ORDINANCE NO. #2020-O-2
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PRESTON
CAROLINE COUNTY

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN CHARTER, ALLOWING FOR
POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS DURING PERIODS OF STATE OF
EMERGENCY OR CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS Section 507 of the Town Charter provides for election of
Commissioners to be on the fourth Monday in April, and

WHEREAS use of the polling location for the election during a state of
emergency could hinder social distancing, enable the transmission of disease during a
catastrophic health emergency, and pose risks to public health, welfare, and safety, and

WHEREAS holding Town elections at the polling location during a state of
emergency or catastrophic health emergency would potentially expose government
buildings, voters, and municipal officers, employees, and volunteers to the hazards or
health risks addressed by a state of emergency or catastrophic health emergency, and

WHEREAS the Town Charter does not currently specifically authorize the Town
Commissioners to postpone the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners of Preston make the following findings
of fact and adopt the following Amendment to the Town Charter:

1. The Commissioners find that this Amendment will not endanger the public
health, welfare, or safety; and do further find that this Amendment is necessary to amend
the date on which a municipal election will be held.

2. Section 507 of the Town Charter is amended by adding the following sentence
at the end of the paragraph:

   Notwithstanding the provisions of the first sentence of this
   Section, if the Governor orders or decrees a state of emergency or a
   catastrophic health emergency during a period of time that includes the
   fourth Monday in April, the Commissioners may postpone the election
   until a date after the termination of the state of emergency or the
   catastrophic health emergency.

3. The effect of the provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Local
   Government Article, Title 4, Subtitle 3 dealing with procedures for adoption of Charter
   amendments are suspended under the terms of the Order of the Governor of the State of
Maryland No. 20-03-30-03, dated March 30, 2020, and this Amendment will go into effect immediately.

Gary Waltemeyer, Commissioner
Doug VanDerveer, President

Robert Stacey, Commissioner
Nelson Anderson, Commissioner

Savannah Winston, Commissioner

Witness: Amber Korell, Town Manager
Date: 4-6-2020