

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 24-0231R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Ramos
Introduced and read first time: September 30, 2024
Assigned to: Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee

Referred to the following agencies: City Solicitor, Board of Elections

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – 2024 Election Procedures**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the Director of the Baltimore City Board of Elections, relevant staff
4 members, and the members of the Board of Elections to appear before the City Council to
5 discuss the upcoming 2024 general election and how the Board of Elections will address the
6 problems that arose in the 2024 primary election that are enumerated in the recitals of this
7 Resolution.

8 **Recitals**

9 The City Council would like to ensure that the Board of Elections is issuing a sample ballot
10 that is much different and properly noted than the mail-in ballot. Voters in the primary election
11 reported that sample ballots and mail-in ballots were too similar, resulting in confusion and
12 missed opportunities for some voters to cast their ballot.

13 The City Council would like to understand the process for selecting and deploying Election
14 Judges, including required qualifications, recruitment processes, training protocols, and
15 placement procedures.

16 The City Council would like to know if the City has selected and trained enough Judges,
17 including Chief Judges, to staff all of the City’s polling places.

18 The members of the City Council have received feedback that Judges do not always know or
19 understand the provisional ballot process. What is training will be provided to address this?

20 The City Council would like assurances that the ballot counting and transfer of the thumb
21 drives containing election data will be a smooth process with no errors.

22 The City Council has learned that the maintenance of the counting machines and preparation
23 of the machines for voting has been outsourced to a company outside of the City and would like
24 more information about this.

25 The City Council would like to understand the status of moving into a new warehouse facility
26 that is very much needed for the Board of Elections.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 The City Council wants assurances that all polling locations are accessible and comply with
2 the Americans with Disabilities Act

3 The City Council is interested in succession planning for all City agencies. The leadership of
4 the Board of Elections has a significant amount of institutional knowledge and works to deliver
5 efficient elections to Baltimore City every 2 years. What is the succession plan for the Board of
6 Elections?

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
8 Council invites the Director of the Baltimore City Board of Elections, relevant staff members,
9 and the members of the Board of Elections to appear before the City Council to discuss the
10 upcoming 2024 general election and how the Board of Elections will address the problems that
11 arose in the 2024 primary election that are enumerated in the recitals of this Resolution.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
13 Baltimore City Board of Elections, the members of the Baltimore City Board of Elections, and
14 the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.