

A RESOLUTION

**Proposed
Resolution
20-550**

**See Emergency
D.C. Act 20-210
20 DCStat 2600**

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Official Election Code to permit, on an emergency basis, the election of officials of political parties during any regularly scheduled primary election and to extend the deadline by which local party committees may file written communication with the Board of Elections identifying the offices to be filled during the April 1, 2014, primary election.

**Party Officer
Elections
Emergency
Declaration
Resolution of
2013**

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Party Officer Elections Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2013”.

Sec. 2. (a) The District of Columbia Official Election Code of 1955 states that elections for political party officers “shall be held, at the request of the party, on either the 2nd Tuesday in February of each presidential election year or the 1st Tuesday in April of each presidential election year if there is a primary election already scheduled for other purposes on the date requested.”

(b) This provision is not a requirement for the Board of Elections to properly administer local elections.

(c) The election of major party committee officials are required to take place in a primary election already scheduled for other purposes. This requirement was established so that the Board of Elections could efficiently administer elections and expend resources.

(d) Mayoral primary election years qualify as “already scheduled elections” and removing the requirement will not harm any major parties.

(e) Major parties whose national rules require the election of party officials to take place in a presidential election year will not be harmed as those parties may elect to hold those elections in presidential election years.

(f) Political parties whose national rules do not require that their primary election take place in a presidential election year are restricted unnecessarily. Unforeseen circumstances may prevent the political party from holding an election during a presidential election year at all. Officers whose terms are set to expire may feel compelled to continue to serve beyond the end of their terms, lest they leave their positions vacant.

(g) Extended terms prevent the District residents from timely electing their party officers.

(h) Currently, some officers of major parties are serving even though their terms have expired.

(i) The date 180 days prior to the April 1, 2014, primary election has passed. Consequently, there is an emergency need to pass this provision in emergency form to extend

the deadline for local party committees to file written communication with the Board of Elections identifying the offices to be filled during the April 1, 2014, primary election

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Party Officer Elections Emergency Amendment Act of 2013 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.