

County of Atlantic, New Jersey



Resolution No.: 367

Approved as to Form and Legality

Submitted By:

John W. Risley

Amy L. Gatto

Freeholder Sponsor

Roger C. Steedle, Legislative Counsel

RESOLUTION OPPOSING FULL VOTE-BY-MAIL ELECTION IN THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey conducted an all vote-by-mail primary election on July 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the number of ballots cast by mail overwhelmed the Statewide Voter Registration System, Atlantic County Board of Elections, Atlantic County Superintendent of Elections, and the Atlantic County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, numerous reports of irregularities in the casting of vote-by-mail ballots were revealed including a notable Atlantic City political operative signing a vote-by-mail ballot twice, a voter deceased for two years receiving a ballot at his spouse's home, a voter who has been a resident out of State for three years receiving a ballot, and a registered Republican receiving a Democratic ballot; and

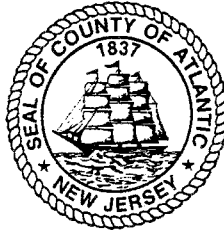
WHEREAS, the number of votes to be cast in the general election of November 3, 2020 will greatly exceed the number of votes cast on the July 7, 2020 primary, particularly since this is a Presidential election year; and

I, Sonya G. Harris, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct and true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting duly held

on the _____ day of _____ 2020

Signed _____
Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE															
FREEHOLDER	MOVED	SECOND	YES	NO	ABS	REC	AB	FREEHOLDER	MOVED	SECOND	YES	NO	ABS	REC	AB
BENNETT								GATTO							
BERTINO								KERN							
COURSEY								RISLEY							
DASE								FORMICA, Chairman							
FITZPATRICK															
ABS - Abstain				REC - Recuse				AB - Absent							



WHEREAS, the costs associated with running an all vote-by-mail primary has led to extraordinary costs and expenses which constitute an unfunded mandate by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy is without sufficient legal authority to alter the nature of the general election by executive order and without specific state legislation authorizing same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Atlantic that:

1. We oppose any effort by Governor Murphy via executive order to summarily and without legislative authority to alter the terms and conditions of the manner in which the general election on November 3, 2020 is to be conducted.
2. We oppose any options for the general election on November 3, 2020 where voting via an approved machine in a polling location is not an option per N.J.S.A. 19:53A-2.
3. We urge all election officials to immediately implement safeguards concerning the protection of all vote-by-mail ballots to ensure integrity in the voting process.
4. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to Governor Murphy, the Senate President, the Assembly Speaker, Congressman Jeff VanDrew, Senator Christopher Brown, Assemblyman Vincent Mazzeo and Assemblyman John Armato.