

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS  
AGENDA ITEM  
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

**DEPARTMENT:** Mayor and Council

**AGENDA DATE:** September 29, 2020

**CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:** City Rep Sam Morgan, 212-0004, City Rep Peter Svarzbein, 212-0001

**DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:** District 4

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** [Goal 6 - Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management](#)

**SUBJECT:**

**APPROVE** a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? **OR AUTHORIZE** the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action on a resolution that all City of El Paso employees are encouraged to vote, and the City Manager is authorized to establish a policy to allow up to two hours of leave on Election Day, November 3, 2020 if used to vote in accordance with Ordinance 8064.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

Discussion and action on a resolution that all City of El Paso employees are encouraged to vote, and the City Manager is authorized to establish a policy to allow up to two hours of leave on Election Day, November 3, 2020 if used to vote in accordance with Ordinance 8064.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

No

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

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\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Voting is a right granted to the citizens by the United States Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, this year, Election Day will be on November 3, 2020 (“Election Day”);

**WHEREAS**, the El Paso City Council recognizes the importance of voting in Elections at Federal, State and Local levels;

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 8064 states that a Department head may grant leave to an employee with full pay for voting in an election;

**WHEREAS**, under Texas Elections Code section 276.004, on Election Day, an employer shall not refuse to allow a person to be absent, nor punish a person for absence from work if such absence is for the purpose of attending the polls to vote; unless the polls are open on Election Day for two consecutive hours outside of the person’s working hours;

**WHEREAS**, in El Paso, the polls will be open until 7:00pm on Election Day, which is two hours after most City Employees working hours are complete, however, the City Council recognizes that during the current pandemic, only having access to the polls for these two hours may still hinder some employees ability to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to ensure that all City employees have time to exercise their right to vote by encouraging Department Heads to allow up to two hours of leave time to allow employees to vote on Election Day with their supervisor’s prior approval.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

That all Department Heads are encouraged to allow City Employees to be absent from work for the time required to vote, up to two hours, on Election Day, November 3, 2020, in accordance with Ordinance 8064, and the City Manager or his designee is authorized to establish the procedure to implement this Resolution. Each employee taking leave to vote must first coordinate with and receive prior approval from the employee’s immediate supervisor.

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_ day of September, 2020.

*[Signatures Begin on Following Page]*

**CITY OF EL PASO:**

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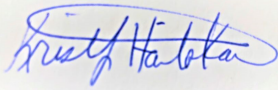
Dee Margo  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Laura D. Prine  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



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Kristen Lynn Hamilton-Karam  
Assistant City Attorney