

**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:

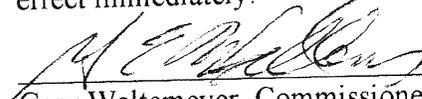
1. The Commissioners find that this Amendment will not endanger the public  
health, welfare, or safety; and do further find that this Amendment is necessary to amend  
the date on which a municipal election will be held.

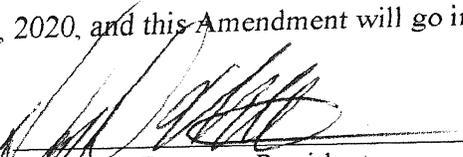
2. Section 507 of the Town Charter is amended by adding the following sentence  
at the end of the paragraph:

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.

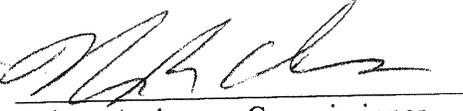
3. The effect of the provisions of the *Annotated Code of Maryland, Local  
Government Article*, Title 4, Subtitle 3 dealing with procedures for adoption of Charter  
amendments are suspended under the terms of the Order of the Governor of the State of

Maryland No. 20-03-30-03, dated March 30, 2020, and this Amendment will go into effect immediately.

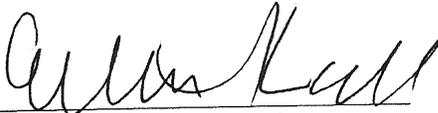
  
Gary Waltemeyer, Commissioner

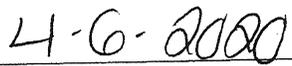
  
Doug VanDerveer, President

  
Robert Stacey, Commissioner

  
Nelson Anderson, Commissioner

  
Savannah Winston, Commissioner

Witness:   
Amber Korell, Town Manager

  
Date