

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 120*

**Approved April 6, 2020**

WHEREAS, On January 27, 2020 pursuant to Section 206(a)(4) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, the City Council declared that a vacancy exists in the Office of a Member of the City Council from the First Ward caused by the resignation of the Councilman Seth Yurdin, and that in accordance with Section 206(b) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, the City Council hereby ordered that a Special Election be held for the purpose of filling said vacancy, within ninety (90) days of the occurrence; and

WHEREAS, The City Council directed the Board of Canvassers of the City of Providence, and all other officers whose duty it is to prepare for elections, to make such preparations for said Special Election; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section 17-15 3 of the General Law of the State of Rhode Island, the Board of Canvassers held a special primary election for the nomination of such city official for Ward 1 on March 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2020, Governor Gina Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Rhode Island due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19 and activating the state disaster emergency plan; and

WHEREAS, The Ward I special general election is currently scheduled for April 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island and the City of Providence continues to see an increase in the number of residents who have tested positive for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Slowing the spread of community transmission of COVID-19 in Rhode Island and the United States is critical to allow our health care providers to help the afflicted;

WHEREAS, Minimizing contact between individuals, including those who would ordinarily vote at a polling place, will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. The timeframes contained in Section 206(b) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, for holding a special election due to vacancies in elective offices are hereby suspended.**

2. The Board of Canvassers may take all reasonable and necessary steps to hold the Ward 1 special general election on May 5, 2020. The holding of the election on this date, however, is subject to public health concerns related to the COVID-19 emergency. If the Board of Canvassers receives guidance from the Providence Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the State of Rhode Island Department of Health, that public health concerns require the selection of an alternate date, it may do so.

3. The Board of Canvassers, working in conjunction with the Rhode Island Board of Elections and the Secretary of State, shall determine a plan to hold a predominantly mail ballot special general election.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 02 2020

READ AND PASSED, *As Amended*

*Sobina Mate*  
PRES.

*Shawn Selles*  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

*[Signature]*  
Date: 4/6/20