



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Calls for Amendments to the State Code Regarding Voting by Mail
In the November 2020 General Election**

Whereas,

in the 2016 Presidential Election, 82.5% of Fairfax Voters cast ballots.

There are now 730,000 active registered voters in Fairfax County spread across 243 precincts.

The Fairfax General Registrar estimates that 70% of those participating in the November 2020 General Election will attempt to do so by mailing in their ballot: meaning, under current law, over 400,000 voters would submit applications to the Election Office and later mail in their ballots.

The processing of such large volumes of applications imposes an enormous burden on the resources of the Fairfax Elections Office.

Historically some of mailed-in absentee ballots were rejected because of perceived omissions in the completion of the ballot envelope by the voter, including the absence of a witness signature, meaning a number of Fairfax voters could be disenfranchised in 2020.

The other information required to be written on the ballot envelope by the voter is already pre-printed on the mailer envelope; meaning that filling in the blanks on the ballot envelope is a useless exercise.

The experience of voters and election officers in Wisconsin and other locations contracting COVID-19 necessitates measures to: encourage all voters to vote by mail; simplify that process; and provide assurance to citizens that their vote will be counted.

The burden on the staff of the Fairfax Election office in processing 400,000 applications and mailed-in votes must be mitigated.

Any change in election laws must be adopted before the end of July to give local registrars sufficient time to implement those changes before mailed-in ballots are sent out to voters on September 26, 2020.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax Democratic County Committee calls on the Governor to call a special session of the General Assembly for not later than July 31, 2020 and calls for the General Assembly to adopt amendments to State Code that simplify the ballot envelope to eliminate the need for a witness and completion of unnecessary information by the voter and to permit local registrars to forward ballot packages, with return postage pre-paid, to all of the voters in their jurisdiction without requiring an application from any voter.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 26th day of May 2020.