shall be sealed as provided
158 by law for general elections of state and county officials.

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160 There shall be no postponement or adjournment of the above actions until they all are completed.
161 Said voting machines or boxes, sealed as aforesaid, shall then be retained by the board for
162 periods of seven (7) days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, in the case of machines, and
163 six (6) months in the case of ballots, after which periods of time the machines shall be unsealed,
164 and the boxes shall be opened and the ballots destroyed, and the board shall record a certificate
165 of the fact of destruction; provided, however, that if there be a contest of the election, said ballots
166 shall not be destroyed nor voting machines unsealed until after the decision of the Circuit Court
167 for Prince George's County.

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169 ~~[D.]~~ E. Any candidate at said elections may contest the same and the Circuit Court for Prince
170 George's County shall have jurisdiction to determine such contest. Each judge of the Circuit
171 Court may adopt such modes of proceedings and adjudging costs in cases of contested election
172 as to him shall seem most satisfactory.

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174 No such contest shall, however, be considered unless the petition for the same is filed in the
175 Circuit Court of Prince George's County within seven (7) days, exclusive of Sundays and legal
176 holidays, after the public announcement by the board of the result of the election.

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178 **F. SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION. TOWN RESIDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE**
179 **TO REGISTER TO VOTE PURSUANT TO THIS CHARTER MAY REGISTER TO**
180 **VOTE IN TOWN ELECTIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING ON ELECTION DAY BY**
181 **COMPLETING A VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION AND REGISTERING TO**
182 **VOTE WITH THE TOWN CLERK, OR A REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED BY THE**
183 **TOWN CLERK. ANY PERSON WISHING TO REGISTER AND VOTE UNDER THIS**
184 **SUBSECTION MUST PROVIDE, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE VOTING:**

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186 **1. A MARYLAND DRIVER'S LICENSE OR MARYLAND IDENTIFICATION**
187 **CARD ISSUED BY THE MARYLAND MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION; OR**
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189 2. IN THE EVENT THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CONTEMPLATED UNDER THIS
190 SUBSECTION DOES NOT HAVE A MARYLAND DRIVER'S LICENSE OR
191 IDENTIFICATION CARD, HE OR SHE MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF AN OFFICIAL
192 DOCUMENT THAT CONTAINS THE APPLICANT'S NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS
193 AND THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
194 ELECTIONS UNDER MD. CODE ANN., ELECTION LAW ARTICLE § 3-306(B)(2)(ii).

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196 § C-18.4. – VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

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198 A. ANY PERSON QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN ANY TOWN ELECTION MAY USE A
199 VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION. THE
200 TOWN CLERK SHALL ENSURE VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS ARE SENT TO EVERY
201 REGISTERED VOTER WITHIN THE TOWN.

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203 B. PRIOR TO ANY TOWN ELECTION, THE TOWN CLERK SHALL PRINT OR CAUSE
204 TO BE PRINTED AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS,
205 ENVELOPES, AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL-IN VOTERS.

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207 C. ONE NOTICE SHALL BE MAILED TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE TOWN AND AT
208 LEAST ONE NOTICE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE TOWN INFORMING
209 THEM OF THE VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT VOTING DEADLINES AND THE DATE,
210 TIME, AND LOCATION OF IN-PERSON VOTING ON ELECTION DAY. NOTICE WILL
211 BE MAILED OR DISTRIBUTED NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION
212 TO WHICH THEY APPLY. THE NOTICE WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE MAILING
213 OF THE BALLOT ITSELF. AT LEAST ONE OTHER FORM OF MASS
214 COMMUNICATION INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE TOWN ELECTION WHICH
215 MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED ON THE NOTICES SHALL
216 BE PROVIDED. THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS MAY PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL
217 NOTICES AND REMINDERS.

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219 D. THE FORM AND ARRANGEMENT OF ALL VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS, BALLOT
220 INSTRUCTIONS, COVERING ENVELOPES, BALLOT ENVELOPES, AND RETURN
221 ENVELOPES SHALL BE AS DETERMINED BY THE TOWN CLERK.

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223 E. AT ALL TIMES, THE TOWN CLERK SHALL ENSURE ADEQUATE PROCEDURES
224 ARE IN PLACE TO SAFEGUARD THE VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS.

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226 F. VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS FOR A TOWN ELECTION MUST BE MAILED OR
227 DISTRIBUTED NO MORE THAN 30 DAYS AND NO FEWER THAN 15 DAYS PRIOR TO
228 THE ELECTION TO WHICH THEY APPLY.

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230 G. SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION, VOTERS THAT
231 HAVE RECEIVED A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT MAY VOTE IN THE TOWN ELECTION
232 THROUGH VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT OR BY IN PERSON VOTING. ANY SUCH
233 VOTERS MAY UTILIZE ONLY ONE METHOD OF VOTING.

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235 H. NO VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT, COMPLETED OR OTHERWISE, SHALL BE

236 HANDLED OR DELIVERED BY A CANDIDATE OR ANY INDIVIDUAL
237 VOLUNTEERING OR WORKING FOR A CANDIDATE, EXCEPT FOR THEIR OWN
238 BALLOT OR THAT OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OR A MEMBER OF
239 THEIR HOUSEHOLD.

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241 I. NO PERSON MAY CAST A VOTE USING A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT THAT WAS
242 ISSUED BY THE TOWN FOR ANOTHER PERSON.

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244 J. A REGISTERED VOTER MAY OBTAIN A REPLACEMENT VOTE-BY-MAIL
245 BALLOT IF THE ORIGINAL BALLOT WAS DESTROYED, SPOILED, LOST, OR NOT
246 RECEIVED BY THE REGISTERED VOTER. A REGISTERED VOTER WHO OBTAINS A
247 VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION WILL BE
248 REQUIRED TO SIGN AN AFFIDAVIT, IN A FORM APPROVED BY THE BOARD,
249 SPECIFYING THE REASON FOR REQUESTING THE REPLACEMENT BALLOT.

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251 Section 2: That the date of the adoption of this Resolution is February 11, 2021, and that
252 the amendment to the Charter of the Town of Cheverly hereby proposed by this enactment, shall be
253 and become effective on April 2, 2021[50 days], unless a proper petition for a referendum hereon
254 shall be filed by March 23, 2021[40 days], and a fair summary of the Amendment shall be
255 published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town not less than four (4) times at
256 weekly intervals[40 days].

257 Section 3: That as soon as the Charter Amendment hereby enacted becomes effective, either
258 as herein provided or following a referendum, the Clerk shall send separately to the Department of
259 Legislative Services, the following information concerning the Charter Amendment: (1) the
260 complete text of this Resolution; (2) the date of referendum election, if any, held with respect
261 thereto; (3) the number of votes cast for and against this Resolution by the Mayor and Council of the
262 Town of Cheverly or in a referendum; and (4) the effective date of the Charter Amendment.

263 Section 4: That the Clerk be, and he/she is specifically enjoined and instructed to carry out
264 the provisions of Sections 2 and 3, and as evidence of compliance herewith the said Clerk shall cause
265 to be affixed to the Minutes of this meeting (1) an appropriate certificate of publication of the
266 newspaper in which the fair summary of the Amendment shall have been published; and (2) records
267 of mailing referred to in Section 3, and shall further complete and execute a Certificate of
268 Compliance.


269 INTRODUCED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Cheverly, Maryland, at a Regular
270 Meeting on October 8, 2020, at which meeting copies were available to the public for inspection.


271 ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Cheverly, Maryland, at a Regular
272 Meeting on October 8, 2020, at which meeting copies were available to the public for inspection.


COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHEVERLY



Mayor Laila Riaz


Ward 1 Councilmember Eric Radloff


Ward 3 Councilmember Nicole Bryner



Ward 5 Councilmember Jenny Garcia


Ward 2 Councilmember Micah Watson


Ward 4 Councilmember Kayce Munyeneh


Ward 6 Councilmember Amy Fry

ATTEST:


T.C. Hegeman
Town Clerk

Date: 2/11/21

Explanatory Note

Underlining indicates language being added to the Charter.
[**Bold brackets and strikethrough**] indicates language being deleted from the Charter.