

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0167R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Pinkett, Henry, Cohen, Schleifer, Sneed, Costello, Dorsey,
Burnett, Clarke, Reisinger, Bullock, President Scott

Introduced and read first time: September 23, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Board of Elections, Department of
General Services, Baltimore City Public School System, City Solicitor

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Creating Another Early Voting Polling Place in West Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of endorsing the creation of another early voting polling place in West
4 Baltimore.

5 **Recitals**

6 Early voting in America is key to ensuring that people have the opportunity to vote. Unlike
7 in many countries, Election Day is not a holiday in the U.S. On Election Day in 2018, polls in
8 Baltimore City were open from 7 AM to 8 PM. City residents who work multiple jobs and lack
9 easy access to child care or transportation can have difficulty going to the polls during those
10 hours on a single day.

11 To prevent the silencing of those individuals, Baltimore City has 8 days in which residents
12 can visit early polling places and cast their votes. Early voting is the only way some citizens can
13 make it to the polls. Early voting is a tradition for some residents in the City; for example, many
14 churches will provide transportation for their parishioners to go to an early voting polling place.
15 While residents can also vote with absentee ballots, this is less simple than visiting an early
16 voting polling place. Residents who wish to vote with absentee ballots must request an absentee
17 ballot in advance and mail the ballot back. In addition, people who vote by absentee ballot do
18 not have access to assistance from another person in filling out the ballot, even if assistance is
19 needed.

20 Early voting is important to preserving the rights of Baltimore City residents. There is
21 currently only 1 early voting polling place in West Baltimore, and 7 in the City total. The
22 representatives of District 40 support the creation of another early voting polling place in West
23 Baltimore. It is important that another early voting polling place is available for citizens to visit
24 in West Baltimore so that all Baltimore City residents can exercise their right to vote.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
26 Baltimore City Council endorses the creation of another early voting polling place in West
27 Baltimore.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Director of the Baltimore City Board of Elections, the State Administrator of the Maryland State
3 Board of Elections, the Delegation from Maryland District 40, and the Mayor’s Legislative
4 Liaison to the City Council.