

Introduced – April 1, 2020

Adopted – April 1, 2020

Effective – April 1, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05

A RESOLUTION TO POSTPONE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS FROM MAY 4, 2020 TO JULY 13, 2020 AND EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO FILE A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FOR TOWN COMMISSIONER AND TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN TOWN ELECTIONS FROM APRIL 3, 2020 TO JUNE 12, 2020.

WHEREAS, pursuant to § C-31(B) of the Charter of the Town of St. Michaels (the “Charter”), when a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor of Maryland, Talbot County, Maryland, and/or The Commissioners of St. Michaels (the “Commissioners”) pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Commissioners are authorized and empowered to adopt a resolution postponing any regular or special election upon a finding that such postponement is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare and to conduct the election in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, is a public health catastrophe and has been confirmed in nearly every Maryland county; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Commissioners passed Ordinance No. 506, entitled “An Emergency Ordinance to Declare a State of Emergency in the Town of St. Michaels as a Result of COVID-19” (“Emergency Ordinance No. 506”) pursuant to the foregoing authority, as well as the Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of a Catastrophic Health Emergency declared by the Governor of Maryland on March 5, 2020 and the Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak issued by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §§ C-22, C-30, and C-31 of the Charter, a Town election is scheduled for May 4, 2020, and the deadline for qualified individuals to file a certificate of candidacy and register to vote is the fifth Friday prior to the election date, or April 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, holding the Town election on May 4, 2020 as presently scheduled will jeopardize the public health, safety, and welfare, including but not limited to potentially exposing voters, Town staff, and volunteers to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and potentially contaminating any Town government building(s) where the election is held and, as a result, prevent the Town’s ability to conduct the election in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk/Manager has recommended that the Town election be postponed until July 13, 2020 and the deadline for qualified individuals to file a certificate of candidacy and register to vote be extended until the fifth Friday prior thereto, or June 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners are desirous of postponing the Town election until July 13, 2020 and extending the deadline for qualified individuals to file a certificate of candidacy and register to vote be extended until the fifth Friday prior thereto, or June 12, 2020 as recommended by the Town Clerk/Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners find that the foregoing postponement and extension are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to conduct the Town election in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS:

Section 1. The Town election scheduled for May 4, 2020 is hereby postponed until July 13, 2020.

Section 2. The deadline for qualified individuals to file a certificate of candidacy for Commissioner of St. Michaels for the Town's 2020 election is hereby extended to June 12, 2020.

Section 3. The deadline for qualified individuals to register to vote in Town elections is hereby extended to June 12, 2020.

Section 4. The dates set forth herein may be further postponed by the Commissioners if the emergency conditions giving rise to the state of emergency set forth in Emergency Ordinance No. 506 have not abated by June 12, 2020 and/or, in the discretion of the Commissioners, the Town election cannot be conducted on such date in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner and without endangering the public health, safety, and welfare; provided, however, that the number of days between the deadline for qualified individuals to file a certificate of candidacy and register to vote and the date of the Town's municipal election shall remain unchanged.

Section 5. The Town Clerk/Manager shall give public notice of this Resolution by publishing once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town, with the first publication occurring within one week following the adoption of this Resolution.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

THIS RESOLUTION 2020-05 HAVING BEEN ADOPTED by the following yea and

nay vote of The Commissioners of St. Michaels on the 1st day of April 2020.

Boos	-	yea
Bibb	-	yea
Harrod	-	yea
Windon	-	yea
Glackin	-	yea

I HEREBY CERTIFY that Resolution 2020-05 was adopted by a yea and nay vote of The Commissioners of St. Michaels on the 1st day of April 2020.

ATTEST:

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS



Jean R. Weisman, Town Clerk/Manager

 (SEAL)

William E. Boos, President