

**Town of Chevy Chase
(2021 Town Election)**

Ordinance No.: 21-01
Introduced: December 9, 2020
Adopted: January 13, 2021
Effective Date: January 13, 2021

**AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE
A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND TO ACTIVATE
AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE TOWN ELECTION**

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, in an effort to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed by the Governor within the entire State of Maryland, pursuant to Maryland Code, Public Safety Article, Title 14, and the Maryland Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2020 and December 23, 2020, the Governor declared that the state of emergency continues and the spread of COVID-19 in the State continues to pose an immediate threat to all Marylanders of extensive loss of life or serious disability; and

WHEREAS, Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 5-202, as amended, authorizes the legislative body of each municipal corporation in the State of Maryland to pass ordinances that such legislative body deems necessary to assure the good government of the municipality and to protect the health, comfort, and convenience of the citizens of the municipality;

WHEREAS, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency Act (Md. Code, Public Safety Art., Sec. 14-101, *et seq.*) provides that local governments, including municipal governments, may declare a local state of emergency and so doing activates the local state of emergency plan, per Sec. 14-111; and

WHEREAS, per Sec. 14-102(a) of said Act, the legislative purposes and intents of the law include to confer on the Governor and on the executive heads or governing bodies of the political subdivisions the emergency powers provided in the Act, and per Sec. 14-107(d)(1), after a state of emergency is declared the effect of any statute or rule or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision may be suspended in order to protect the public health, safety, or welfare; and

WHEREAS, Section 301 of the Town of Chevy Chase Charter authorizes the Town Council to pass ordinances as it may deem necessary for the good government of the Town and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, and welfare of the residents of the Town; and for such other police and health matters as it may deem necessary; and

WHEREAS, after proper notice to the public, the Town Council introduced the following Ordinance in public session assembled on the 9th day of December 2020; and

WHEREAS, after proper notice to the public, the Town Council considered the following Ordinance in public session assembled on the 13th day of January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council hereby declares that a state of emergency exists, as declared by the Governor of Maryland, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the state of emergency, the Town Council finds that the temporary amendment of the Town election rules and regulations would help control and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and is necessary for the good government of the Town and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, and welfare of the residents of the Town;

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 13th day of January 2021, by virtue of the authority given to it by the Maryland Code and the Town of Chevy Chase Charter, the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase does hereby adopt the following ordinance.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED, by the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase, acting under and by virtue of the aforementioned authority, that the Town election to be conducted in **2021** shall proceed according to the **Emergency Plan for Town Election** attached hereto. Any election rule or regulation set forth in the Town Charter, Code of Ordinances, or election rules and regulations that is inconsistent with the provisions of the attached Emergency Plan for Town Election is hereby suspended. The Emergency Plan for Town Election shall be implemented for the **2021** election, only.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, by the Town Council of the Town of Chevy Chase, acting under and by virtue of the aforementioned authority, that:

(1) If any part or provision of this ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the part or provision held to be invalid shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any remaining part thereof; and

(2) This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption, this 13th day of January 2021.

ATTEST:



Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Secretary

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE



Cecily Bask Jr, Mayor