Resolution Relating to

PLACING QUESTION ON BALLOT RE CHARTER CHANGE RE RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS AND SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS (REVISED)

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty ..............................................................

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, on December 2, 2019, the City Council adopted a resolution referring to the Charter Change Committee a potential charter change that would replace the City’s current plurality voting system with ranked choice voting for the positions of mayor, city councilors, and school commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Change Committee considered the issue, including receiving public input on the subject, on December 9, 2019, and June 8, 2020, and has recommended by a 2 (Freeman, Stromberg) to 1 (Shannon) vote that the Council approve the charter change and place it on the ballot at a special election in November;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council calls on the Mayor to call a special election to be held at the same time as the November 3, 2020 general election in order to place a charter change question on ranked choice voting for the election of the City’s mayor, city councilors, and school commissioners before the voters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby places on this special election ballot the following question on ranked choice voting for the election of the City’s mayor, city councilors, and school commissioners through the amendment of City Charter § 5 and asks the City Clerk to set public hearings on this question as required by law:

“Shall the Charter of the City of Burlington, Acts of 1949, No. 298 as amended, be further amended to allow for ranked choice voting for the election of the City’s mayor, city councilors, and school commissioners through the amendment of City Charter § 5 as follows:

§ 5 Election to be by ballot; method of election; runoff elections.
The election of the mayor, all city councilors and school commissioners shall be by ballot, and the person or persons receiving a plurality of all votes cast for any office aforesaid shall, except as hereinafter provided, be declared elected thereto. However, if no person receives at least 40 percent of all votes cast for any office aforesaid, no one shall be declared elected and a runoff election shall be held. The only candidates in the runoff election shall be the two persons receiving the greater number of votes or, in case of a tie, the persons receiving the greatest number of votes or the persons receiving the second greatest number of votes. The chief administrative officer shall within seven days warn a runoff election to be held not less than 12 days nor more than 20 days after the date of the warning. The warning shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and posted in a public
place. The person or persons receiving a plurality of all the votes case in a runoff election shall be declared elected.

All elections of mayor, city councilors and school commissioners shall be by ballot, using a system of ranked choice voting without a separate runoff election. The chief administrative officer shall implement a ranked choice voting protocol according to these guidelines:

(1) The ballot shall give voters the option of ranking candidates in order of preference.

(2) If a candidate receives a majority (over 50 percent) of first preferences, that candidate is elected.

(3) If no candidate receives a majority of first preferences, an instant runoff re-tabulation shall be performed by the presiding election officer. The instant runoff re-tabulation shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each voter’s ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever continuing candidate the voter has ranked highest. The candidate with the fewest votes after each round shall be eliminated until only two candidates remain, with the candidate then receiving the greatest number of votes being elected.

(4) The city council may adopt additional regulations consistent with this subsection to implement these standards.

* Material underlined added.

** Material stricken out deleted and bracketed.