

Wilmington, Delaware
June 20, 2024

#0449

WHEREAS, House Bill 400 (HB 400), An Act to Amend Title 15 of the Delaware Code

Sponsor:

Relating to Primary Elections, modifies the date of primary elections for statewide, county, and municipal office to the fourth Tuesday in April, the date of the presidential primary in presidential election years; and

**Council
Member
Cabrerera**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan aims to promote a “Connected, Informed and Engaged Wilmington” by reducing the barriers to active civic participation. The Council recognizes the importance of timely and efficient election processes for the benefit of all Delaware voters. HB 400 fosters constituent engagement, efficient government operations, and the responsible use of public resources; and

WHEREAS, Delaware currently holds one of the latest primary elections in the nation, resulting in a compressed period of voter consideration of candidates for the general election. The current calendar furnishes voters with as little as two months to evaluate candidates. This short timeframe between the primary and general elections reduces voter engagement and informed decision-making; and

WHEREAS, aligning the primary election date with the presidential primary date, as proposed in HB 400, represents a fiscally responsible measure that could save the State millions of dollars over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, moving the primary election date to the fourth Tuesday in April, as outlined in HB 400, will facilitate earlier ballot printing and distribution, ensuring that all eligible voters, including those in the armed forces, can exercise their right to vote without undue hindrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that this Legislative body expresses favor for House Bill 400 (HB 400), An Act to Amend Title 15 of the Delaware Code Relating to Primary Elections to ensure a more efficient, cost-effective, and inclusive electoral process for all Delawareans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that this Legislative body encourages the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support HB 400, which sets the date of primary elections for statewide, county, and municipal office to the fourth Tuesday in April, the date of the presidential primary in presidential election years.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: In accordance with the Wilmington City Council’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan goal of a “Connected, Informed and Engaged Wilmington,” this Resolution urges the honorable members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 400, An Act to Amend Title 15 of the Delaware Code Relating to Primary Elections. This bill moves the date of primary elections for statewide, county, and municipal office to the fourth Tuesday in April, the date of the presidential primary, to facilitate civic engagement for Delaware’s voters.