

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE RIGHT OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY RESIDENTS TO
VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the foundation of our political system,

WHEREAS, for the first time since Buncombe County was founded in 1792, the municipal elections of four of the six Buncombe County municipalities were cancelled, when the 2019 and 2021 municipal elections were cancelled for Asheville, Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain, and Montreat, impacting citizens across the county,

WHEREAS, the council members of these municipalities, elected in 2015 and 2017 to serve four-year terms, will serve a fifth unelected year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. the residents of each municipality in Buncombe County have the fundamental right to vote for the members of their respective city and town councils.
2. elected officials should serve the terms to which they are elected and should not extend their own terms.
3. any municipalities in Buncombe County that seek to change their municipal election cycle do so in ways that ensure no interference with the right to vote and that ensure that elected officials are not extending their own terms.
4. one potential solution to adjusting municipal elections schedules while not extending the terms of already elected officials would be to have adjusted terms of office apply to candidates elected in an election subsequent to the passage of the legislation changing the election process.

Read, approved and adopted this 18th day of February 2020 by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

Buncombe County Commission Chair

County Clerk City Clerk

Approved as to form:

County Attorney