



# Resolution No. 2020 – 255

Date Adopted

Committee

August 19, 2020

Administrative

## **RESOLUTION STRONGLY ENCOURAGING THE RIGHT OF IN-PERSON MACHINE VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey will be holding a General Election in November, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, mail-in ballots were used predominantly in the Primary Election in July, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the practice of predominantly using mail-in ballots for all registered voters caused concerns for voter fraud, voter disenfranchisement, postal delivery delays, significant increase in election costs, and reliance on a flawed Statewide voter/DMV computer registration data base and resulted in significant delays in the counting of ballots; and

**WHEREAS**, well before the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey law permitted voting by mail for any reason, or no reason at all, allowing any voter, even remotely concerned about in-person voting the option to request a mail-in ballot thus enhancing voter choice; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous voters have expressed a desire to wait until Election Day to cast their ballot electronically, in-person, for the candidate of their choice to fully assess the latest information available; and

**WHEREAS**, the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders is gravely concerned that the predominant use of mail-in ballots during the 2020 Primary Election was difficult at best and represents but a small fraction of the ballots to be cast when compared to the upcoming General Election; and

**WHEREAS**, the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders feels strongly that voter "choice" should refer to "how" to vote, not just "who" to vote for in a given election cycle.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders opposes the predominant use of mail-in balloting in the General Election in November, 2020 and in all future elections.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders urges the Secretary of State and County Clerks to utilize in-person machine voting, in conjunction with mail-in balloting, in the General Election of November, 2020 and in all future elections.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the New Jersey Secretary of State; the Governor of the State of New Jersey; the President of the New Jersey State Senate; the Speaker of the General Assembly; the Salem County Legislative Delegation, the New Jersey Association of Counties and all other Boards of Chosen Freeholders.

  
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 BENJAMIN H. LAURY, Freeholder Director  
 Board of Chosen Freeholders

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Salem on August 19, 2020.

  
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 STACY L. PENNINGTON  
 Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE

FREEHOLDER	RESOLUTION MOVED	RESOLUTION SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
G. Ostrum, Jr.	✓		✓			
C. Hassler			✓			
L. Ware		✓	✓			
R.S. Griscom			✓			
B. Laury			✓			

✓ Indicates Vote

Department Initials slp/ppf