

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No.12

Resolution No. 144 -2020

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION establishing Wilde Lake High School as a fifth early voting center for the 2020 general election.

Introduced and read first time September 8 2020.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on September 21, 2020.

By order Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn , by the County Council on September 21, 2020.

Certified By Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive September 24, 2020

Calvin Ball
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 10-301.1 of the Election Law Article of the Annotated Code of
2 Maryland (the “State Law”) provides that each county shall have at least one early voting center
3 established in the county; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, State Law also provides that a county with more than 200,000 registered
6 voters but fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have four early voting centers established in
7 the county; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, State Law allows that additional voting centers may be established if the
10 State Board, in collaboration with the local board, and the governing body of the county agree to
11 establish an additional early voting center; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Howard County has established 4 early voting centers for the 2020 general
14 election to be located at Long Reach High School, Meadowbrook Athletic Complex, Marriotts
15 Ridge High School and Reservoir High School; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, in order to maximize the opportunity for Howard County residents to vote
18 in an easy and effective manner, the governing body of Howard County agrees to establish Wilde
19 Lake High School as a fifth early voting center.
20

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
22 Maryland, this 21st day of September, 2020, that the governing body of Howard
23 County hereby establishes Wilde Lake High School as the fifth early voting center for the 2020
24 general election.
25

26 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Executive is hereby requested to
27 endorse this Resolution, thereby indicating approval thereof.

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 144-2020

Introduced: September 8, 2020

Auditor: Owen Clark

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated fiscal impact of this legislation is \$83,920.

The Administration's calculation of this cost is noted below:

- Three Chief Judges on-site for eight days at a cost of \$350 per day
- Thirty-two regular judges on-site for eight days at a cost of \$295 per day

Purpose:

This legislation would establish Wilde Lake High School as a fifth early voting center for the 2020 general election in order to reduce the burden on the other four early voting centers and 17 Election Day voting sites.

Other Comments:

Per the Administration:

- This is the first time a fifth early voting center has been added.
 - However, with some polling places closed on Election Day (there being 17 vote centers instead of 90 polling places), this decision was made to reduce the burden on the other sites.
- Early voting has not occurred during any of the other 2020 elections.
 - The special primary for Maryland's 7th Congressional District on February 4 had 51 polling places (pre-COVID).
 - The special general election on April 28 had one voting center.
 - The primary elections on June 2 had two voting centers.
- They do not anticipate any additional costs for equipment purchases.

Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR144-2020 - Support with Technical Amendment

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

I would like to thank Deb Jung and the Administration for finally submitting the resolution to approve the fifth early voting center at Wilde Lake High School. I also thank the Council for suspending the rules to allow for late-filing of the resolution.

However, I believe that the resolution can be technically improved. I feel that Line 9 on page 1 should be clarified. It implies that a county may have several additional early voting centers when only one additional center is authorized. I think it would more accurately describe the State law if it read:

"WHEREAS, State Law allows that **ONE** additional voting ~~centers~~ CENTER may be established if the"

Thanks,

Joel Hurewitz