

1 **..Title**
2 **Candidacy requirements in special elections** – For the purpose removing the petitioning
3 requirement for unaffiliated voters when filing their certificate of candidacy in a special election

4 **..Body**

5 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
6 **City of Annapolis**

7
8 **Ordinance 24-19**

9
10 **Introduced by: Alderman Savidge**

11
12 **Referred to**
13 **Rules and City Government Committee**

14
15 **AN ORDINANCE** concerning

16
17 **Candidacy requirements in special elections**

18
19 **FOR** For the purpose removing the petitioning requirement for unaffiliated voters when filing their
20 certificate of candidacy in a special election

21
22
23 **BY** amending section 4.20.090 of the Code of the City of Annapolis, 2019 Edition

24
25
26 **WHEREAS,** unaffiliated voters currently have to secure 100 petition signatures in order to file a
27 certificate of candidacy to run in a special election; and

28 **WHEREAS,** unaffiliated voters only had one week to secure the necessary signatures; and

29 **WHEREAS,** we want our elections to be open and fair to all.
30

31
32 **SECTION I: BE IT ESTABLISHED AND ORDAINED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY**
33 **COUNCIL** that the Code of the City of Annapolis shall be amended to read as follows:
34

35
36 **Title 4 - ELECTIONS**
37 **Chapter 4.20 – NOMINATIONS AND CANDIDACY**
38

39 A. A person seeking the office of Mayor or Alderman who is registered as unaffiliated as
40 defined in this title or who is not registered as a member of a political party that is recognized by
41 the Maryland State Board of Elections may be nominated by petition, as provided in this section.
42 **THESE PROVISIONS DO NOT APPLY TO SPECIAL ELECTIONS, AND ANYONE CAN**
43 **SUBMIT A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY NO MATTER THEIR POLITICAL**
44 **AFFILIATION OR NON-AFFILIATION WITHOUT NEEDING TO MEET THE**
45 **PETITIONING REQUIREMENT.**

1 B. A candidate for public office seeking nomination by petition shall file a certificate of
2 candidacy at the time and place and in the manner provided in this chapter and shall comply with
3 all other applicable provisions of this title, in the same manner as candidates for nomination at a
4 primary election.

5 C. In order to have the name of a proposed candidate placed on the ballot under this section,
6 the candidate shall file with the board petitions signed by the number of voters specified in
7 subsection D of this section. Petitions shall be filed as required by Section 4.20.100(A).

8 D. A candidate for Mayor shall file petitions bearing the signatures of not less than five
9 hundred registered voters, of whom not less than fifty shall reside in each ward of the City. A
10 candidate for Alderman shall file petitions bearing the signatures of not less than one hundred
11 registered voters residing in the ward from which the candidate seeks nomination.

12 E. The board shall prescribe the form of petitions filed under this section. The signatures shall
13 be on separate papers, bearing one or more signatures and being no more than eight and one-half
14 inches in width or fourteen inches in length. Each person shall append to his or her signature the
15 signer's residence, and the ward where the signer is registered as a voter, and immediately below
16 the signature of any signer there shall be either printed or typed the name of the signer. Every paper
17 shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed under penalty of perjury, to the effect that the signer
18 is, to the best knowledge and belief of the affiant a registered voter of the City as set forth in the
19 petition, and that the affiant personally saw the person sign the paper.

20 F. A person may not sign more than once for the same nominee for an office.

21
22 **SECTION II: AND BE IT FURTHER ESTABLISHED AND ORDAINED BY THE**
23 **ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this ordinance shall take effect from the date of its passage.

24
25
26 **Explanation:**

27 UPPERCASE indicates matter added to existing law.

28 ~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken from existing law.

29 Underlining indicates amendments.

30