

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 406

Approved December 11, 2020

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State of Rhode Island is an elected office in the State of Rhode Island, and;

WHEREAS, As Rhode Island's chief elections officer, the Secretary of State registers voters, prepares ballots, certifies election results, among other crucial roles and responsibilities and;

WHEREAS, The honorable Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea was duly elected and sworn in on January 6, 2015, becoming the first Hispanic elected to statewide office in New England, and was then reelected on November 6, 2018, and;

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State has worked tirelessly over the years to increase voter engagement and to ensure that elections are fair, fast, and accurate, and;

WHEREAS, The Board of Elections and the local Providence Board of Canvassers have worked ardently to protect the electoral process and the fundamental right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, an overwhelming number of Providence and Rhode Island residents were able to, and ultimately, elected to vote by mail in this election, while many others voted safely in person, and;

WHEREAS, With the November 3 general election, Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea launched several initiatives including sending all active registered voters a mail ballot application for the November 3 general election to ensure they could vote safely as well as exercise their constitutional right to vote, and;

WHEREAS, Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea also announced other important initiatives including easy access to mail ballot drop boxes, early in-person voting, a partnership with United Way of Rhode Island to launch the state's first 211 Voter Information Hotline, and the mobilization of the Rhode Island National Guard, and more, and;

WHEREAS, Over half a million Rhode Island voters voted in during this unprecedented 2020 presidential election,

WHEREAS, The tireless work of the Secretary of State, The Rhode Island Board of Elections, The Poll-Workers and Volunteers, the Providence Board of Canvassers, and their staff allowed for the integrity of our City's election process to be upheld to further the fundamental principles of democracy

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby recognizes, commends, and honors the Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, The Board of Elections for their around the clock work during the 2020 General Election, to ensure that every voter could seamlessly vote and every vote cast in Providence, and Rhode Island, was counted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to BOE Chairwoman Diane C. Mederos, Vice-Chairman, Richard H. Pierce, Louis A. DeSimone Jr, Jennifer L. Johnson, Dr. Isadore S. Ramos, David H. Sholes, William E. West, Executive Director Robert Rapoza, Kathy Placencia, Commissioner Mercedes "Betty" Bernal and the staff of their respective offices, as an acknowledgment of the sincere gratitude and appreciation from the Providence City Council.

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 03 2020

READ AND PASSED

Sabina Mateo
PRES.

Shan Selbeck
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]
Mayor

Date: 12/11/20