



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2020-0548

Substitute

6/9/2020

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO REQUEST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH ONLINE STATE-WIDE VOTING

Information Contact: Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Phone Number: 404-371-2204

PURPOSE:

To approve the Resolution Of The Governing Authority Of Dekalb County, Georgia, To Request The General Assembly To Establish Online State-Wide Voting.

NEED/IMPACT:

The Governing Authority of DeKalb County seeks to request that the General Assembly establish online state-wide voting. Expanding the opportunity to vote, to include online voting, is a natural progression in creating a more secure, convenient and accessible opportunity for citizens to exercise a fundamental principle of American Democracy. Through the establishment of online voting, the State of Georgia, Counties and Local Municipalities will be able to reduce the financial burden associated with staffing various elections. The establishment of an online system will mirror that of the data collection utilized by the Department of Commerce (Census) to ensure the security and accuracy of all votes cast and require that appropriate records are kept for verification and confirmation purposes to document and memorialize all online votes cast.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the Resolution Of The Governing Authority Of Dekalb County, Georgia, To Request The General Assembly To Establish Online State-Wide Voting.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO REQUEST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH ONLINE STATE-WIDE VOTING

~~WHEREAS, DeKalb County and the State of Georgia, through its partnership with the United States Department of Commerce (Census) have participated in the 2020 Census, partnering and promoting that “Everyone, is Counted Once and Only Once and In the Right Place”; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Census conducted by the United States Department of Commerce through constitutional mandate has conducted a nationwide campaign to ensure that every community throughout Georgia and the nation is counted using online, phone and paper ballots; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Federal Government, under Title 13 of the United States Code, provides for confidentiality of census information under Section 9 and protections against wrongful disclosure of information under Section 214; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the information received through the collection of data using online, phone and paper ballots, and reported determines federal funding and legislative representation at the local, county, state and federal levels; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the right to vote is a fundamental principle of American Democracy; and~~

~~WHEREAS, removing impediments to civic participation will promote a more engaged and representative society; and~~

WHEREAS, expanding the opportunity to vote, to include online voting, is a natural progression in creating a more secure, convenient and accessible opportunity for citizens to exercise a fundamental principle of American Democracy; and

WHEREAS, through the establishment of online voting, the State of Georgia, Counties and Local Municipalities will be able to reduce the financial burden associated with staffing various elections; and

~~WHEREAS, the technology and security used in the 2020 Census that allows citizens to complete this process online is potentially a feasible and appropriate comparison for online voting; and~~

~~WHEREAS, several states have or are currently piloting an online voter application using blockchain technology for certain members of the military, their families and staff who are stationed overseas under state e-voting laws in conjunction with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of DeKalb County, Georgia that the following is requested:

1. The General Assembly study and consider adopting legislation that provides for the use of online statewide voting; including the funding for the establishment of such system;
2. In considering the implementation of an online statewide voting system tThe General Assembly shall investigate all appropriate online platforms, including, but not limited to the online platform currently being utilized for the 2020 Census and the blockchain technology being piloted in several states for online voting that will also allow for intelligent ballot tracking and immediate notification to citizens of all casted votes ~~provide funding for the establishment of an online system that mirrors that of the data collection utilized by the Department of Commerce (Census) to ensure the security and accuracy of all votes cast; and~~
- ~~3. In their consideration of implementing an online statewide voting system, t~~The General Assembly shall investigate the security and feasibility of online voting, ~~and~~ methods to ensure to include that appropriate records are kept for verification and confirmation purposes to document and memorialize all online votes cast.
- ~~4.3. The General Assembly require that appropriate records are kept for verification and confirmation purposes to document and memorialize all online votes cast.~~

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
 Presiding Officer
 Board of Commissioners
 DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
 Chief Executive Officer
 DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC, CMC
Clerk to the
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO REQUEST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH ONLINE STATE-WIDE VOTING

WHEREAS, the right to vote is a fundamental principle of American Democracy; and

WHEREAS, removing impediments to civic participation will promote a more engaged and representative society; and

WHEREAS, expanding the opportunity to vote, to include online voting, is a natural progression in creating a more secure, convenient and accessible opportunity for citizens to exercise a fundamental principle of American Democracy; and

WHEREAS, through the establishment of online voting, the State of Georgia, Counties and Local Municipalities will be able to reduce the financial burden associated with staffing various elections; and

WHEREAS, the technology and security used in the 2020 Census that allows citizens to complete this process online is potentially a feasible and appropriate comparison for online voting; and

WHEREAS, several states have or are currently piloting an online voter application using blockchain technology for certain members of the military, their families and staff who are stationed overseas under state e-voting laws in conjunction with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

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3. In their consideration of implementing an online statewide voting system, the General Assembly shall investigate the security and feasibility of online voting, to include methods to ensure that appropriate records are kept for verification and confirmation purposes to document and memorialize all online votes cast.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC, CMC
Clerk to the
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia